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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-fourth Meeting
Montreal, 27-31 May 2024
Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda¹

**REPORT ON THE EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF
THE EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND
(Part I)**

Introduction

1. The request to undertake an external assessment on the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund originated from the discussions of the Executive Committee as a result of the findings of the assessment of the Multilateral Fund prepared by the secretariat of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), issued in 2019.
2. At its 91st meeting, the Executive Committee approved its management response, which was sent to the MOPAN Secretariat; this included references to the actions that would be undertaken by the Secretariat to address the five areas for improvement, including an external assessment of the evaluation function.
3. The Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO), in coordination with the Secretariat where applicable, has since then undertaken the necessary steps to ensure delivery of the assessment report at the 94th meeting as requested. However, unavoidable delays have postponed the completion of the assessment, which will be presented for final consideration of the Executive Committee at the 95th meeting.
4. The present document contains the first part of the report on the external assessment of the evaluation function. It includes an update on progress on the assessment, as well as factual information that has been prepared by the evaluation unit to support the assessment, relating to budgets for monitoring and evaluation and evaluation products, presented in annexes I and II, respectively.

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/94/1

Status of progress of the independent external assessment of the evaluation function

5. The independent consultant recruited to prepare the external assessment has collected the views of stakeholders, with the support of the evaluation unit, through semi-structured interviews. As part of the inception paper, she has developed a matrix of evaluation questions, based on the terms of reference contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/8, to collect the information needed to address the scope and coverage of the exercise and its analytical dimension. The questions were shared with the interviewees prior to the online meetings, focusing on specific subsets of questions depending on the role of the participant as part of the overall governance architecture of the Fund and his/her participation (contributing to the evaluations) and interest (learning and using the results) in the Fund's evaluation function.

6. A total of 30 interviews, involving 42 interviewees, were held addressing the following categories of stakeholders: (i) members of the Executive committee, with both Article 5 and non-Article 5 representation; (ii) Multilateral Fund Secretariat (Chief Officer and staff members, including evaluation team); (iii) implementing and bilateral agencies; (iv) Heads of the Evaluation offices of the implementing agencies; (v) other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of benchmarking (e.g., Global Environment Facility (GEF) evaluation function, Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)).

7. The consultant is currently consolidating the preliminary findings from the interviews, which will be followed by a targeted concise survey to selected stakeholders as a means for validating/triangulating the first analytical results. After completing the additional data collection, the consultant will proceed to finalize the draft and undertake consultations with relevant stakeholders to finalize the report.

8. At the request of the consultant, the evaluation unit has compiled the information related to budgets for the monitoring and evaluation function (as approved in the work programmes) since 1997 and the outputs (evaluation products), which is provided in annexes I and II, respectively.

9. The consultant and the SMEO are in regular contact to facilitate ad hoc pieces of information that the consultant may require for the assessment, or to reach out to the interviewees and organize the meetings. It is too early to share any findings of the ongoing assessment, noting that the final findings and recommendations are still to be completed by the consultant, to be presented at the 95th meeting.

Recommendation

10. The Executive Committee may wish:

- (a) To take note of the report on the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund (part I) as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/94/7; and
- (b) To request the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to present the final report of the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund at the 95th meeting.

Annex I

BUDGETS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND MULTILATERAL FUND INCOME

Table 1. Budget by year for monitoring and evaluation (1997-2025)

