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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Montreal, 15-19 December 2023
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: BURUNDI

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 UNIDO

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Burundi

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage I)	UNEP (lead), UNIDO	65 th	35% phase-out by 2020

(II) LATEST ARTICLE-7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2022	0.77 (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					0.77				0.77

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009-2010 baseline:	7.20	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	2.10
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:	0.73	Remaining:	1.37

(V) ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2023	2024	2025	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
	Funding (US \$)	37,516	0	0	37,516

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2011	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023*	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits			n/a	7.15	7.15	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	6.44	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	7.2	7.2	6.48	6.48	6.48	2.10	2.10	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	n/a
Agreed funding (US \$)	UNEP	Project costs	45,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	63,800	0	33,200	0	0	0	172,000
		Support costs	5,850	0	3,900	0	0	0	8,294	0	4,316	0	0	0	22,360
	UNIDO	Project costs	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	160,000
		Support costs	7,200	0	0	0	0	0	7,200	0	0	0	0	0	14,400
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)			Project costs	125,000	0	30,000	0	0	143,800	0	0	0	0	0	298,800
			Support costs	13,050	0	3,900	0	0	15,494	0	0	0	0	0	32,444
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US \$)			Project costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33,200	33,200
			Support costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,316	4,316

*The third tranche due in 2016 was approved with the fourth tranche in 2018 and the fifth and final tranche being requested was due in 2020. Starting point revised from 7.20 ODP tonnes to 2.10 ODP tonnes at the 81st meeting in 2018. The funding level associated with stage I of the HPMP should be up to US \$210,000. The funding adjustment will be made when stage II of the HPMP is approved.

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Burundi, 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), in the amount of US \$33,200, plus agency support costs of US \$4,316 for UNEP only.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2018 to 2022, and the tranche implementation plan for 2023 to 2024.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Burundi reported a consumption of 0.77 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2022, which is 89 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2018-2022 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

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

HCFC-22	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	37.0	32.5	24.3	21.4	14.0	130.9
ODP tonnes	2.04	1.79	1.34	1.18	0.77	7.2

3. The consumption of HCFCs has been in a steady decline partly due to the implementation of the activities approved under the HPMP, and an increase in the import of non-HCFC-based refrigeration equipment. Ammonia, HFCs and HFC-blends are being increasingly used in cold rooms, and while hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants are not yet available on the market, an increase in the importation of HC-dependent equipment has been reported mainly for domestic refrigerators and beverage coolers. Between 2019 and 2022, HCFC-22 imports accounted for only 28 per cent of the total refrigerants imported into the country, the rest were attributed to HFC and HFC-blends.

Country programme implementation report

4. The Government of Burundi reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2022 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 was implementing a 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 ministerial ordinance to regulate the import, marketing, and distribution of HCFCs, which became operational on 1 January 2018, is enforceable and allows a good control of the HCFCs imports. The report recommended further awareness raising and capacity building for importers and customs officers on the licensing and quota system; the development of an online permitting system for more efficient tracking; and providing additional refrigerant identification equipment for customs officers at the borders. These recommendations will be included in the activities to be implemented for this tranche and in stage II.

² As per the letter of 24 September 2023 from the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi to the Secretariat.

Progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

6. The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has the overall mandate for the implementation of the laws and regulations relating to environmental issues. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) was established in 2004 in coordination with the Burundi National Institute for the Environment and Protection of Nature (INECN) and is responsible for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The NOU has set up a National Steering Committee to control, monitor and manage the elimination of the use of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in Burundi which is comprised of the key stakeholders.

7. Regulations on ODS and ODS-based equipment, including the licensing and quota system were issued on 14 May 2013; however, the Ministerial ordinance regulating the import of these substances was adopted only in January 2018 because of a political crisis in Burundi. Burundi ratified the Kigali Amendment on 26 March 2021, and in 2022 a joint Ministerial Order established a licensing system for the import of HFCs.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. Between July 2018 and September 2023, the following activities were carried out:

- (a) A total of 335 customs and enforcement officers including 154 women were trained on ODS laws and regulations in particular the licensing system for HCFC imports through five workshops; two refrigerant identifiers were procured for the use in customs training;
- (b) A total of 311 refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians including 74 women were trained on good refrigeration practices including recovery and recycling and HC safety through five workshops; and
- (c) A total of 20 RAC servicing workshops and one training centre were provided with basic servicing tools and equipment (e.g., recovery cylinders, recovery units, vacuum pumps, leak detectors, refrigerant identifiers, digital scale, brazing unit, portable charging station, nitrogen cylinder, manifolds, flaring tool set, and spare parts).

Project implementation and monitoring

9. The NOU is responsible for the implementation of national legislation to control and manage ODS imports and consumption and the coordination of HPMP activities. Of the US \$13,800 approved for the combined third and fourth tranches for programme management, US \$10,000 was used for the recruitment of two consultants for the monitoring of the HPMP implementation and data collection and US \$3,800 for travel costs for monitoring visits of refrigeration associations in the three regions.

Level of fund disbursement

10. As of August 2023, of the US \$298,800 approved so far, US \$298,335 had been disbursed (US \$138,800 for UNEP and US \$159,535 for UNIDO), as shown in table 2. The balance of US \$465 will be disbursed in 2023.

