



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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PRESS RELEASE

UNEP launches new guide and web sites to help governments better protect the ozone layer

Paris/Dakar, 15 December 2005 – On the occasion of this week's conference in Dakar on the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is announcing three new information products designed to promote greater awareness in developing countries about the need to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and comply with the Protocol.

"The depletion of the ozone layer leads to cataracts and skin cancer, reduces food production and fishery stocks and causes other health and environmental damage around the world", said Rajendra Shende, head of UNEP's OzonAction Programme. "These new information products will support efforts by developing country governments to engage both the general public and national ozone experts in actions to phase out CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances," he said.

The first new UNEP product is a "Guide for National Ozone Officers". This Guide aims to help national experts understand more fully the complex and evolving international ozone regime. The Guide examines the legal and institutional history of the Montreal Protocol, best practices for minimizing health and environmental effects, available technologies and replacement chemicals for reducing damage to the ozone layer, and other tools for implementing the Protocol.

The second product is a new service designed to enable National Ozone Officers to build their own web sites. Using a free and easy-to-use on-line programme, government experts can build national web sites for raising public awareness and sharing information with other Ministries. Web templates are available in the six UN official languages of Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The third product is the newly launched French-language version of the "Ozzy Ozone" children's web site. Ozzy Ozone – a cartoon ozone molecule created by the Government of Barbados (which holds the copyright) – informs children about all aspects of the ozone challenge. The web site also includes an interactive section featuring educational games. The website is available at www.ozzyozone.org.

Note to journalists: For more information, please contact in Dakar until 16 December, Anne-Marie Fenner at +221 440 1711. After 16 December contact Rajendra Shende, Head UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai André Citroën, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France, +33 1 4437 1450, ozonaction@unep.fr. See also www.unep.fr/ozonaction.