

OZONE LAYER PROTECTION IN CARICOM COUNTRIES

FACT SHEET

IMPLEMENTING
THE MONTREAL
PROTOCOL WITHIN
CARICOM

MONTREAL PROTOCOL - THE HISTORY OF THIS SUCCESSFUL MEA

The Instrument

The Montreal Protocol (MP) on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was effected on 1 January 1989. The Protocol gave effect to the Vienna Convention on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer which came into force on September 22 1988.

Ozone Science

The MP seeks to protect the earth from the sun's harmful ultra violet radiation (UV) through the phasing out of the manufacture and use of substances that deplete the ozone layer. These ozone depleting substances (ODS) contain bromine and chlorine, which destroy the stratospheric ozone layer when released into the atmosphere.

Within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM),

ODS are mainly used as refrigerants in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, as blowing agents in the manufacturing sector, and for pest control. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are used as refrigerants, and Methyl bromide (MBr) is used for fumigation of agricultural products and structures within CARICOM. In the past, there have also been cases of MBr use for pest control on golf courses, however, this has been phased out.

To date, all CARICOM countries have signed on to the MP and as Parties, have been implementing the Protocol towards phasing out the use of ODS and protection of the ozone layer.

Operations of the Montreal Protocol

The Montreal Protocol has a number of key arms that have led to concrete achievements and that has ensured a country driven approach to implementation. Emphasis is placed on providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries or Article 5 (A5) Parties, to allow them to meet their obligations under the MP.

Meetings of the Parties

Parties to the MP and the Vienna Convention meet every year and every three years respectively. Prior to meetings of the Parties (MOPs), negotiations take place at Open Ended Working Group Meetings (OEWG), which forwards 'draft decisions' to the MOP.

Funding Mechanism



The Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the Montreal Protocol was established in 1990 and began operating in 1991. It seeks to assist A5 Parties whose annual per capita consumption and production of ODS is <0.3 kg. 147 of 196 Parties fall into this category and receive assistance from the MLF. The MLF is managed by the Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom meets three times a year to discuss matters relating to the management of the funds, project approvals and monitoring and evaluation. Financial and technical assistance is provided in the form of grants or concessional loans and is delivered primarily through four implementing agencies namely the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial

The Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the Montreal Protocol

Development Organization (UNIDO) and the WorldBank. ExCom has 14 members, seven representing A5 Parties and 7 representing non A5 Parties.

Compliance

Compliance with the MP is measured by the achievement of phase out targets, ratification of the Protocol amendments, reporting annual ODS consumption and establishment of a licensing system to control ODS import and export. Compliance is monitored by the Implementation Committee on Non-Compliance Procedures (ImpCom). ImpCom meets twice yearly and has 10 members. Five representing Article 5 Parties and five representing non Article 5 Parties.

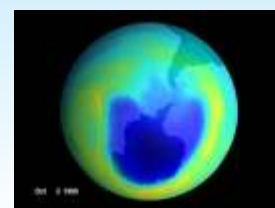
CARICOM within the Montreal Protocol

The Protocol groups Parties into five regional groupings: Eastern European Countries, Western European and other Countries, Latin America and Caribbean Countries, African Countries and Asian and Pacific Countries. CARICOM countries fall within the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). Parties are also grouped based on their level of ODS consumption - Low Volume Consuming Countries (LVCS) and very low volume consuming countries (VLVCs). CARICOM countries fall into the VLVCs group.

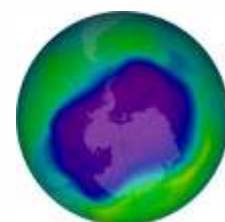
In preparation for MOPs, CARICOM countries examine the negotiations and determine whether it is advantageous to negotiate under a GRULAC or VLVC position.

Phase out Targets for CARICOM (A5 Parties)

CFCs phase out 2010
Methyl Bromide by 2015
HCFCs by 2030
(accelerated from 2040)



Ozone hole on 3 October 1999.



Ozone hole at 24 September 2006. The largest ever observed.