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

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	45,000	80,000	125,000	99.9
	Disbursed	45,000	79,848	124,848	
Second	Approved	30,000	0	30,000	100
	Disbursed	30,000	0	30,000	
Third and fourth	Approved	63,800	80,000	143,800	99.8
	Disbursed	63,800	79,687	143,487	
Total	Approved	138,800	160,000	298,800	99.8
	Disbursed	138,800	159,535	298,335	
	Balance	0	465	465	

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

11. The following activities will be implemented between December 2023 and December 2024:
- Training of 75 customs officers, environment inspectors, and agents from the Department of Commerce on monitoring and controlling the import and distribution of HCFCs, identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment and control of illegal trade; training will also be organized for customs officers operating at the main borders and at some entry points on the use of the refrigerant identifiers (US \$15,000);
 - Training of 105 RAC technicians on good servicing practices in refrigeration and safe handling of flammable refrigerants (US \$15,000); and
 - Monitoring the implementation of the HPMP to ensure effectiveness of all activities, collection of monthly data, and production of two reports on the implementation of the HPMP (US \$3,200).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

12. The Government of Burundi has already issued HCFC import quotas for 2023 of 1.00 ODP tonne, which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control target and the maximum allowable consumption in the Agreement for 2020.

Refrigeration servicing sector

13. The Secretariat noted that the targets for training customs officers and RAC technicians were exceeded by large margins during the reporting period (i.e., 300 customs officers were trained from a target of 80 and 300 RAC technicians were trained from a target of 150). UNEP explained that for the customs officers, they had capitalized on the training by including recent graduates from the training programme. This ensured that once they started in the Customs Department, they would already have some basic knowledge of the ODS regulations and the licensing system. For the service technicians, the NOU identified new informal technicians to include in the training programme thus providing them with technical knowledge on good refrigeration practices. UNEP also indicated that some of the balance of funds from the

country's institutional strengthening (IS) project was used to broaden the training.

14. With regard to the equipment provided to some RAC workshops and to the training centre, the Secretariat inquired who monitors the use and how this is done. UNEP explained that the Government organizes periodic assessment-visits to the recipient service workshops which are obliged to ensure that the equipment is regularly maintained. Initial results show that technicians have increased their use of good practices in servicing RAC equipment due to the equipment and training received. UNEP also provided a list of the recipient workshops and training centre.

Gender policy implementation

15. In line with the Multilateral Fund operational policy on gender mainstreaming (decisions 84/92 and 90/48(c)), the NOU is working to ensure equal opportunity for women and men in the implementation of HPMP activities and training programmes. During the implementation of the previous tranche, customs training included around 50 percent women participants while for the service technicians training, around 25 per cent of trainees were women. The Government of Burundi through UNEP will ensure that future activities for the HPMP will identify training targets for women and use UNEP's Guide for gender mainstreaming in Fund-supported projects.

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

16. The Government of Burundi is requesting an extension on the date of completion of stage I of the HPMP to 31 December 2024 due to delays in implementation of the previous tranches. The Government is committed to ensuring the completion of stage I.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

17. The Government of Burundi continues to implement its policies for controlling HCFC imports and consumption in line with the Montreal Protocol and the targets under its Agreement with the Executive Committee. The sustainability of the training provided to RAC technicians will be supported by the tools and equipment which were distributed to the RAC workshops and the training centre as these will continue to facilitate capacity building in the servicing sector and ensure technicians can be better trained in the long-term. The uptake of non-HCFC based technology in the country is dependent on availability and demand, the reduction in imports of HCFCs and increase of equipment using alternatives demonstrates that the phase out of HCFCs will be sustainable. One potential risk identified is related to further delays in implementation which may be caused by political and economic issues in the country. UNEP indicated that the Government would endeavour to reduce these delays as much as possible by expediting implementation of this tranche, and the submission of stage II of the HPMP which is expected in 2024.

Conclusion

18. The reported 2022 HCFC consumption of 0.77 ODP tonnes was already 89 per cent below the country's baseline. Despite the delays in implementation, the Government of Burundi has exceeded the training targets for customs officers and service technicians and has completed the activities from the previous tranches. The import quotas issued for 2023 of 1.00 ODP tonne is lower than the Montreal Protocol target and the maximum allowable consumption set in the Agreement for 2020. The recommendations from the verification report including further awareness raising and capacity building for importers and customs officers, building an online permitting system and the provision of additional refrigerant identifiers for customs officers at the borders will be implemented in the fifth and final tranche of stage I and in stage II of the HPMP. The level of fund disbursement is close to 100 per cent and the activities planned under the fifth tranche will further strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework in the country and the refrigeration servicing sector, ensure the long-term sustainability of the activities, and will enable the country to continue to meet its compliance obligations under the Montreal Protocol and its Agreement with

the Executive Committee. The Government is committed to ensuring the completion of stage I by December 2024 and the submission of stage II at the first meeting in 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

19. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:
- (a) Note the progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Burundi; and
 - (b) Approve on an exceptional basis, given the delays in implementing phase-out activities, and noting that no further extension of project implementation would be requested, the extension, to 31 December 2024, of the date of completion of stage I of the HPMP for Burundi.
20. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Burundi and the corresponding 2023-2024 tranche implementation plan at the funding level 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)	33,200	4,316	UNEP