Year	Approved budget (US \$)	Variation from previous year (%)	Monitoring and Evaluation work programmes (document number)	Executive Committee decision
1997-1998	461,000*	-	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/22/79/Rev.1 (Annex III)	22/19
1999	N/A**	-	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/27/12	27/11
2000	361,000	-	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/29/6	29/5
2001	318,000	-11.91	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/32/20	32/22
2002	328,000	3.14	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/35/13	35/11
2003	198,000	-39.63	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/38/8	38/5
2004	256,000	29.29	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/41/9	41/7
2005	246,000	-3.91	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/44/13	44/10
2006	346,000	40.65	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/47/11	47/9
2007	361,000	4.34	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/50/11	50/9
2008	326,000	-9.70	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/53/10	53/7
2009	75,000	-76.99	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/56/10	56/8
2010***	-	-	N/A	-
2011	86,750	-	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/63/13	63/11
2012	325,000	274.64	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/65/11	65/9
2013	191,000	-41.23	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/68/12	68/9
2014	148,700	-22.15	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/72/10/Rev.1	72/8
2015	91,285	-38.61	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/73/9/Rev.1	73/7
2016	177,226	94.15	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/75/11/Rev.2	75/9
2017	143,484	-19.04	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/77/10/Rev.1	77/7
2018	174,780	21.81	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/80/11/Rev.1	80/9
2019	136,050	-22.16	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/82/13/Rev.1	82/10
2020	36,500	-73.17	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/84/15/Rev.1	84/11
2021***	-	-	N/A	-
2022	144,500	-	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/88/11/Rev.1	88/10
2023	85,000	-41.18	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/91/11/Rev.1	91/9
2024	115,000	35.29	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/13/Rev.1	93/10
2025	175,000	52.17	UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/13/Rev.1	93/10
Total 1997-2025	5,306,275	N/A		

* This figure includes the US \$100,000 salary of the temporary Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

** It is to be noted that the Executive Committee approved at its 22nd meeting a budget of US \$461,000 (including the US \$100,000 salary of the temporary Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) for the implementation of the 1997–1998 work programme activities, of which only a small amount was disbursed, and it was decided that the remaining amount should be adequate for the implementation of the proposed 1999 work programme.

*** 2010 and 2021 were years of transition between outgoing and incoming Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officers. No budgets were approved.

Table 2. Budget by triennium for monitoring and evaluation (1997-2023)

Triennium	Budget approved for monitoring and evaluation (US \$)	Variation from previous triennium (%)
1997-1999	461,000	-
2000-2002	1,007,000	118.44
2003-2005	700,000	-30.49
2006-2008	1,033,000	47.57
2009-2011	161,750	N/A*
2012-2014	664,700	-
2015-2017	411,995	-38.02
2018-2020	347,330	-15.70
2021-2023	229,500	N/A*
1997-2023	5,016,275	-

* There was no approved monitoring and evaluation budget for the years 2010 and 2021 due to the transition period between the outgoing and incoming Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officers.

Sources: Figures based on the aggregation of approved monitoring and evaluation budgets in the annual work programmes (reported in table 1 above).

Table 3. Multilateral Fund income by triennium (1997-2023)

Triennium	Multilateral Fund income (US \$)	Variation from previous triennium (%)
1997-1999	485,712,161	-
2000-2002	484,354,955	-0.28
2003-2005	486,330,908	0.41
2006-2008	405,812,320	-16.56
2009-2011	404,921,996	-0.22
2012-2014	403,754,856	-0.51
2015-2017	443,319,713	9.80
2018-2020	517,973,597	16.84
2021-2023	366,473,886	-29.25
1997-2023	3,998,654,392	-

Sources: Figures based on table 2 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/3, Status of contributions and disbursements, report from the Treasurer.

Annex II

EVALUATION PRODUCTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE FUND'S EVALUATION FUNCTION (1997–2023)

