UNITED NATIONS

EP

United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20
5 December 2023

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-third Meeting
Montreal, 15-19 December 2023
Item 7(b)(i) of the provisional agenda[1]

REPORTS ON PROJECTS WITH SPECIFIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: REPORTS WITH NO OUTSTANDING ISSUES

An overview

1. Table 1 lists the reports on projects with specific reporting requirements submitted to the 93rd meeting which, after the Secretariat's review, have no outstanding issues and therefore do not require the Executive Committee to consider them individually.

Table 1. Reports on projects with specific reporting requirements with no outstanding issues

Country	Project title	Paragraphs
A. Reports related to HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs)		
Argentina	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – availability of low global warming potential alternatives to HCFC 141b in the foam sector and transitional use of high global warming potential alternatives)	2 - 9
Brazil	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – report on the temporary use of technology with high global-warming potential at Amino, Flexível, and U-Tech)	10 - 17
Côte d'Ivoire	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I – progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche and the project completion report)	18 - 23
Kyrgyzstan	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – verification report)	24 - 27
South Africa	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I – progress report)	28 - 30
Uruguay	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – progress report on the implementation of the conversion of the foam sector)	31 - 36
B. Reports on additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6)		
Maldives	Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b)	37 - 44

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/1

Country	Project title	Paragraphs
C. Reports related to HFCs		
India	Request for extension of the completion date of enabling activities for HFC phase down	45 – 47
D. Reports on methyl bromide		
Argentina	Critical use exemptions	48- 50
E. Reports related to chillers		
Argentina	Global chiller replacement project (final report)	51 - 55

A. Reports related to HPMPs

Argentina: HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – availability of low-global-warming-potential alternatives to HCFC-141b in the foam sector and transitional use of high-global-warming-potential alternatives) (UNIDO and the Government of Italy)

Background

2. At its 92nd meeting, in approving the third tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Argentina (decision 92/31), the Executive Committee noted *inter alia*:

(a) The challenges presented by the lack of supply of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives to HCFC-141b in the foam sector, which had delayed the implementation of stage II activities in the foam sector that would have allowed the Government of Argentina to phase out 85.92 ODP tonnes of HCFCs; and

(b) That, in the event that alternatives were not available on the local market, high-GWP alternatives could be used, on a transitional basis only, and that the Government of Argentina would report to each Executive Committee meeting on the progress made towards ensuring that the selected technologies, including the associated components, were available on a commercial basis in the country, on the understanding that incremental operating costs (IOCs) would not be funded until the transition to the agreed alternatives was complete.

Progress report

3. On behalf of the Government of Argentina, UNIDO submitted a report indicating that over the 2022-2023 period, HFO prices reached US $35-40 kg, and that the systems houses did not have sufficient stocks for production at a commercial scale.

4. The national ozone unit met with the systems houses to analyze the possibility of using methylal or methyl formate in their formulations; however, the enterprises were reluctant to use these blowing agents due to their corrosiveness and flammability issues, identified during previous tests. The systems houses have already tested both HFOs and HFCs and indicated that while the price of HFO from one of the producers had decreased, the supply was insufficient for commercial-scale production.

5. The Government of Argentina will continue to monitor the situation, and report in 2024 on the progress of implementation, any use of HFCs on a transitional basis, and the price and availability of HFOs. The report indicated that the individual projects to convert foam production to cyclopentane would be completed in the coming months, contributing to the reduction of imports of HCFC-141b.

6. The report further confirmed that one downstream user eligible for conversion to HFOs (Termica San Luis, with a consumption of 5.5 mt of HCFC-141b) decided to convert to cyclopentane following a technical assessment, at no additional cost to the Multilateral Fund. The enterprise is eligible to receive US $50,643, including US $47,643 for IOCs, and intends to use these funds to cover the required

incremental capital costs (ICCs) for introducing cyclopentane, mostly related to adaptations to the plant and the installation of safety systems to operate with flammable blowing agents.

Secretariat's comments

7. The Secretariat notes the status report on the availability and prices of HFOs in Argentina, the Government's efforts to explore the use of other low-GWP alternatives, and the fact that no transitional use of HFCs has been reported so far, except for testing done by the systems houses. If alternatives to HFCs do not become more available in the local market and high-GWP HFCs are used on a transitional basis, the Secretariat recommends that, in line with decision 92/31(c)(ii), the Government of Argentina continue reporting to the Executive Committee on the matter.

