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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: LIBERIA

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, third tranche) Germany

* 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

Liberia

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase out plan (Stage I)	Germany (lead)	63 rd meeting	35% by 2020

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2019	0.78 (ODP tonnes)
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(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)								Year: 2019	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					0.78				0.78

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009 - 2010 baseline:	5.30	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	5.30
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:	1.85	Remaining:	3.45

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2020	Total
Germany	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.2	0.2
	Funding (US \$)	35,595	35,595

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits			n/a	n/a	5.3	5.3	4.77	4.77	4.77	3.45	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	n/a	5.3	5.3	4.77	4.77	4.77	3.45	n/a
Agreed funding (US\$)	Germany	Project costs	157,500	0	0	0	126,000	0	0	31,500	315,000
		Support costs	20,475	0	0	0	16,380	0	0	4,095	40,950
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)		Project costs	157,500	0	0	0	126,000	0	0	0	283,500
		Support costs	20,475	0	0	0	16,380	0	0	0	36,855
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US \$)		Project costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,500	31,500
		Support costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,095	4,095

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Liberia, the Government of Germany as the designated implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the third and final tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at the amount of US \$31,500, plus agency support costs of US \$4,095.¹ The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the second tranche and the tranche implementation plan for 2020 to 2021.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Liberia reported consumption of 0.78 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2019, which is 85.3 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2015-2019 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

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

HCFC	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)						
HCFC-22	56.90	51.60	42.10	32.40	14.20	95.45
ODP tonnes						
HCFC-22	3.13	2.84	2.31	1.78	0.78	5.30

3. The reduction of HCFC imports can be attributed to the enforcement of the ODS regulations including the licensing and quota system, training activities in customs and refrigeration servicing sector under the HPMP, availability and use of alternative refrigerants in refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) units (e.g., HFC-134a, R-410A,) as well as robust nationwide ozone protection awareness initiatives. Moreover, challenges that Liberia has faced like the Ebola epidemic and political uncertainties, disrupted regular economic activity in the country and resulted in additional reduction in the HCFC imports.

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Liberia reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2019 CP implementation report which is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

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

Legal framework

5. The Government of Liberia continues to enforce the Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations of 2012 to control the import and export of ODS and ODS-based equipment. The national ozone unit (NOU) works closely with customs authorities on implementing the licensing system for HCFCs. The mandatory registration of importers is in place and enforced. A draft of the ODS regulations for including import controls of HCFC-based equipment and regulations for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, has been prepared and is currently under review.

Refrigeration servicing sector

6. The main activities carried out include:

- (a) A total of 190 customs officers, clearing agents, and environmental inspectors including those at the border posts were trained on HCFC import controls and monitoring requirements; one multi-refrigerant identifier was purchased and is accessible to the NOU

¹ As per the letter of 27 March 2020 from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia to the Secretariat.

for controlling suspicious consignments;

- (b) Four trainers from two RAC training institutions (Monrovia Vocational Training Centre (MVTC) and Humanity International) attended certified refrigeration courses and safe handling of refrigerants in South Africa;² who subsequently trained a total of 196 technicians on best practices in servicing and repair of RAC systems as well as the safe handling of refrigerants. A scholarship programme for 40 of the best-performing students (including nine women) received financial assistance in covering the course fees;
- (c) The two RAC training institutions received equipment and tools (e.g., one R-410A-based air-conditioner, refrigerant charging stations, digital vacuum pumps, manifold gauges, hand tools, clamp on meters, torque wrench and swaging tools sets) to conduct hands-on training for technicians;
- (d) Adoption, on a voluntary basis, ISO 5149³ on safety and environmental standards to be followed for refrigerating systems and heat pumps in January 2020 to serve as guidelines for the RAC servicing sector; its gazetting is yet to be notified to the industries and end-users; and
- (e) An awareness-raising programme on ozone layer protection using several media channels; handing over tools and equipment to training centres; and stakeholder workshops on HPMP activities. Participation of the media was encouraged in activities of the NOU to ensure coverage of the Montreal Protocol activities; and a one-day workshop with main stakeholders to discuss the HPMP activities implemented and future course of action.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting

7. The NOU has been overseeing the implementation of the HPMP, with the cooperation of the Government of Germany and stakeholders in the country; the NOU has ensured constant monitoring on implementation of HPMP activities. The expenditures to date amount to US \$25,042 (US \$22,322 for staff and consultant expenses, and US \$2,720 for monitoring travels and meetings); this is lower than the funding allocated for the monitoring of US \$30,530.

Level of fund disbursement

8. As of January 2020, of the US \$283,500 approved so far, US \$248,832 had been disbursed, as shown in Table 2. The balance of US \$34,668 (of which US \$26,394 had been committed) will be disbursed by the end of 2020 taking into account the potential delays due to the unforeseen outbreak of COVID-19.

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

Tranche	Approved	Disbursed	Disbursement rate (%)
First	157,500	157,500	100
Second	126,000	91,332	73
Total	283,500	248,832	88

² Partially financed by the Green Cooling Initiative, financed by the Government of Germany outside the Multilateral Fund.