Ozone hole at 28 December 2010

Ozone Layer Protection in CARICOM Countries

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Tracking Progress Of The Montreal Protocol

Phase out of CFC

As of 1 January 2010, the consumption and production of CFCs has been eliminated. This is a great achievement for the Protocol and the environment, as the world moves closer to phasing out these harmful substances that deplete the ozone layer, thus protecting life on earth as we know it.

Universal Participation

The MP most significant achievement is the fact that it is the only Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) to which all countries of the world have signed onto or are Party to. There are 196 Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

Informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC)

The iPIC procedure was established in 2000 to assist Parties with implementing their import/export licensing systems and to allow them to protect their borders against illegal trade in ODS. Through the iPIC, countries can send notices of imports to the importing country prior to its exportation. The iPIC is used within CARICOM and is seen as an important tool to assist National Ozone Units.

National Ozone Units (NOU)

The MP has established a unique in country institutional framework to support the phase out of ODS. Through Institutional

Strengthening Projects (ISPs) each country has established a NOU.

NOUs are staffed with dedicated ozone officers and/or assistants who guide the implementation of activities required to achieve phase out targets. This includes the development of legislation, training and certification of refrigeration and air conditioning technicians, fiscal measures to encourage the recovery and recycling of refrigerants towards ozone and climate benefits and public awareness activities.

Party Obligations

- Reduction targets for different ODS
- Data reporting requirements
- Establishment of licensing systems to control the import/export of ODS
- Ratification of Protocol Amendments
- Project reporting requirements

Membership on MP Bodies

Executive Committee (ExCom)

Membership on ExCom is a one year term. Members must be nominated by their regional groupings and may also have to follow the established nomination procedures of that region. GRULAC currently holds two seats for 2010 - Columbia and Grenada. Within GRULAC there is an understanding that this membership could extend to two terms once all members agree. To this end, Grenada was nominated for a second term and will be on ExCom for 2011. In 2011, GRULAC also holds the seat that rotates through all regions and along with Grenada, Cuba and Venezuela will sit on ExCom. Within CARICOM, it is understood that the country holding the seat, may co-opt other ACO countries who can make a positive contribution to their delegation and the negotiations.

Each ExCom member is allowed three persons on their delegation to the Meetings. In 2003 and 2007 Saint Lucia was a member of ExCom and was the only CARICOM country on ExCom during that period.

Implementation Committee Under Non-Compliance Procedures (ImpCom)

Membership on ImpCom is a two-year term. GRULAC has two seats on ImpCom which are currently held by Nicaragua and Saint Lucia. Saint Lucia's term is for 2010 and 2011. ImpCom members are allowed only one person on their delegation. Before Saint Lucia's term, the last CARICOM country to hold a position on ImpCom was Belize in 2005.

NOUs can be contacted for updates on negotiations relating to the proposals to amend the Montreal Protocol.

Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Change

Over the years, the links between ozone layer protection and climate change have been strengthened. When ODS were first discovered, Scientists noted that these substances had a global warming effect (GWP). It therefore made ODS phase out beneficial to the both ozone layer and climate.

In developing alternatives to ODS, one group of ozone friendly chemicals was discovered to have a very high GWP; these are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are currently the main alternative to ODS for A5 Parties.

In an effort to protect the ozone layer and climate, Parties to the MP are now examining two proposed amendments to the Protocol which will

bring HFCs into the group of controlled substances. The amendments are being proposed by Micronesia and Mauritius, and by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

In 2007, noting the strong linkages between ODS phase out and climate change, Parties decided that alternatives to ODS should be selected based on environmental benefits, climate change and energy benefits as there are alternatives that also operate at a lower energy demand.

Efforts are being made to strengthen those linkages towards developing projects and programmes that will provide additional funding to CARICOM countries.





Regional Networking

Regional Networking and UNEP'S Compliance Assistance Programme

Regional Networking

Through UNEP, a network of Ozone Officers has been established for the CARICOM sub-region. This network seeks to share experiences, transfer knowledge and build capacity within each NOU towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Protocol. The Network meets twice annually and keeps an online 'forum' to address issues as they emerge.

The Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)

The CAP was established in 2003 with financial support from the MLF and is managed by UNEP. It was established to provide assistance to A5 Parties to ensure that they meet the ODS phase out targets of the Protocol. The CAP team which serves the CARICOM countries is based in the UNEP's regional Office for Latin America and the

Caribbean (ROLAC) in Panama. Through the CAP, CARICOM is able to access the technical assistance required to implement the various projects aimed at ensuring the institutional support for phase out efforts and ensuring that phase out projects are implemented on time.

South-South Cooperation

Through the CAP, countries can access technical assistance resident in other CARICOM countries. In 2003, Saint Lucia assisted St. Kitts and Nevis to improve the implementation of their Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP), including reporting to the respective secretariats. This programme will continue to be instrumental in building capacity and improving the implementation of the Protocol.

Future Challenges

Keeping Ozone Issues in Focus

As national issues such as debt, poverty and crime continue to emerge, it will be necessary for NOUs to ensure that ozone layer protection issues remain as a priority area for policy makers. This may call for improved relationships between NOUs and Ministers of Environment as well as NOUs and the industry and other concerned groups on society.

Phasing out ODS whilst protecting our Climate

The linkages between ozone layer protection and Climate Change have been made clearer over the last five years. It is imperative that NOUs share this relationship with all stakeholders and take the necessary steps to ensure that policy or legislative decisions take into account alternatives that are not only ozone friendly, but also have a low global

warming potential while bringing energy benefits. This may call for specialized public awareness and education programmes, fiscal incentives, regulatory support and further training of refrigeration and air conditioning technicians. Collaboration with national climate units and agencies with responsibility for energy will also prove to be useful.

Illegal Trade in CFCs

January 1 2010 marked the phase out of CFCs in CARICOM countries. This phase out must be monitored to guard against illegal trade. NOUs implemented programmes such as Customs Training and regional networking and participates in the global Informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) procedure, to ensure that they have the measures in place to guard against any illegal trade.

HCFC Phase out Targets for CARICOM (A5 Parties)

2013 - Freeze in
consumption at 2009
and 2010 levels

2015 - 15% reduction

2020 - 35% reduction

2025 - 67.5% reduction

2030 - phase out

**Note: Countries may
decide to adopt a more
ambitious phase out
schedule**

Caricom Success Stories

Harmonized Legislation

With the exception of Barbados, who is still developing its legislative framework, all CARICOM countries have legislation to control the import and export of CFCs. These legislations calls for a quota system and licenses to import CFCs. Countries are now revising their legislation to ensure that it controls HCFCs. St. Kitts and Nevis is one of the few countries that required a license to import HCFCs from the inception.

Harmonized Training of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technicians

With assistance from UNEP, all CARICOM countries have a programme to train technicians in Good Refrigeration Management Practices, Recovery and Recycling of Refrigerants, Retrofitting and

Alternative Technologies. Some countries have gone further and certified technicians, issuing them with a Government ID card.

Special Assistance to Haiti

The devastation of the January 2010 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti resulted in the loss of lives, infrastructure and agriculture. The office of the NOU's was also destroyed. In an effort to assist the country to maintain its obligations under the Protocol, ExCom approved US \$20,000 in direct assistance to the NOU. The MOP, at its 22nd meeting (November, 2010), took a decision to ensure measures are in place to ensure that Haiti remains compliant. This was lead by Grenada and Saint Lucia on behalf of the region.

Scholarship Programme for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technicians

This programme has been developed by the NOU of Belize. It provides financial assistance to eligible technicians to pursue courses in refrigeration and air conditioning in Belize.

Association for Refrigeration and air conditioning Technicians

Many CARICOM countries have established Associations which can be catalysts for moving forward ozone layer protection activities and improve the sector. These associations are complimentary to CARICOM's integration efforts.

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USEFUL LINKS

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United Nations Environment Programme
<http://www.pnuma.org/>

Ozone Hole Watch: <http://ozonewatch.gsfc.nasa.gov>

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