



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/85/30
3 May 2020

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Eighty-fifth Meeting

Montreal, 25-29 May 2020

Postponed to 19-22 July 2020*

PROJECT PROPOSAL: GUINEA-BISSAU

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

* Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Pre-session documents of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol are without prejudice to any decision that the Executive Committee might take following issuance of the document.

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Guinea-Bissau

(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: 2018	1.54 (ODP tonnes)

(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)								Year: 2018	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab Use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					1.54				1.54

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009 - 2010 baseline:		2.83	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:
			2.83
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:		0.99	Remaining:
			1.84

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2020	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.10	0.10
	Funding (US \$)	31,640	31,640
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0	0
	Funding (US \$)	0	0

(VI) PROJECT DATA		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 -2018	2019	2020	Total	
Montreal Protocol consumption limits		n/a	n/a	2.83	2.83	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	1.84	n/a	
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)		n/a	n/a	2.83	2.83	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	1.84	n/a	
Agreed Funding (US\$)	UNEP	Project costs	35,000	0	52,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	28,000	165,000
		Support costs	4,550	0	6,760	0	0	6,500	0	0	3,640	21,450
	UNIDO	Project costs	40,000	0	0	0	0	75,000	0	0	0	115,000
		Support costs	3,600	0	0	0	0	6,750	0	0	0	10,350
Funds approved by ExCom (US\$)	Project Costs	75,000	0	52,000	0	0	125,000	0	0	0	252,000	
	Support Costs	8,150	0	6,760	0	0	13,250	0	0	0	28,160	
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US\$)	Project Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,000	28,000	
	Support Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,640	3,640	

Secretariat's recommendation:	For blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, UNEP as the lead implementing agency, has submitted a request for funding for the fourth and final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at the amount of US \$28,000, plus agency support costs of US \$3,640 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 2019 and the tranche implementation plan for 2020 to 2021.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Guinea-Bissau reported under the verification report a consumption of 1.27 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2019, which is 55 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2015-2019 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Guinea-Bissau (2015-2019 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Baseline
Metric tonnes	45.10	42.00	36.00	28.00	23.00	51.00
ODP tonnes	2.48	2.31	1.98	1.54	1.27	2.83

* Data from the verification report on HCFC consumption.

3. HCFC consumption has been decreasing since 2015, which is attributed to the implementation of activities under the HPMP including the enforcement of the ODS regulations and control, the import/export licensing and quota system, introduction of good practices in refrigeration servicing into the curriculum of the main refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) training school and awareness raising. Import of non-HCFC-22 based RAC equipment has also contributed to the reduction on HCFC consumption.

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Guinea-Bissau reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2018 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 is implementing a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports; that the consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2013 (2.31 ODP tonnes), 2014 (2.81 ODP tonnes) and 2015 to 2018 was correct (as shown in Table 1 above); and that the country follows the Montreal Protocol reduction schedule and the targets set in its Agreement with the Executive Committee for 2013 to 2019. The verification report recommended strengthening training of new customs officers; providing high-performance refrigerant identifiers to customs officers; counter checking of licenses/permits issued by customs before clearance of consignments; strengthening the coordination between the national ozone unit (NOU) with importers and continue raising their awareness to national and sub-regional ODS legislation; and lower customs tariffs on new alternative refrigerants.

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

Legal framework

6. Guinea-Bissau has an established licensing and quota system for HCFCs. The country continues to implement the sub-regional ODS regulation, harmonizing ODS policies applicable to the eight members of

¹ As per the letter of 16 March 2020 from the Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity of Guinea-Bissau to the Secretariat.

the Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA),² and collaborating with other countries to control HCFC imports and exports.

7. The UEMOA regulations prohibit the consumption of substances eliminated under the Montreal Protocol in the UEMOA zone; there are no quotas for banned ODS, and all other refrigerants are subject to declaration prior to import. The country was not aware of any illegal imports or use of stocks of controlled substances that have been phased out in the country.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. The following activities were implemented:

- (a) Training of 85 customs officers at four ports of entry on HCFC control measures and illegal trade; identification, codification and classification of HCFCs and products containing HCFCs; and improvement on recording and reporting of imports;
- (b) Five workshops to train an additional 130 technicians on good refrigeration practices, and safe handling of flammable refrigerants and related standards; and
- (c) Procurement of equipment and service tools (e.g., air-conditioning units, recovery units, recycling kits, vacuum pumps, refrigerant identifiers, charging stations, welding equipment, cylinders, leak detectors), to upgrade the national training centre and establish a new training centre in the city of Gabu; and training by an international expert of 10 trainers and approximately 60 technicians on the use of the tools, and also on good refrigeration practices, handling of flammable refrigerants, and the repair and maintenance of cold rooms in the fishing sector to reduce leaks and save energy.

Project implementation and monitoring

9. Two consultants, one refrigeration and one customs expert, assist the NOU to monitor the implementation of HPMP activities. A total of US \$30,000 have been disbursed during the nine years of implementation of stage I, including staff and consultants (US \$24,000) and travel (US \$6,000).

Level of fund disbursement

10. As of March 2020, of the US \$252,000 approved so far, US \$244,957 had been disbursed (US \$137,000 for UNEP and US \$107,957 for UNIDO) as shown in Table 2. The remaining balance will be disbursed in 2020.