³ Specifies the requirements for the safety of persons and property, provides guidance for the protection of the environment, and establishes procedures for the operation, maintenance, and repair of refrigerating systems and the recovery of refrigerants.

Implementation plan for the third and final tranche of the HPMP

9. The following activities will be implemented until December 2021:
- (a) Customs training workshops for 30 border officers and clearing agents on monitoring and controls of HCFCs (remaining funds from the second tranche of US \$8,274);
 - (b) Continuation of the scholarship programme for approximately 40 RAC students, and training of 40 technicians on good servicing practices and safe handling of alternatives along with best practices (US \$28,260); and
 - (c) Support for ongoing implementation and conducting regular follow-up actions (US \$3,240).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION**COMMENTS**Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of the HPMP*Verification report*

10. The submission of this tranche request should have been accompanied by a verification report. However, the Government of Germany did not request the funding for the preparation of the verification report as per decision 76/17. The Government of Germany explained that keeping the momentum reached in the implementation of the HPMP was very relevant for the sustainability of the HCFC phase-out achieved. Noting that the current consumption of HCFCs is significantly lower than the target set in its Agreement with the Executive Committee, that the activities under the HPMP are ongoing, and that due to an oversight funding was not requested for preparation of the verification of the HCFC consumption, the Secretariat considered relevant to proceed with the implementation of the final tranche of the HPMP, noting that the Government of Germany had submitted a request for funding the verification at the 85th meeting and that the verification report would be submitted along with stage II of the HPMP.

Legal framework

11. The Government of Liberia has established the import quota for 2020 not exceeding 3.45 ODP tonnes in accordance with the Montreal Protocol control target.

Refrigeration servicing sector

12. Upon a request for clarification regarding the reclamation centre, the Government of Germany explained that the refrigeration association was initially envisaged to serve as a reclamation centre; however, due to various problems related to ensuring membership and agreement among stakeholders on how the association should run, it remains a loosely aligned group of companies. Currently, the refrigeration association only make available the recovery units provided previously to specific companies when requested.

13. Regarding the formalization of RAC technicians, the Government of Germany explained that additional efforts from the NOU are still necessary to complete the ongoing process; the NOU has identified various informal businesses working in the servicing of RAC and encouraged them to be registered, so that they can benefit from the technician training courses being conducted. Furthermore, the scholarship programme has aimed to reduce the number of drop-outs from the RAC courses to ensure that the students

who come from economically challenged backgrounds are assisted in completing the 18-months RAC course.

14. The Secretariat requested additional information on implementation of demonstration projects for reducing use of HCFCs. The Government of Germany explained that the country has reprioritized the purchase of 16 RAC units for standards laboratory and servicing support from students from MVTC, along with trainers from MVTC and refrigeration association members; best practices were demonstrated related to existing HCFC-22 equipment; and new HFC-based equipment was installed and commissioned; and additional training of trainers, training of technicians, the scholarship programme for 40 students and equipment support for the training institutes.

Gender policy implementation⁴

15. The Government of Germany informed that the Government of Liberia is fully committed to implementing the gender policy. The NOU has been making an effort to include women into the HPMP activities whenever possible; for example, one woman out of the four trainers participated in the training of trainers in South Africa, and participation of women in the RAC sector is gradually increasing and is being encouraged. The NOU will also keep track of female technicians and customs officers trained.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out

16. The Government is taking steps to maximise the number of technicians trained on good servicing practices and safe use of alternatives; by training the trainers on good service practices and safe adoption of flammable alternatives, the capacity of technicians in the country would be strengthened on an ongoing basis. Two training centers have also been provided with equipment support for training. In addition, continuous strengthening of customs and enforcement officers through training and capacity building activities have supported the country in effectively controlling and monitoring HCFC imports. All these aforementioned efforts would ensure the sustainability of HCFC phase-out in the country.

Conclusion

17. The Government of Liberia has been enforcing its HCFC import and export licensing and quota system and the HCFC consumption for 2019 of 0.78 ODP tonnes was 85 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance and 83.6 per cent below the maximum allowed consumption for 2019. The activities planned under the second tranche were implemented and achieved the targets set for the training of technicians and enforcement officers. The level of disbursement is 88 per cent of the funds approved so far. The activities planned under the third tranche will further strengthen the refrigeration servicing sector and sustain the HCFC phase-out achieved. The country will complete stage I of the HPMP in accordance with the Agreement with the Executive Committee and plans to submit its stage II of the HPMP in 2021. Furthermore, the funding for the verification of stage I of the HPMP was requested at the 85th meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

18. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Liberia; and further recommends blanket approval of the third and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Liberia, and the corresponding 2020-2021 tranche implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below, on the understanding that:

⁴ Decision 84/92(d) requested bilateral and implementing agencies to apply the operational policy on gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle.

- (a) The verification report for stage I would be submitted together with the request for stage II of the HPMP for Liberia and would cover the period from 2015 to the year before the submission of stage II; and
- (b) In the unlikely event of Liberia’s non-compliance with the targets set in its Agreement with the Executive Committee for stage I of the HPMP, the penalty applicable as per Appendix 7-A of the Agreement would be deducted from the eligible funding for its 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)	31,500	4,095	Germany