	Evaluation topic	Desk study	Final report
1.	Enabling activities for HFC phase-down	Desk study for the evaluation of enabling activities for HFC phase-down. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/7)	
2.	Regional networks of national ozone officers	Evaluation of regional networks of national ozone officers (desk study and terms of reference for the second phase) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/86/11 and Corr.1)	Final report on the evaluation of regional networks of national ozone officers (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/6)
3.	Demonstration projects for low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs	Desk study for the evaluation of demonstration projects for low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/6)	
4.	Energy efficiency in the servicing sector	Desk study for the evaluation of energy efficiency in the servicing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/88/10) Desk study for the evaluation of energy efficiency in the servicing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/87/7) Desk study for the evaluation of energy efficiency in the servicing sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/86/13 and Corr.1)	
5.	Sustainability of Montreal Protocol achievements	Revised desk study on the evaluation of the sustainability of Montreal protocol achievements (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/86/10) Desk study on the evaluation of the sustainability of Montreal protocol achievements. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/84/12)	
6.	Pilot demonstration projects on ODS disposal and destruction	Desk study on the evaluation of the pilot demonstration projects on ODS disposal and destruction. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/75/10)	Final report on the evaluation of the pilot demonstration projects on ODS disposal and destruction. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/84/11 and Corr.1)
7.	HCFC phase-out management plan preparation activities to assist with the implementation of the Kigali Amendment	Revised desk study for the evaluation of HCFC phase-out management plan preparation activities to assist with the implementation of the Kigali amendment (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/83/8) Desk study for the evaluation of HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan preparation activities to assist with the implementation of the Kigali amendment (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/82/12)	
8.	Refrigeration servicing sector	Desk Study for the evaluation of HCFC phase-out in the refrigeration servicing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/80/10 and Corr.1)	Final report of the evaluation of HCFC phase-out in the refrigeration servicing sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/82/11)
9.	Gender mainstreaming in the Montreal Protocol projects and policies	Desk Study for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the Montreal Protocol projects and policies.	

	Evaluation topic	Desk study	Final report
		(UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/81/9)	
10.	Chiller projects with co-funding modalities	Desk study on the evaluation of chiller projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/68/10 and Corr.1) Addendum (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/68/10/Add.1)	Final report on the evaluation of chiller projects with co-funding modalities (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/80/9)
11.	HCFC phase-out projects in the refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sector	Desk study on the evaluation of HCFC phase-out projects in the refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/75/9)	Final report on the evaluation of HCFC phase-out projects in the refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/77/9/, Corr.1 and Corr.2)
12.	HCFC phase-out projects in the foam sector	Desk study on the evaluation of HCFC phase-out projects in the foam sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/73/8)	Final report on the evaluation of HCFC phase-out projects in the foam sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/74/9)
13.	Projects for the conversion of CFC-based metered dose inhalers to CFC-free technologies	Desk study for evaluation of metered-dose inhaler projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/67/90) addendum (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/67/90/Add.1)	Report on the evaluation of projects for the conversion of CFC-based metered dose inhalers to CFC-free technologies (Revised) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/72/9) Report on the evaluation of projects for the conversion of CFC-based metered dose inhalers to CFC-free technologies. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/71/15)
14.	Preparatory phase of the phasing out of HCFCs	Desk study on the evaluation of the preparatory phase of the phasing out of HCFCs (Decisions 68/9 and 69/12) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/71/14)	
15.	Multi-year agreement projects	Desk study on the evaluation of multi-year agreements. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/65/9)	Final evaluation report of multi-year agreement projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/69/12)
16.	Methyl bromide projects (Africa)	Desk study on the evaluation of methyl bromide projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/66/15)	Evaluation of methyl bromide projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/68/11)
17.	Evaluation of chiller projects	Desk study on the evaluation of chiller projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/58/9)	
18.	Evaluation of terminal phase-out management plans	Desk study on the evaluation of terminal phase-out management plans. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/55/8)	Final report on the evaluation of terminal phase-out management plans (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/58/8)
19.	Evaluation of institutional strengthening projects	Desk study on the evaluation of institutional strengthening projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/54/13)	Final report on the evaluation of institutional strengthening projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/56/8)
20.	Management, monitoring, and verification of national phase-out plans in non-low-volume-consuming (LVC) countries	Desk study on the evaluation of management and monitoring of national phase-out plans. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/51/13)	Final report on the evaluation of management, monitoring, and verification of national phase-out plans in non-low-volume-consuming countries (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/54/12)