8. Regarding the change of technology at Termica San Luis, in line with decision 74/50(c)(ii), the enterprise can allocate the funds approved for IOCs to cover the ICCs of the adoption of cyclopentane. Based on the previously approved projects, the Secretariat notes that the level of ICCs required to convert to cyclopentane is likely above the funds approved for the enterprise, and that any difference in cost would be covered by the enterprise. This fund reallocation is below 30 per cent of the value of the last approved tranche of stage II of the HPMP and will be used in the same sector and at the same enterprise; however, as it involves a change of technology, the Secretariat is informing the Executive Committee, noting that it does not represent a change in the funding levels nor in its impact on the climate, as cyclopentane is also a low-GWP alternative.

Recommendation

9. The Executive Committee may wish:

(a) To note:

(i) The report on the status of availability of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives to HCFC-141b in the foam sector and on the transitional use of high-GWP alternatives in the context of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan for Argentina, provided by UNIDO and contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20;

(ii) That the enterprise Termica San Luis has changed the selected technology from HFO to cyclopentane, at no additional incremental cost; and

(b) To request the Government of Argentina and UNIDO, in line with decision 92/31(c)(ii), to provide an update at the 94th meeting on the local market availability of low-GWP alternatives to HCFC-141b in the foam sector and on the transitional use of high-GWP alternatives.

Brazil: HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – report on the temporary use of technology with high global-warming potential at Amino, Flexível, and U-Tech) (UNDP)

Background

10. At the 80th meeting, UNDP informed the Secretariat that the systems house U-Tech had requested to temporarily use HFC-134 in place of HCFC-22 in froth applications, as HFOs were not yet available on a commercial scale in the country. U-Tech had signed a commitment to stop the temporary use of HFC blends once HFOs were commercially available, and the systems had been developed and optimized at no additional cost to the Multilateral Fund.

11. Accordingly, the Executive Committee requested UNDP to continue assisting U-Tech in securing the supply of the alternative technology selected, on the understanding that the incremental operating costs (IOCs) would not be paid until either the selected alternative or another technology with low global-warming potential (GWP) had been fully introduced, and to report on the status of use of the interim technology until the technology originally selected or another low-GWP technology had been fully introduced (decision 80/12(e)). The Committee also requested UNDP to provide to each meeting an update from the suppliers on the progress made toward ensuring that the selected technologies, including the associated components, were available on a commercial basis in the country (decision 81/9(b)). UNDP has reported on the status of the use of interim technology at each meeting since.

12. At the 91st meeting, UNDP reported that there were no new developments on the use of HFC-134a by U-Tech, and that due to the shortage of HFO-1233zd(E) in the domestic market, three systems houses that had already converted to low-GWP alternatives (Amino, Flexível and Purcom), requested authorization from the Government of Brazil to temporarily supply HFC-365mfc/HFC-227ea to serve some clients.

13. At the 92nd meeting, UNDP reported that Purcom had discontinued the temporary use of the HFC-365mfc/HFC-227ea blend. Accordingly, Purcom was removed from the reporting requirement on temporary use of high-GWP alternatives, while the remaining three systems houses remained (decision 92/10).

Progress report

14. In line with decision 92/10(b), UNDP reported that Flexível and Amino had discontinued the temporary use of the HFC-365mfc/HFC-227ea blend in May 2023 and August 2023, respectively, and continued to use low-GWP technologies (e.g., methyl formate and water-based) for all their clients. UNDP also informed the Secretariat that, with the closure of production of HFC365mfc/HFC-227ea, many foam enterprises that had been postponing the decision to join the foam sector plan in Brazil were now reaching out to their systems houses to adopt low-GWP alternatives.

15. In contrast, no further development had taken place regarding the temporary use of HFC-134a by the enterprise U-Tech, as the high cost of gaseous HFO (Solstice GBA) continued to make it commercially unfeasible. No IOCs have been paid to any end user of U-Tech using HFC-134a.

Secretariat's comments

16. Noting that Amino and Flexível discontinued the temporary use of HFCs, no additional reporting is required on these two systems houses. Regarding U-Tech, in light of the prevailing issues related to the availability and cost of the selected alternative technology, the Secretariat recommends that UNDP continue to assist the systems house in securing the supply of the alternative technology selected or another low-GWP technology, and include in the request of the next tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) a report on the status of the temporary use of HFCs by U-Tech, in line with previous decisions. While this reporting has so far been carried out at each meeting, the Secretariat suggests that it is integrated into the request of the next tranche of the HPMP for Brazil, to streamline reporting.

