



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/83/35
29 April 2019

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Eighty-third Meeting
Montreal, 27– 31 May 2019

PROJECT PROPOSAL: SIERRA LEONE

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, fourth tranche) UNEP and UNIDO

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Sierra Leone

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

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2017	0.57 (ODP tonnes)
--	------------	-------------------

(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)								Year: 2017	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					0.57				0.57

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009 - 2010 baseline:	1.67	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	1.67
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:	0.58	Remaining:	1.09

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2018	2019	2020	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.12
	Funding (US \$)	23,730	0	23,730	47,460

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019	2020	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits			n/a	n/a	1.67	1.67	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.09	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	n/a	1.67	1.67	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.09	n/a
Agreed funding (US \$)	UNEP	Project costs	25,000	0	23,000	0	0	20,000	0	21,000	0	21,000	110,000
		Support costs	3,250	0	2,990	0	0	2,600	0	2,730	0	2,730	14,300
	UNIDO	Project costs	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	100,000
		Support costs	4,500	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0	0	0	9,000
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)		Project costs	75,000	0	23,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	0	0	168,000
		Support costs	7,750	0	2,990	0	0	7,100	0	0	0	0	17,840
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US \$)		Project costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,000*	0	21,000
		Support costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,730	0	2,730

*The fourth tranche should have been submitted in 2018.

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
--------------------------------------	------------------

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone, UNEP as the lead implementing agency, has submitted a request for funding for the fourth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at the amount of US \$21,000, plus agency support costs of US \$2,730 for UNEP only.¹ The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the third tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2013 to 2017 and the tranche implementation plan for 2019 to 2020.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Sierra Leone reported a consumption of 0.57 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2017 and estimated a consumption of 0.56 ODP tonnes for 2018, which is 67 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2014-2018 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Sierra Leone (2014-2018 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	Baseline
Metric tonnes	26.70	18.02	11.00	10.35	10.11	30.91
ODP tonnes	1.47	0.99	0.61	0.57	0.56	1.70

*Data from the verification report on HCFC consumption.

3. The high import of HCFC-22 in 2014 was attributed to the elevated demand for refrigerants for medical purposes due to the Ebola epidemic. With the full implementation of the licensing system, the consumption had decreased after that year. In addition, the implementation of the activities in the HPMP has contributed in enhancing the capacity of refrigeration technicians on the servicing and maintaining refrigeration equipment reducing leakage rates based on good practices and on the use of alternative technologies that are being imported into the country.

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Sierra Leone reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2017 CP implementation report which is consistent with that reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. The 2018 CP report will be submitted by 30 April 2019.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government is implementing a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports and that the total consumption of HCFCs for 2013 to 2017 were 0.84, 1.49, 1.00, 0.61 and 0.57 ODP tonnes, respectively. There was a slight difference between the verified data and the reported Article 7 and CP data only for the years 2014 and 2015 due to error in reporting. The verification concluded that Sierra Leone has a functional licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports, capable of ensuring the country's compliance with its Montreal Protocol obligations. The recommendations from the verification report included the need to develop an electronic system to enhance efficiency of monitoring the licensing and quota system; an online system for importer registration and application of import allocation and licenses; and strengthening capacity of Customs and training of officers on monitoring of illegal imports at all points of entry by providing additional refrigerant identifiers.

¹ As per the letter of 15 March 2019 from the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone to the Secretariat.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HPMP

Legal framework

6. The Government established a HCFC quota and licensing system in 2010. At the beginning of each year, all ODS importers must submit a request for the type and quantity of ODS to be imported. The annual quotas and licenses are issued each year by the National Ozone Unit (NOU) based on these requests, and consistent with the country's Agreement with the Executive Committee.

7. Three training sessions on monitoring and enforcement of ODS policy and regulations and preventing illegal ODS trade were conducted for 198 Customs and other law enforcement officers. The refrigerant identifiers that were provided in the previous tranche continued to be used by the trained officers. As a result of the increased technical capacity and knowledge of Customs officers, they are now capable of detecting suspicious importations, evidenced by the suspensions of some import clearances where information provided was insufficient, and sought clarification with the NOU before shipments were released.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. The capacity of refrigeration technicians was strengthened through training of 130 refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration servicing practices and the safe use of hydrocarbon refrigerants (R-290 and R-600a). Toolkits (e.g. manifold gauges, refrigerant identifier, recovery machine, recovery kit, recovery cylinders, flaring toll kit, tube cutter, vacuum pump) were provided to selected technicians for training purposes.

9. The refrigeration association had adopted for implementation a code of conduct for technicians which had been included in the national standards for approval by the Sierra Leone Bureau of Standards. Once approved, this would support the technician certification process which has so far certified 35 technicians. A database of technicians had been developed, and assessment of the capacity of the training institutions had been undertaken.

10. Three centres of excellence for training of technicians have been established. One is fully operational and attached to a government institute, while two are in the process of increasing capacity. Equipment (i.e., two sets each of R-290-based split inverter air-conditioning units, refrigerant identifiers, refrigerant recovery units suitable for the use with flammable refrigerants, electronic leak detectors, manifold valves and gauges for hydrocarbon service, and cylinders of propane) had been provided to these centres for training purposes in order to enhance technicians' competence, train specialized trainers and introduce the latest HC-based equipment and components in the market to stakeholders.

