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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Seventy-ninth Meeting
Bangkok, 3-7 July 2017

PROJECT PROPOSAL: GABON

This document consists of the comments and recommendation of the Secretariat on the following project proposal:

Phase-out

- HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, third tranche) UN Environment and UNIDO

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Gabon

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (Stage I)	UN Environment (lead), UNIDO	62 nd	35% by 2020

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2016	20.9 (ODP tonnes)

(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)								Year: 2016	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-123				0.0	0.0				0.0
HCFC-124				0.0	0.0				0.0
HCFC-141b				0.0	0.0				0.0
HCFC-142b				0.0	0.0				0.0
HCFC-22				0.0	20.9				20.9

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009 - 2010 baseline:	30.2	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	30.2
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:	10.57	Remaining:	19.63

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2017	2018	Total
UN Environment	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.98	0.98	1.96
	Funding (US \$)	56,613	56,500	113,113
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	2.35	0.00	2.35
	Funding (US \$)	130,691	0.00	130,691

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2010	2011-2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	
Montreal Protocol consumption limits			n/a	n/a	30.2	30.2	27.18	27.18	27.18	27.18	27.18	19.63	n/a	
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	n/a	30.2	30.2	27.18	27.18	27.18	27.18	27.18	19.63	n/a	
Agreed funding (US\$)	UN Environment	Project costs	90,000	0	46,000	0	0	50,100	0	50,000	0.0	54,000	290,100	
		Support costs	11,700	0	5,980	0	0	6,513	0	6,500	0.0	7,020	37,713	
	UNIDO	Project costs	130,000	0	0	0	0	119,900	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	249,900
		Support costs	11,700	0	0	0	0	10,791	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	22,491
Funds approved by ExCom (US\$)		Project costs	220,000	0	46,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	266,000	
		Support costs	23,400	0	5,980	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,380
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US\$)		Project costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	170,000*	0	0	0	170,000	
		Support costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	17,304*	0	0	0	0	17,304

*The third tranche was due for submission in 2016

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Gabon, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as the lead implementing agency, has submitted to the 79th meeting a request for funding for the third tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US \$187,304, consisting of US \$50,100, plus agency support costs of US \$6,513 for UN Environment, and US \$119,900, plus agency support costs of US \$10,791 for UNIDO.¹ The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the second tranche and the tranche implementation plan for 2017 to 2019.

Report on HCFC consumption

HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Gabon reported a consumption of 20.90 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2016, which is over 30 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance and 23 per cent below the maximum allowable consumption in the Agreement with the Executive Committee for 2016. The 2012-2016 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Gabon (2012-2015 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Baseline
Metric tonnes	550.00	520.00	480.00	350.00	380.00	549.00
ODP tonnes	30.25	28.60	26.40	19.25	20.90	30.20

3. The technicians' training on good practices has contributed to the overall reduction in HCFC consumption since the technicians use less new refrigerants resulting in lower imports of HCFC-22. The increase in consumption in 2016 is attributed to a request from one main importer, which was accepted by the National Committee because it was well within the country's maximum allowable consumption for the year (i.e., 27.18 ODP tonnes).

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Gabon reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2016 CP implementation report which is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of the HPMP

Legal framework

5. The Ozone Committee continues to be responsible for establishing and distributing the annual HCFC import quota. Both the issuance of the authorization for HCFC import and its release by the Customs require a clearance from the National Ozone Unit (NOU).

6. The Government of Gabon continues to implement regulations on the control of import and distribution of HCFCs in the country; the quota system for HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment has been in place since 2013; 104 customs officers were trained on the identification and control of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment; and 25 customs and enforcement officers were trained on national and sub regional legislation on ozone depleting substances (ODS) control including procedures for the implementation of annual import quotas.

¹As per the letter of 20 February 2017 from the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, of the Republic of Gabon to the Secretariat.

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. Two hundred refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians were trained on good refrigeration servicing practices, including safe handling of hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants. Equipment was provided to the training centre including 20 sets of portable recovery units, and ancillary equipment (e.g., manifolds, portable leak detectors, digital clam meters, scales and thermometers, piercing pliers, tube cutters); 10 sets of refrigerant identifiers and tool sets; and 30 vacuum pumps. The beneficiary training centre was selected (Centre de Formation et de Perfectionnement Professionnels Basile ONDIMBA), and one training workshop for trainers was conducted on the use of the equipment.