Recommendation

17. The Executive Committee may wish:

(a) To note:

(i) The report provided by UNDP on the temporary use of alternatives with high global-warming potential (GWP) in the systems houses Amino, Flexível and U-Tech under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for

Brazil, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20;

(ii) That the systems houses Amino and Flexível discontinued the temporary use of high-GWP technology and introduced low-GWP technologies for all its clients;

(b) To request UNDP:

(i) To continue assisting the Government of Brazil in securing the supply of alternative technologies with low GWP to the U-Tech systems house, on the understanding that any incremental operating costs related to the conversions (where applicable) would not be paid until the technology originally selected or another low-GWP technology had been fully introduced; and

(ii) To provide, as part of the next tranche request of stage II of the HPMP for Brazil, a report on the status of temporary use of high-GWP alternatives, along with an update from the suppliers on the progress made towards ensuring that the selected technologies, including the associated components, were available on a commercial basis in the country.

Côte d'Ivoire: HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I – progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche and the project completion report) (UNEP and UNIDO)

Background

18. At its 90th meeting, the Executive Committee approved the fifth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Côte d'Ivoire and requested the Government, UNEP and UNIDO to submit a progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche of stage I and the project completion report (PCR) to the second meeting of the Executive Committee in 2023 and to return all remaining balances by 30 June 2023 (decision 90/32(a)).[2]

Progress report

19. In line with decision 90/32(a), on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNEP as the lead implementing agency, has submitted the progress report associated with the final tranche of stage I of the HPMP, as summarised below:

(a) Six workshops were conducted for the training of 153 customs and enforcement officers on the control and identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment and illegal trade of controlled substances;

(b) Eight workshops were conducted for the training of 200 technicians in different parts of the country on good practices in the refrigeration servicing sector and on the use of alternative refrigerants;

(c) Two consultants (one refrigeration and one customs experts) were recruited to assist the NOU in the monitoring of the implementation of HPMP activities, the collection of accurate data relating to HCFCs, and other activities undertaken under stage I of the HPMP;

(d) The total funding of US $1,825,740 approved under stage I has been fully disbursed.

[2] Provision contained in Annex VIII of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/40.

20. As of 10 October 2023, the PCR for stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire had not been submitted to the Secretariat.

Secretariat's comments

21. The Secretariat notes that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire reported a consumption of 33.0 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2022, which is 20.4 per cent below the compliance targets for that year, and that the consumption of HCFCs over the last six years has been steadily decreasing; the country has implemented all activities planned under stage I of the HPMP and disbursed all funds approved.

22. On the delays in the submission of the PCR which was due for submission at the 93rd meeting, UNEP explained that UNIDO requires additional time for collecting the relevant information and that the PCR would be submitted by 30 June 2024.

Recommendation

23. The Executive Committee may wish:

(a) To note the progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Côte d'Ivoire, as submitted by UNEP and contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20; and

(b) To request UNEP and UNIDO to submit the project completion report for stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire no later than 30 June 2024.

Kyrgyzstan: HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – verification report) (UNDP and UNEP)

Background

24. Stage II of the HPMP for Kyrgyzstan was originally approved at the 74th meeting[3] and revised at the 85th meeting[4] to reduce HCFC consumption by 97.5 per cent from the baseline by 2020 and 100 per cent by 2025, at a total cost of US $712,000, plus agency support costs. Stage II of the HPMP was completed in December 2021, as stipulated in the Agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Executive Committee.

25. As per decision 85/22(a), a verification report on HCFC consumption for 2019 to 2022 was submitted by UNDP on behalf of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to the 93rd meeting.

Verification report

26. The verification report confirmed that the consumption of HCFC-22 was 0.71 ODP tonnes in 2019 and zero ODP tonnes for each year from 2020 to 2022, in line with the targets specified in the Agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Executive Committee. The verified consumption was consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for the same years.

[3] Decision 74/40

[4] Annex V of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/85/67

Recommendation

27. The Executive Committee may wish to note the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2019 to 2022 for Kyrgyzstan, as submitted by UNDP and contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20.

South Africa – HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I – progress report) (UNIDO)

Background

28. In approving the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for South Africa, the Executive Committee also approved the extension of the stage up to 31 December 2023, on the understanding that no further extension would be requested, and requested UNIDO to submit progress reports on a yearly basis on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche through to the completion of the project, and the project completion report to the second meeting of the Executive Committee in 2024.[5]

Secretariat's comments

29. The Secretariat received the progress report on stage I of the HPMP for South Africa on 27 November 2023, seven weeks after the deadline for submission. Due to its late receipt, the Secretariat was unable to review the submission and will provide a summary of this report at the 94th meeting.