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

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	35,000	40,000	75,000	100
	Disbursed	35,000	40,000	75,000	
Second	Approved	52,000	0	52,000	100
	Disbursed	52,000	0	52,000	
Third t	Approved	50,000	75,000	125,000	94
	Disbursed	50,000	67,957	117,957	
Total	Approved	137,000	115,000	252,000	97
	Disbursed	137,000	107,957	244,957	

² Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

Implementation plan for the fourth and final tranche of the HPMP

11. The following activities will be implemented until December 2021:
- (a) Four workshops to train 80 customs and other law enforcement agents on identification and control of HCFCs and monitoring of the licensing and quota system (UNEP) (US \$12,000);
 - (b) Five workshops to train an additional 125 refrigeration technicians on good practices in refrigeration and safe handling of flammable refrigerants (UNEP) (US \$16,000); and
 - (c) Project implementation and monitoring (UNEP) (no funding requested).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION**COMMENTS**Verification report

12. The verification report noted that the annual HCFC import quotas set for 2013 to 2019 had not been exceeded. However, on two occasions individual importers had exceeded their individual quotas (2016 and 2019); despite this situation, the HCFC consumption on those years was below the maximum allowable level. UNEP informed that this was an error in the system but that the NOU and the Customs department were working on an electronic platform which would signal whether an importer had exceeded its individual quota.

13. UNEP further informed that the Government would address the recommendations during the implementation of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HPMP and through the implementation of the institutional strengthening project. The Secretariat considers meaningful to address these recommendations and agreed that UNEP will include an update on progress towards implementing these recommendations when submitting stage II of the HPMP.

14. The verification report had highlighted the increasing consumption of HFCs, ammonia, and HCs (mostly R-600a in domestic refrigeration) as RAC equipment operating with those refrigerants have been imported into the country. In this regard, UNEP informed that the country has introduced a module on standards on the safe handling of flammable and toxic refrigerants in all RAC training workshops.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HPMP*Legal framework*

15. The Government of Guinea-Bissau has already issued HCFC import quota for 2020 at 1.21 ODP tonnes, which is 34 per cent below the Montreal Protocol control target.

16. Guinea-Bissau has a regulatory and legal framework for the import and distribution of HCFCs; there is a ban on imports of second-hand HCFC-based equipment and imports of new HCFC-based equipment are subject to prior authorization. With regard to the national law and the regional harmonized ODS regulations in view of the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by all eight member states of UEMOA, UNEP informed that the members states had discussed a harmonized HFC regulation in December 2019; a draft regulation would be submitted to the UEMOA Secretariat in July 2020 for endorsement by the Council of Ministers.

Refrigeration servicing sector

17. UNEP informed that the pilot demonstration of leakage reduction in a large refrigerant consumer, such as a supermarket or an industrial user foreseen at the 77th meeting had not been implemented as stage I had focused on training technicians and the establishment of new training centre. The concept of refrigerant leak reduction has been introduced to RAC technicians during training workshops and awareness on this matter has been raised with end-users. The pilot demonstration is expected to be part of stage II of the HPMP. The balance of US \$7,043 from the UNIDO component will be used on further training or tools for RAC workshops.

Gender policy implementation³

18. UNEP reported that the NOU plans to raise awareness on the gender policy of the Multilateral Fund among the HPMP stakeholders *inter alia* the National Ozone Committee, RAC Association and the Revenue Authority. The NOU will also consult the RAC Association to ensure equal opportunities for female technicians; gender matters will be included in customs and RAC technicians training and the NOU will track the number of female trainees. The NOU team includes some female staff.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out

19. In order to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of customs training, the General Customs Department is directly involved in the training of customs officers and the planning of workshops as well as the selection of participants. The Customs department is also member of the National Ozone Committee, which is responsible for allocating quotas. The NOU has an agreement with the main technical training centre to introduce a module on good practices of refrigeration and the safe use of flammable refrigerants into the curriculum. Currently, around 35 graduating technicians took the module as part of their training. The RAC Association is well organized and the Government is planning to establish a certification of technicians' system during stage II of the HPMP. These measures would ensure the sustainability of the HCFC phase-out.

20. Stage I of the HPMP for Guinea-Bissau will be completed by December 2021 as established in paragraph 14 of the Agreement.

Conclusion

21. The reported HCFC consumption for 2018 and the estimated consumption for 2019 based on the verification report shows that the country's consumption is below 55 per cent of its baseline. The verification report also confirms that the Government of Guinea-Bissau is in compliance with the HCFC targets in its Agreement with the Executive Committee and continues to enforce its licensing and quota system. Training activities and strengthening of training institutes with equipment and tools have been implemented as planned and the level of funding disbursement is 97 per cent. Activities planned for the fourth tranche will address the recommendations from the verification report and will enable the country to meet its compliance obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

RECOMMENDATION

22. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

- (a) Takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of stage I of

³ Decision 84/92(d) requested bilateral and implementing agencies to apply the operational policy on gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle.

the HCFC phase-out management plan of (HPMP) for Guinea-Bissau; and

- (b) Requests UNEP to include, as part of the submission for stage II of the HPMP for Guinea-Bissau, an update on progress towards implementing the recommendations in the verification report submitted to the 85th meeting.

23. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fourth and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Guinea-Bissau, and the corresponding 2020-2021 tranche implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below:

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support cost (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fourth tranche)	28,000	3,640	UNEP