Project implementation and monitoring unit (PMU)

8. The NOU is responsible for coordinating the implementation of ODS phase-out activities on behalf of the Ministry of Environment. The NOU recruited two consultants (refrigeration and customs), to assist in monitoring the implementation of the HPMP activities and in collecting accurate data.

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of May 2017, of the US \$266,000 so far approved, US \$224,003 had been disbursed (US \$136,000 for UN Environment and US \$88,003 for UNIDO) as shown in Table 2. The balance of US \$41,997 will be disbursed by the end of 2017.

Table 2. Financial report of stage I of the HPMP for Gabon (US \$)

Agency	First tranche		Second tranche		Total	
	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed
UN Environment	90,000	90,000	46,000	46,000	136,000	136,000
UNIDO	130,000	88,003	0	0	130,000	88,003
Total	220,000	178,003	46,000	46,000	266,000	224,003
Disbursement rate (%)	80.9		100		84.2	

Implementation plan for the third tranche of the HPMP

10. The following activities will be implemented between July 2017 to December 2019:
- Train 100 customs and enforcement officers through four workshops on implementation of the quota system, identification and control of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, and control of illegal trade (UN Environment) (US \$20,000);
 - Train 150 technicians on recovery and recycling techniques, safe handling of HCs and the certification of refrigeration technicians to promote good practices and reduce leakages or venting during servicing practices (UN Environment) (US \$25,000);
 - Provide 15 sets of tools (i.e., manifold gauges, precision scales, tool boxes, leak detectors, portable recovery machines, multi-function recovery, recycling, re-charging equipment, portable charging stations, and advanced portable refrigerant identifiers); 10 sets of two-stage rotary vacuum pumps, nitrogen cylinders, oil testing kits, and service tool boxes); and one UV leak detection equipment to support strengthening the training centre and the Association of Refrigeration Technicians (UNIDO) (US \$105,000);
 - Conduct one training workshop on the use of the equipment that will be provided to the training centre (UNIDO) (US \$14,900); and
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the HPMP (UN Environment) (US \$5,100).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HCFC consumption

11. UN Environment indicated that no HCFC-22 alternatives are available in the market but some HFCs and HFC-based equipment are being imported. At this time, the country does not have a specific national policy to promote the use of more climate-friendly alternatives to HCFCs. Nevertheless, importers and refrigeration technicians are encouraged to use low-global warming potential alternatives when possible.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of the HPMP

12. The Secretariat noted that the submission of the third tranche originally proposed to be submitted in 2016 was deferred due to delays in signing the Agreement between the Government and UN Environment, and institutional changes in the NOU. Despite the delay, activities were implemented resulting in reductions in HCFCs below the allowable level of consumption.

Legal framework

13. The Government of Gabon has already issued HCFC import quotas for 2017 and 2018 at 18.7 ODP tonnes and 17.6 ODP tonnes respectively, lower than the Montreal Protocol targets for those years.

Refrigeration servicing sector

14. UN Environment advised that to date, there is no HC-based air-conditioning equipment available in the country; most air-conditioning equipment are either imported HFC or HCFC-22-based equipment.

Conclusion

15. The Secretariat noted that the 2016 HCFC consumption in Gabon was already 30 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance and 23 per cent below the maximum allowable consumption in its revised Agreement for stage I of the HPMP, and that the country's import licensing and quota system is fully operational. Despite the slight delay in submitting the request for the third tranche, the country has fully implemented the training programme for the customs and enforcement officers and refrigeration technicians and students, and provided sets of equipment to the training centre which resulted in more streamlined training courses for technicians. The additional activities proposed in the third tranche, including the training of technicians, customs and enforcement officers, the purchase of additional equipment for the training centre will further strengthen the servicing sector. The training centre will continue training service technicians, thereby ensuring long-term sustainability of the training programme.

RECOMMENDATION

16. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Gabon; and further recommends blanket approval of the third tranche of the HPMP for Gabon, and the corresponding 2017 – 2019 tranche implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support cost (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, third tranche)	50,100	6,513	UN Environment
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, third tranche)	119,900	10,791	UNIDO