Project implementation and monitoring unit (PMU)

11. The institutions involved in the HPMP for Sierra Leone are the NOU, the National Ozone Committee, the Association of Refrigeration Technicians and Engineers, the Customs Department, and the Ministry of Trade. As part of project implementation and monitoring, the NOU recruited a consultant to assist in the collection of accurate data and monitoring the timely implementation of all HPMP activities.

Level of fund disbursement

12. As of March 2019, of the US \$168,000 approved so far, US \$155,410 had been disbursed (US \$63,000 for UNEP and US \$92,410 for UNIDO) as shown in Table 2. The balance of US \$12,590 will be disbursed in 2019.

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

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First tranche	Approved	25,000	50,000	75,000	100
	Disbursed	25,000	50,000*	75,000	
Second tranche	Approved	23,000	0	23,000	100
	Disbursed	23,000	0	23,000	
Third tranche	Approved	20,000	50,000	70,000	82
	Disbursed	15,000	42,410	57,410	
Total	Approved	68,000	100,000	168,000	93
	Disbursed	63,000	92,410	155,410	

* UNIDO returned US \$2,380 at the 81st meeting.

Implementation plan for the fourth tranche of the HPMP

13. The following activities will be implemented between July 2019 and December 2020:
- (a) Training for 45 Customs and other enforcement officers on HCFC phase-out and the efficient monitoring of the imports of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, and alternative technologies available in the country (UNEP) (US \$6,000);
 - (b) Training for 60 refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration practices including handling of hydrocarbon refrigerants; and continued implementation of the RAC technicians' certification scheme (UNEP) (US \$10,000); and
 - (c) Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the HPMP (UNEP) (US \$5,000).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

HCFC consumption in the verification report

14. Minor discrepancies in HCFC consumption data were noted for the years 2014 and 2015 when comparing the verification report and the data submitted under Article 7 (i.e., verified amounts are 0.02 ODP tonnes and 0.01 ODP tonnes higher respectively, for each year). While these figures were below the maximum allowable consumption, the Secretariat cautioned UNEP that any deviations in the figures for very low-volume consuming countries might impact compliance. UNEP confirmed that these figures are being reviewed and where the verification figure is higher, the Government of Sierra Leone will officially request the Ozone Secretariat to change the data for these years.

15. UNEP reiterated that the recommendations arising from the verification report would be integrated into the work plan for the fourth tranche and future activities of the HPMP, in particular those that relate to training and disseminating the training manuals. UNEP indicated that the recommendation to provide more equipment for the use of Customs officers would be included only as part of stage II of the HPMP, as funds available were very limited. The equipment component of the HPMP were from those purchased as part of the terminal phase-out management plan.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HPMP

16. UNEP explained that the reason for the late submission of the fourth tranche which was due in 2018, was because of difficulties in identifying experts that could undertake the verification of HCFC consumption. These have now been resolved and the Government is committed to ensuring the timely implementation of HPMP activities.

Legal framework

17. The Government of Sierra Leone has already issued HCFC import quotas for 2019 at 0.56 ODP tonnes, which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Refrigeration servicing sector

18. With regard to control of HCFC-based equipment, and other related second-hand equipment that is imported into the country, UNEP explained that the current licensing system requires importers to also apply for a license to bring in such equipment. This allows the Government to monitor these imports and check whether they are HCFC-based or not upon arrival. The country also faces the challenge of handling second-hand equipment; therefore, close monitoring is required to ensure that these also do not contain or use HCFC-based refrigerants.

19. Concerning the centres of excellence, UNEP explained that one is fully functional and has been used for training of technicians. The two other centres were facing challenges regarding the location of their facility which is currently being resolved with the Government proposing a long-term solution including the possibility of permanent premises for these centres. Once all three are fully operational, these are expected to contribute significantly to the sustainability of the technician training programme and certification process.

Conclusion

20. The reported HCFC consumption for 2017 and the estimated consumption for 2018 based on the verification report shows that the country’s consumption is already below 60 per cent of its baseline. The verification report also confirms that the Government of Sierra Leone is in compliance with the HCFC targets, and continues to effectively enforce its quota and licensing system which has contributed to the reduction in HCFC consumption. The level of funding disbursement is above 90 per cent. The establishment of the centres for excellence will support the long-term sustainability of the activities for service technicians, and the activities planned for the fourth tranche, taken into account the recommendations from the verification report, will enable the country to meet its compliance obligations under the Montreal Protocol and its Agreement with the Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

21. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan of (HPMP) for Sierra Leone; and further recommends blanket approval of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Sierra Leone, and the corresponding 2019-2020 tranche implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below, on the understanding that:

- (a) UNEP would include, as part of the progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche of the HPMP, an update on progress towards development of an electronic system to enhance efficiency of monitoring the licensing system and an online system for importer registration and application of import allocation and licenses; and
- (b) Additional refrigerant identifiers would be requested under stage II of the HPMP.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support cost (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fourth tranche)	21,000	2,730	UNEP