



Pacific Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Project - Brief

Purpose of the Brief

To provide information for the Post Forum Dialogue Meeting on the Pacific region's efforts to implement the Regional Strategy on the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer".

Talking Points

- Thank the chairperson for providing the Pacific region with a platform to promote the issue of phasing out the use of ozone depleting substances (in particular, chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs) in Pacific Island Countries;
- Acknowledge the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Government of Australia, and the German Development Agency (GTZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit) for providing financial assistance to implement the Regional Strategy;
- Recognise the valuable contribution of UNEP DTIE (Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics) and UNEP ROAP (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) working in close collaboration with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in implementing the Regional Strategy;
- Seek co-operation of the various Governments to raise the skills of workers handling ODS in Pacific Island Countries. To specifically encourage aid agencies and educational bodies to ensure that ODS issues are tackled in any technical training.

Background

What is the Pacific ODS Project?

The Pacific Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Project is a 3-year regional programme and is funded by the UNEP Multilateral Fund Secretariat and the Government of Australia. The Project is implementing the first and only Regional Strategy in the Montreal Protocol regime and is under the responsibility of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in close collaboration with UNEP DTIE and UNEP ROAP. This is the second phase of the ODS Project with implementation schedule beginning in 2003 and ending in 2005. The Pacific ODS Project is designed to implement the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in the Pacific Region.

What is the Objective of the Pacific ODS Project?

The Pacific ODS Project has an ambitious goal to phase out the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 2005 in the eight core Pacific Island Countries (PICs) that are being the center of financial assistance under the Project. These are Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Project will also ensure that PICs introduce appropriate controls on all other listed controlled substances.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

The Montreal Protocol is an international agreement that is designed to eliminate the production and consumption of ODS. Globally adopted in 1987, the Montreal Protocol has undergone several adjustments and amendments to strengthen its control provisions through the following: London Amendment (1990), Copenhagen Amendment (1992), Vienna Amendment (1995), Montreal Amendment (1997), and Beijing Amendment (1999). Eventually, the Montreal Protocol aims to eliminate the emissions of man-made ODS.

The ozone layer is present in the upper atmosphere and plays an important role in protecting the earth's surface from harmful ultraviolet-B radiation (UV-B) emitted from the sun. Depletion of the ozone layer was first detected in the 1980's over the Antarctic region where scientists discovered a steady thinning of the ozone layer accompanied by increases in

the amount of UV-B reaching the earth's surface. Since then, the protection of the ozone layer has always been addressed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Substances that deplete the ozone layer include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, halons, and methyl bromide that have various uses ranging from industrial and laboratory to household applications. Excessive emissions of such substances enhance the faster depletion of the ozone layer, allowing harmful UV-B rays to reach the earth having direct harmful effects on humans and the environment (terrestrial and marine ecosystems, biogeochemical cycles and some man-made materials).

Currently, a total of 185 countries are Parties to either the Convention or Protocol and the amendments to the Protocol. Of these 185, 12 countries from the Pacific Region are Parties and are undertaking activities to implement the phase-out of ODS. The remaining two (the Cook Islands and Niue) are working to become Parties and collective efforts to facilitate this process are being undertaken by SPREP and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to enable their ratification before the end of 2003.

Regional Participation

Since 1998, SPREP has been working in close collaboration with UNEP DTIE, UNEP ROAP, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to introduce PICs to the Montreal Protocol. Over the years, good progress has been made on improving understanding of the Montreal Protocol resulting in the development of the Regional Strategy - a workable tool in achieving the objectives of the Montreal Protocol that is based on each country's National Compliance Action Plans (NCAPs).