Recommendation

30. The Executive Committee may wish to take note of the submission by UNIDO of the progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan for South Africa, which will be reviewed and presented by the Secretariat at the 94th meeting.

Uruguay: HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II – progress report on the implementation of the conversion of the foam sector) (UNDP)

Background

31. Stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Uruguay was approved in principle, at the 77th meeting[6] and the second tranche which included a request for the implementation of a conversion project in 21 small- and medium-sized foam manufacturing enterprises for the phase-out of 5.53 ODP tonnes (50.24 metric tonnes (mt)) of HCFC-141b contained in imported pre-blended polyols to hydrofluoroolefin (HFO) technology was approved at the 82nd meeting[7]. In approving the tranche, the Executive Committee requested UNDP to report on the progress in the implementation of the conversion of the SMEs and the availability of HFO/HFO-based polyurethane (PU) systems and their associated components to the 84th meeting (decision 82/76(b)(ii)). Following this, the Executive Committee requested UNDP to continue reporting on the implementation of the conversions at subsequent meetings.[8]

32. At the 91st meeting, UNDP reported that none of the conversions for the 20 remaining eligible SMEs participating in the project had been completed; that there was still very little availability of HFO in the market with long delays in the supply of material for trials and testing due to continued problems in the global supply chain; that the high cost of HFO systems was a challenge for the formulation of systems especially for spray foam applications, where the concentration of blowing agent is higher, impacting the

[5] Decision 91/41(a) on blanket approval and Annex XVII of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/91/72.
[6] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/77/67 and Annex XXIV of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/77/76.
[7] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/82/61.
[8] Decisions 84/37(b); 87/20(e); 90/19(b)

cost of the final product. UNDP also reported that all suppliers, in particular Polyser (the main supplier for the spray foam sub-sector), reaffirmed their commitment to transition to low-GWP alternatives but due to the continued challenges in the transition, had expressed the need to conduct additional trials in winter 2023 (June to September), as lower temperatures had a bigger impact in the behavior of the PU reaction; and that the ban on the import of HCFC-141b initially planned for 1 January 2021 would be implemented from 1 January 2023, and that imports of HCFC-141b contained in pre-blended polyols would be allowed until 31 December 2023.

33. Subsequently, the Executive Committee decided (decision 91/25) inter alia:

(b) To approve, on an exceptional basis, the further extension, to 31 December 2023, of the date of completion of stage II of the HPMP for Uruguay, given the delay in completing the conversions of the remaining foam enterprises owing to the lack of availability of the alternative and supply-chain disruptions;

(a) To note that the ban on imports of pure HCFC-141b would be implemented by 1 January 2023 and that the ban on HCFC-141b contained in imported pre-blended polyols would be effective as of 1 January 2024; and

(b) To request the Government of Uruguay, through UNDP, to submit:

(i) At the 93rd meeting, a progress report on the implementation of the conversion of the foam enterprises, the availability of HFO/HFO-based PU systems and the status of the legislation to ban the import and use of HCFC-141b and HCFC-141b contained in imported pre-blended polyols.

34. In line with decision 91/25(d)(i), UNDP has submitted a progress report to the present meeting.

Secretariat's comments

35. The Secretariat received the progress report on 13 November 2022, four weeks after the deadline for submission. Due to the late receipt of this document, the Secretariat was unable to review the submission and will provide an updated report to the 94th meeting.

Recommendation

36. The Executive Committee may wish to request UNDP to provide at the 94th meeting an updated report of progress, in addition to what had been submitted at the 93rd meeting, for the project for the conversion of the foam enterprises and the availability of hydrofluoroolefin (HFO)/HFO-based polyurethane systems and their associated components and of the legislation to ban the import and use of HCFC-141and HCFC-141b contained in pre-blended polyols funded under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan for Uruguay.

B. Reports on additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6)

Maldives: Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b) (UNEP)

Background

37. At the 91st meeting, the Executive Committee approved the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low or zero global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in Maldives. In approving this request, the Executive Committee also requested the Government of Maldives and UNEP to submit progress reports on the

implementation of the project on a yearly basis until completion, and a project completion report to the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2025 (decision 91/60(b)).

38. In line with decision 91/60 UNEP, on behalf of the Government of the Maldives, has submitted a progress report to the present meeting.