	Evaluation topic	Desk study	Final report
21.	Compliance Assistance Programme	Desk study on the evaluation of the compliance assistance programme. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/49/8)	Final report on the evaluation of the compliance assistance programme (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/52/9)
22.	Incentive programmes for retrofits	Extended desk study on incentive programmes for retrofits (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/52/8)	
23.	Management and monitoring of national phase-out plans	Extended desk study on the evaluation of national phase-out plans (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/45/12)	
24.	CTC phase-out projects and agreements	Desk study on the evaluation of CTC process agent projects and phase-out agreements. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/48/15)	Final report on the evaluation of CTC process agent projects and phase-out agreements (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/51/12)
25.	Cases of non-compliance with the freeze in ODS consumption	Desk study on non-compliance with the freeze in consumption of CFCs, halons, methyl bromide and methyl chloroform. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/46/8)	Final evaluation report on cases of non-compliance (Follow-up to Decision 46/6) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/50/9)
26.	Refrigeration management plans and national phase-out plans in non-LVC countries focusing on the refrigeration sector		Final report on the intermediate evaluation of refrigeration management plans and national phase-out plans in non-low-volume-consuming countries focusing on the refrigeration servicing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/48/12)
27.	Implementation of the 2005 business plans	Evaluation of the implementation of the 2005 business plans (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/49/15/Rev.1)	
28.	Methyl bromide projects	Desk study on methyl bromide projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/43/8)	Final report on the evaluation of methyl bromide projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/46/7)
29.	Customs officers' training and licensing system projects	Desk study on the evaluation of customs officer training and licensing system projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/44/12)	
30.	Halon banking projects for countries with low volumes of installed capacities		Final evaluation report on halon banking projects for countries with low volumes of installed capacities (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/48/12)
31.	Solvent sector phase-out plan in China		Report on the intermediate evaluation of the solvent sector phase-out plan in China. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/42/13)
32.	CFC production sector phase-out agreements	Desk study on the evaluation of the implementation of the CFC production sector agreements. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/40/9)	Report on the intermediate evaluation of cfc production sector phase-out agreements. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/42/12)
33.	Implementation of refrigerant management plans in LVC countries	Extended desk study on refrigerant management plan evaluation (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/39/14)	Final report on the intermediate evaluation of refrigeration management plans and national phase-out plans in non-low-volume-consuming countries focusing on the refrigeration servicing sector. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/48/12)

	Evaluation topic	Desk study	Final report
			Final report on the evaluation of the implementation of refrigerant management plans (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/41/7)
34.	Halon projects	Report on the desk study on halon projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/37/6)	Final report on the evaluation of the halon sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/40/8)
35.	Aerosol projects		Final report on the evaluation of aerosol projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/38/5 and Corr.1)
36.	Clearing house function	Report on the extended desk study on clearing house evaluation. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/36/5)	
37.	Completed compressor projects in China		Evaluation of completed compressor projects in China. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/34/17)
38.	Regional networks of national ozone units	Desk study on the evaluation of regional networks. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/30/8)	Final report on the evaluation of regional networks (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/33/7 and Corr.1)
39.	Foam projects	Report on the implementation of the 1999 work programme for monitoring and evaluation (Section III) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/29/5)	Final report on the evaluation of foam projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/33/6)
40.	Training projects		Report on evaluation of training projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/31/20)
41.	Compressor projects	Desk study on compressor projects. (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/31/17)	
42.	Recovery and recycling projects	Desk study on recovery and recycling projects (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/31/18)	
43.	Institutional strengthening projects	Report on the implementation of the 1999 work programme for monitoring and evaluation (Section II) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/29/5)	Final report on the 1999 evaluation of institutional strengthening projects and draft follow-up action plan (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/30/6 and Corr.1)
44.	Refrigeration sector projects	Report on the implementation of the 1999 work programme for monitoring and evaluation (Section I) (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/29/5)	Final report on the 1999 evaluation of refrigeration projects and draft follow-up action plan (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/30/5)

Note: As part of the ongoing completion of the work programme for 2024–2025, the following evaluations are in the pipeline:

For 2024:

- Desk study for the evaluation of the compliance assistance programme
- external assessment of the multilateral fund evaluation function
- review of project completion reports

Planned to be launched in 2025:

- Desk study for the evaluation of the recovery, recycling and reclamation projects
 - Desk study for the evaluation of the contribution of HCFC phase-out management plans to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol
 - Desk study for the evaluation of training, capacity building and certification schemes in refrigeration servicing of HCFC phase-out management plans
-