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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-second Meeting
Montreal, 29 May to 2 June 2023
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: MALI

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, fifth tranche) UNEP and UNDP

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Mali

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage I)	UNEP (lead), UNDP	63 rd	35% phase-out by 2020

(II) LATEST ARTICLE-7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2022	6.05 ODP tonnes
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(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2022		
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					6.05				6.05

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009-2010 baseline:	15.00	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	15.00
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	5.20	Remaining:	9.80

(V) ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2023	2024	2025	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.26
	Funding (US \$)	31,640	0	0	31,640
UNDP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.26
	Funding (US \$)	30,100	0	0	30,100

(VI) PROJECT DATA		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019	2020*	Total	
Montreal Protocol consumption limits (ODP tonnes)		n/a	n/a	15.0	15.0	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	9.8	n/a	
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)		n/a	n/a	15.0	15.0	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	9.8	n/a	
Funding agreed in principle (US \$)	UNEP	Project costs	65,000	0	55,000	0	0	80,000	0	52,000	0	28,000	280,000
		Support costs	8,450	0	7,150	0	0	10,400	0	6,760	0	3,640	36,400
	UNDP	Project costs	160,000	0	0	0	0	92,000	0	0	0	28,000	280,000
		Support costs	12,000	0	0	0	0	6,900	0	0	0	2,100	21,000
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)	Project costs	225,000		55,000			172,000			52,000		504,000	
	Support costs	20,450		7,150			17,300			6,760		51,660	
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US \$)	Project costs										56,000	56,000	
	Support costs										5,740	5,740	

* The fourth and fifth tranches were submitted in 2019 and 2023, respectively.

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Mali, UNEP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US \$61,740, consisting of US \$28,000, plus agency support costs of US \$3,640 for UNEP, and US \$28,000, plus agency support costs of US \$2,100 for UNDP.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2016 to 2022, and the tranche implementation plan for 2023 and 2024.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Mali reported a consumption of 6.05 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2022, which is 60 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2018-2022 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Mali (2018-2022 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	165.00	137.00	137.00	125.00	110.00	272.25
ODP tonnes	9.08	7.54	7.54	6.88	6.05	15.00

3. HCFC-22 in Mali is imported exclusively to service existing refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) equipment; the country does not produce nor export ODS. Consumption of HCFC-22 has been steadily decreasing due to the decreasing population of HCFC-22-based equipment, implementation of the HPMP, and introduction of HFCs (HFC-134a, R-404A, R-407A, and R-410) as the availability of low-GWP alternatives is limited. Furthermore, the effects of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sanctions³ on trade flows, a lower global commodity price, and the COVID-19 pandemic led to a slowdown in economic growth that began in 2019 and caused a reduction in refrigerant use.

Country programme implementation report

4. The Government of Mali reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2022 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government is implementing a reliable licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports and that the total consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2018 to 2022 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol reduction schedule and maximum allowable consumption of Annex C, Group I substances for 2016 to 2022.

Progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

6. The Government of Mali has an operational import and export licensing and quota system in place for HCFCs. The Government has continued to strengthen regulatory controls through regular inspections

² As per the letter of 22 March 2023 from the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development of Mali to the Secretariat.

³ In July 2022 ECOWAS lifted the economic and financial sanctions.

of local markets to identify instances of illegal consignments; the training of customs and Ministry of Trade officers; and awareness activities focusing on ODS regulations among importers, shipping companies, customs brokers, retailers, and service companies. The Government continues to implement regulations prohibiting the import of ODS and equipment using ODS other than HCFCs. Mali ratified the Kigali Amendment on 31 March 2017.

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. The main activities implemented include:

- (a) Six workshops to train 141 customs and environment officers and other enforcement agents in the identification and control of HCFC and HCFC-based equipment as well as enforcement of the quota system; and
- (b) Six workshops to train 225 refrigeration technicians in good practices in servicing AC equipment, including the recovery and recycling of HCFCs and safe handling of hydrocarbon refrigerants.

Project implementation and monitoring

8. UNEP and the NOU continued to monitor the implementation of HPMP activities and report on project data with the assistance of a refrigeration expert and a customs expert.

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of March 2023, of the US \$504,000 approved so far, US \$486,723 had been disbursed (US \$248,830 for UNEP and US \$237,893 for UNDP) and US \$17,277 returned, as shown in table 2.

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

Tranche		UNEP	UNDP	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	65,000	160,000	225,000	100
	Disbursed	*65,000	160,000	221,830	
Second	Approved	55,000	0	55,000	100
	Disbursed	55,000	0	55,000	
Third	Approved	80,000	92,000	172,000	100
	Disbursed	80,000	*92,000	157,893	
Fourth	Approved	52,000	0	52,000	100
	Disbursed	52,000	0	52,000	
Total	Approved	252,000	252,000	504,000	100
	Disbursed	252,000	252,000	504,000	
	Balance	0	0	0	

* Including US \$3,170 that was returned at the 73rd meeting.