Progress report

39. The objective of the energy efficiency project in the Maldives was to make mandatory the existing voluntary energy efficiency programme for appliances and equipment called Hakathari which covered certain equipment including air conditioners[9] and domestic refrigerators. The mandated label specifications under the Hakathari programme include information on the refrigerant and its ozone depleting potential (ODP) and global warming potential (GWP). The programme also establishes the minimum qualification requirements for tested[10] appliances to be eligible for the energy efficiency labels ensuring that these meet the minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) already present in the country.

40. The project included activities to improve the coordination and collaboration between stakeholders, the relevant energy authorities, and the national ozone unit (NOU) through capacity building of key staff and stakeholders to ensure sustained consideration of the refrigerant in the labelling programme, guide the development of the review approach for refrigerant type and GWP, and understand regulatory challenges related to low-GWP refrigerant labelling information; to raise awareness related to the labelling programme focusing on increasing the demand for air conditioners and refrigerators operating with low- or zero-GWP refrigerants among all labeled energy-efficient products; and a consumer behavior study to evaluate the impact of the project.

41. As of writing the report, project implementation had been delayed and no funds disbursed, due to personnel changes at UNEP and the elections in the country which took place in September 2023. The country is now in the process of signing the small-scale funding agreement (SSFA) and the first payment will be made upon signature. The NOU has been conducting coordination and planning discussions with government-counterparts in energy efficiency in the meantime so that the project can proceed without further delay once the funds are transferred.

Secretariat's comments

42. The Secretariat inquired whether the SSFA had already been signed and when the first disbursement would be made. The Secretariat also expressed concern about the administrative delays associated with the project and requested UNEP to provide an updated work plan describing how activities will be expedited to make up for the delays in implementation. UNEP noted that the SSFA had been signed in mid-October and the first disbursement was completed on 17 November 2023. UNEP further mentioned that the administrative delays in the project implementation would shift the timing of the delivery of outputs as well as the end date of the project. Following a discussion with the Government of the Maldives, UNEP provided an updated workplan for the project as shown in the table below:

[9] Single-phase, single-split and unitary type air conditioners of both fixed speed and variable speed, up to rated capacities of 24,226 BTU/hr (equivalent to 7.1 kW).

[10] Testing is done by a laboratory accredited by a recognized authority which is a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory such as (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) / Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) as per certain test standards or protocols for testing laboratories (using ISO/IEC 17025).

Table 2. Updated workplan for the implementation of activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in the Maldives

Activity	Deliverable/target	Approved budget (US $)	Expected implementation dates
Capacity building of key staff and stakeholders			
Coordination and collaboration with relevant agencies through capacity building training	Study tour, report, and recommendations	35,000	November 2023-June 2024
Training/information sessions for importers, customs officers, utility agencies, building designers, building developers, and construction companies	Five workshops/information sessions for a total of 140 participants	13,000	January 2024-March 2025
Outreach and impact assessment			
Development and dissemination of outreach materials	Five awareness videos and five infographics produced and disseminated	37,000	November 2024-March 2025
Consumer Behaviour Study	One consumer behaviour study developed and implemented	15,000	October 2024-March 2025
	Total	**100,000**	

43. UNEP further mentioned that the Government of the Maldives would like to request for an extension of the project implementation period to June 2025, in line with the updated work plan provided above.

Recommendation

44. The Executive Committee may wish:

(a) To note the report on the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low or zero global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in Maldives;

(b) To approve, on an exceptional basis the extension of the completion date of the project referred to in subparagraph (a) to 30 June 2025 on the understanding that no further extension would be requested; and

(c) To request the Government of Maldives and UNEP to continue submitting progress reports on the implementation of the project referred to in subparagraph (a) above, on a yearly basis until the completion of the project, and a project completion report to the second meeting of the Executive Committee in 2025.

C. Reports related to HFCs

India: request for extension of the completion date of enabling activities for HFC phase down (UNEP)

Background

45. UNEP, on behalf of the Government of India, submitted a request for extension of the completion date of the enabling activities for HFC phase-down. Funding for enabling activities for India was approved at the 88th meeting in November 2021 for completion in June 2023.

Secretariat's comments

46. The Secretariat noted that the request was submitted in line with decision 81/32(a)[11]. The main reason cited for the extension included inter alia the need to complete planned activities, more time to complete the outreach campaign for the general public, advance on the development of the National Strategy including a policy framework for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment and on the establishment of a framework for implementing the licensing, quota systems, and reporting obligations related to HFCs. The Secretariat noted that India is a group 2 country under the Kigali Amendment whose first compliance obligations start only in 2028.