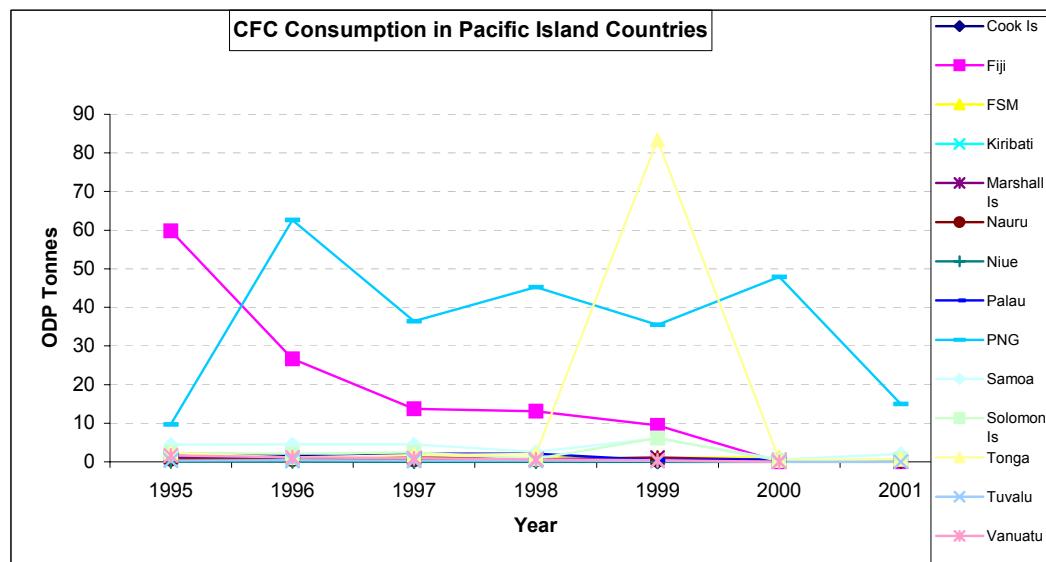
Fiji and Samoa have taken the lead role in implementing ODS phase-out activities in their own countries. Apart from ongoing awareness raising activities, both countries have carried out training workshops on: (i) Train-the-trainers Workshop on Good Practices in Refrigeration; and (ii) Customs Officers Training on monitoring and control of ODS imports. Papua New Guinea will be involved in a limited range of activities whereas the involvement of Nauru will be the Cook Islands and Niue will depend on their willingness to participate.

Governments of each of the eight core countries intend to be actively involved in the Regional Strategy to implement the Montreal Protocol in the Pacific region. Activities outlined in each NCAP include the following:

- Establishment of National Ozone Unit (NOU) office
- Establishment of National Ozone Committee
- Public Awareness and Education
- Establishment of Licensing System
- Establishment of Monitoring System
- Training of trainers, and subsequent training of refrigeration technicians, on Good Practices in Refrigeration
- Training of Customs Officials on monitoring and control of ODS imports
- Consideration of tax incentives to promote use of substitutes and alternative technologies
- Ban on new installations and equipment using controlled ODS
- Ban on Imports of CFCs and other ODS (except HCFCs) with exemptions for "essential uses"
- Total ban on Imports of CFCs and all other ODS (except HCFCs)

Consumption of ODS (CFCs) in PICs

Efforts to phase-out the use of CFCs in PICs are illustrated below. Clearly, PICs are committed to phasing out the use of CFCs as shown by the general decline of CFC consumption.



Future Directions

In order to achieve the objectives of the Regional Strategy and a complete phase-out of CFCs by 2005, it will be necessary to ensure effective collaboration between all Parties including the core countries, SPREP, UNEP, and the Governments of Australia in completing all activities outlined in each NCAP. In addition, each country will need to be in compliance with reporting procedures regarding ODS consumption data and progress of activities in each country.

How Can Each Party Assist in the Implementation of the Regional Strategy?

- Establish NOU
- Ratify outstanding Amendments to the Montreal Protocol
- Compliance with data reporting to Multilateral Fund, Ozone Secretariat, and progress reporting to SPREP
- Develop ODS regulations and its subsequent enforcement
- Facilitate in-country coordination of training workshops (refrigeration technicians and customs officials)
- Overall coordination of country activities to successfully meet requirement in NCAP

How Can SPREP Assist Each Party in the Implementation of the Regional Strategy?

- Facilitate financial assistance of establishing each NOU
- Encourage ratification of Amendments to Montreal Protocol in Parties (and non-Parties in ratifying the Montreal Protocol)
- Monitor compliance on data reporting to Multilateral Fund, Ozone Secretariat, and progress reporting
- Coordinate in-country training workshops (and subsequent procurement of Recovery & Recycling equipment)
- Overall coordination of regional activities to successfully meet requirement in each core countries' NCAP