** Including US \$14,107 that was returned at the 90th meeting.

Implementation plan for the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

10. The following activities will be implemented between June 2023 and December 2024:

- (a) Organization of two workshops to train 40 customs and environment officers and other enforcement agents in the identification and control of HCFC and HCFC-based equipment as well as enforcement of the quota system (UNEP) (US \$10,000);

- (b) Organization of four workshops to train 50 refrigeration technicians in good practices in servicing AC equipment, including the recovery and recycling of HCFCs and safe handling of hydrocarbon refrigerants (UNEP) (US \$10,000);
- (c) An awareness-raising programme for 50 RAC technicians and 40 Government officers on the use of natural refrigerants in the commercial sector, and a national workshop for RAC technicians, customs officers, and other stakeholders to disseminate the results of the programme (UNDP) (US \$28,000); and
- (d) Monitoring the implementation of HPMP activities with the support of national consultants (US \$6,000), and staff travel for project coordination (US \$2,000) (UNEP).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

11. The Government of Mali has already issued HCFC import quotas at 235.00 mt (12.93 ODP tonnes), which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Reasons for delays

12. UNEP explained that since 2012, the country has been affected by political unrest and security matters. As a matter of caution, the transfer of funds was put on hold during the ECOWAS sanctions. Furthermore, travel and meeting restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic control measures affected project implementation. The Secretariat asked whether the country's current situation would allow the continuous implementation of the HPMP. UNEP responded that activities had resumed despite still facing security risks, and that project implementation is sustained by the proper integration of the NOU within the Ministry of the Environment and coordination with the Ozone Committee. Since there was some staff renewal within the NOU, the CAP is providing capacity-building support, and the submission of stage II of the HPMP is planned for the 93rd meeting.

Refrigeration servicing sector

13. UNEP clarified that Mali had limited supply of low-GWP alternatives such as R-290 and R-32. Thus, UNDP will support the Government in carrying out an awareness-raising seminar on using natural refrigerants in the commercial sector as a counterbalance. In addition, the training programmes will continue covering the safe use of flammable refrigerants to support enabling conditions for introducing low-GWP RAC equipment in the country.

Gender policy implementation⁴

14. Concerning the implementation of gender mainstreaming, the NOU started to promote women's attendance at training workshops, collect gender disaggregated data, and implement awareness-raising activities in a gender-responsive manner. This work will continue under the fifth tranche.

⁴ In line with decision 84/92(d), decision 90/48(c) encouraged bilateral and implementing agencies to continue ensuring that the operational gender mainstreaming policy was applied to all projects, taking into consideration the specific activities presented in table 2 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/37.

Completion of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

15. At its 91st meeting, the Executive Committee *inter alia* allowed, on an exceptional basis, UNEP to continue implementation of the outstanding activities related to stage I of the HPMP for Mali (decision 91/13). The Government of Mali is requesting an extension on the date of completion of stage I to 31 December 2024 due to the slowdown of previous tranches. The Secretariat noted that the extension would allow the country to complete the remaining activities of stage I and supported the requested extension.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

16. The Secretariat discussed with UNEP the risks to successful HCFC total phase-out and the sustainability of HPMP achievements. The main risks identified were external causes such as the market availability of low-GWP technologies, and the political situation. Therefore, the implementing agencies will be attentive to potential political in the country so that they can adjust project implementation, just as they have done in response to the recent political unrest and lack of security. Furthermore, the implementing agencies will report to the Executive Committee and seek guidance on managing critical situations where needed.

17. UNEP also anticipates that the HPMP targets will continue to be met. The activities implemented so far have contributed to strengthening the RAC servicing sector by improving RAC technicians' servicing practices and ensuring that the import and export licensing and quota system is effective in meeting the targets. The activities planned under the fifth tranche will further ensure the long-term sustainability of the positive outcomes of stage I of the HPMP.

18. With regard to the long-term sustainability of HPMP activities, UNEP mentioned that customs and enforcement officers are trained on an ongoing basis in ozone issues through the customs training school. Regarding the servicing sector, training programmes for technicians will continue to be implemented on good practices and the safe use of alternative refrigerants, coupled with capacity building of training centers through equipment support. Implementing these activities in close cooperation with the servicing associations will ensure the sustainability of these programmes.

Conclusion

19. The implementation of the HPMP is progressing despite the challenging political situation in the country. The level of funds disbursed is 100 per cent. Based on the verification report from 2016 to 2022, Mali is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and its Agreement with the Executive Committee. Mali continues to implement training of service technicians and enforcement officers and awareness-raising activities. The country has taken steps to build the capacity of technical institutions through equipment support, and is working closely with the refrigeration association to ensure the sustainable implementation of HCFC phase-out activities. During the fifth tranche, the HPMP will continue to contribute to strengthening the capacity of service technicians and enforcement officers to sustain HCFC phase-out, and to raise awareness about the use of natural refrigerants in the commercial sector. The extension of stage I to 31 December 2024 will allow the country to complete the remaining activities.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

- (a) Take note of the progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Mali and the request of extension of stage I to 31 December 2024;

- (b) Approve the extension of stage I of the HPMP for Mali to 31 December 2024, on the understanding that no further extension would be requested; and
- (c) Request the Government of Mali, UNEP and UNDP to submit a progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche to the first meeting of 2025.

21. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Mali and the corresponding 2023-2024 tranche implementation plan at the funding levels shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fifth tranche)	28,000	3,640	UNEP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fifth tranche)	28,000	2,100	UNDP