Recommendation

47. The Executive Committee may wish to approve the extension of the completion date of enabling activities for HFC phase-down for India to 30 June 2024, on the understanding that no further extension would be requested, and that UNEP would submit, within six months of the project completion date, a final report of the enabling activities completed in line with decision 81/32(b).

D. Reports on methyl bromide

Argentina: Critical use exemptions (UNIDO)

Background

48. At its 30th meeting, the Executive Committee approved the project for the phase-out of methyl bromide (MB) in strawberry, protected vegetable and cut flower production in Argentina, and at its 36th meeting, approved the project for the phase-out of MB for soil fumigation in tobacco and non-protected vegetable seed-beds. The Agreement between the Government and the Executive Committee was subsequently modified at the 45th meeting. While the Agreement explicitly excluded quarantine and pre-shipment applications from the targets for national MB consumption, the Agreement did not include an exclusion for critical-use exemptions (CUEs) that the Parties to the Montreal Protocol may authorize, and instead specified zero national consumption of MB by 2015. The Parties authorized CUEs for Argentina at each of their meetings from 2015 (26th meeting) to 2022 (33rd meeting).

Secretariat's comments

49. Argentina reported MB consumption of 5.71 ODP tonnes in 2022 which is less than the authorized CUEs of 5.76 ODP tonnes for that year.[12] Accordingly, the Secretariat considers that the level of consumption of MB for Argentina in 2022 was zero, as the maximum level specified in the Agreement, except for any CUEs approved by the Parties.

Recommendation

50. The Executive Committee may wish to note that the reported level of consumption of methyl bromide for Argentina in 2022 was zero, as per the Agreement between the Government and the Executive Committee, except for the critical-use exemptions approved by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

[11] Decision 81/32(a): When approving enabling activities, to maintain the 18-month implementation period for such projects in line with decision 79/46(d)(iii) and, if needed, to extend that period by no more than 12 months (totalling 30 months from project approval), when an official request for extension was received by the Secretariat

[12] Decision XXXIII/6

E. Reports related to chillers

Argentina: Global chiller replacement project (final report) (UNIDO)

Background

51. The global chiller replacement project in Argentina was originally approved at the 47th meeting as part of the country's national CFC phase-out plan. It was subsequently transferred from the World Bank to UNIDO at the 80th meeting, with the remaining balance (decision 80/31(b)(ii)). At the 88th meeting, the Executive Committee approved the extension of the completion date of the project, to 31 December 2022 (decision 88/15(b)(ii)).

Report summary

52. UNIDO, on behalf of the Government of Argentina, has submitted the final report on the global chiller replacement project. The findings of the report are summarised below:

(a) Four chillers were replaced in three enterprises with capacities ranging from 174 tonne rating (TR) to 450 TR consuming CFC-11 (one chiller) and CFC-12 (three chillers); the replacement technologies were HFC-134a (three chillers) and HFO-1234ze (one chiller);

(b) The enterprises provided co-financing aggregating to US $650,772 for certain components for the chillers including auxiliary equipment, installation (e.g., steel structure, wires, logistics, civil works) and mounting equipment;

(c) At each of the three enterprises, the existing CFC-based equipment was dismantled and destroyed. The 35 kilograms (kgs) of CFC-11 and 274 kgs of CFC-12 were recovered during the dismantling and refrigerants from these chillers were sent to the national reclamation centre to be used in existing old chillers using these substances, if needed;

(d) Of the US $808,438 approved, US $554,732 has been disbursed; the balance of US $253,706 will be returned after financial closure of the project, i.e., by December 2023.

Secretariat's comments

53. The Secretariat noted that the four chillers that were supported through the project were replaced with non-ODS-based equipment; while three chillers were replaced with equipment using HFC-134a, the other chiller was replaced with equipment using HFO-1234ze.

54. On energy efficiency gains achieved, UNIDO indicated that in all four cases, the new chillers consumed less power and energy compared to the old chillers; the reduction in energy consumption is estimated to be up to a maximum of 45.6 per cent; and enterprises would consider higher capital investments incurred in replacing chillers against the gains from energy efficiency while considering replacement of old chillers.

Recommendation

55. The Executive Committee may wish to note the final report on the global chiller replacement project (GLO/REF/80/DEM/344) in Argentina, as submitted by UNIDO and contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/20.