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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: 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, fifth 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

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: 2018	0.57 (ODP tonnes)
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(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					0.57				0.57

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)				
2009 - 2010 baseline:		1.70	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	1.67
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)				
Already approved:		0.58	Remaining:	1.09

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2020	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.06	0.06
	Funding (US \$)	23,730	23,730

(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	0	100,000
		Support costs	4,500	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0	0	0	0	9,000
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)	Project costs		75,000	0	23,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	21,000	0	189,000	
	Support costs		7,750	0	2,990	0	0	7,100	0	0	2,730	0	20,570	
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US \$)	Project costs		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,000	21,000	
	Support costs		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,730	2,730	

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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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 fifth and final 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 fourth tranche, and the tranche implementation plan for 2020 to 2021.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Sierra Leone estimated a consumption of 0.56 ODP tonnes of HCFC for 2019, which is 67 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2015-2019 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

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

HCFC-22	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	18.02	11.00	10.35	10.28	10.18	30.91
ODP tonnes	0.99	0.61	0.57	0.57	0.56	1.70

* HCFC consumption estimated based on quotas issued in 2019.

3. HCFC-22, the only HCFC imported, is used for servicing refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) equipment. As reported at the 83rd meeting,² the consumption of HCFC-22 in 2014 of 26.70 mt was attributed to the elevated demand for refrigerants for medical purposes due to the Ebola epidemic. Since then, consumption of HCFC-22 has been decreasing, attributed to the implementation of HPMP activities *inter alia* enforcement of the licensing and quota system, the training programme on good service practices, technical assistance to the refrigeration sector, awareness raising on low-global-warming potential (GWP) technologies, and the uptake of non-HCFC-22- based RAC equipment, other refrigerants in the sector.

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Sierra Leone 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. The 2019 CP implementation report will be submitted by 1 May 2020.

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

Legal framework

5. In addition to the licensing and quota system for HCFC imports, the Government of Sierra Leone has established a certification system for refrigeration technicians and a registration system for importers involved with ODS and alternatives. The Refrigeration and Engineers Association has the mandate to control the operation all refrigeration service technicians. Other institutions involved are the National Ozone Committee, and the Ministry of Trade.

6. The Government of Sierra Leone has confirmed that the updated 2011 ODS regulation for controlling the import of all ODS including HCFCs, is still in force; the Sierra Leone Revenue Authority (Customs Department) is monitoring the import of all controlled substances, including those that have already been phased out. A permit is automatically denied if a controlled substance that has already been phased out is included in the application; and illegal imports of such substances have not been reported. Technicians are requested to alert the national ozone unit (NOU) if they notice the presence on the domestic

¹ As per the letter of 5 March 2020 from the Environmental Affairs Department of Sierra Leone to the Secretariat.

² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/83/35

market of refrigerants that have already been phased out. The new electronic system, Environmental Cadastral Administration System (ECAS), facilitates importers' registration and the process for applying for import licenses and quotas. Discussions are ongoing to coordinate the ECAS with the Customs.

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. The following activities were implemented:

- (a) A total of 60 customs officers were trained in the identification of refrigerants using an identifier, monitoring and prevention of illegal trade of ODS, enforcement of the licensing and quota system, and general Montreal Protocol issues;
- (b) A total of 100 RAC technicians were trained at the Government Technical Institute, 79 of them were certified by the competent authority of the Environment Protection Agency to carry out their practices as stipulated in the updated 2011 ODS regulation; and
- (c) Training equipment (e.g., vacuum pumps, leak detectors, brazing tools, and other basic tools) was procured and distributed to the centres of excellence and the Government Technical Institute; these centres will be used for further training of RAC technicians and vocational students (funding balance from the third tranche).

Project implementation and monitoring unit (PMU)

8. Project management is undertaken through the NOU with the assistance of one consultant (with a total expenditure of US \$3,000 up to March 2020). During the fourth tranche, monitoring of project implementation and collection of data to measure progress against performance criteria was carried out.

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of March 2020, of the US \$189,000 approved so far, US \$186,280 had been disbursed (i.e., US \$86,280 for UNEP and US \$100,000 for UNIDO), as shown in Table 2. The balance of US \$2,720 will be disbursed in 2020.

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

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	25,000	50,000	75,000	100
	Disbursed	25,000	50,000*	75,000	
Second	Approved	23,000	0	23,000	100
	Disbursed	23,000	0	23,000	
Third	Approved	20,000	50,000	70,000	100
	Disbursed	20,000	50,000	100,000	
Fourth	Approved	21,000	0	21,000	87
	Disbursed	18,280	0	18,280	
Total	Approved	89,000	100,000	189,000	98
	Disbursed	86,280	100,000	186,280	

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

Implementation plan for the fifth and final tranche of the HPMP

10. The following activities will be implemented between June 2020 and December 2021:

- (a) Two training workshops for 40 customs and enforcement officers on Montreal Protocol issues, ODS regulations and other legislation regarding ozone issues, and ODS

identification (UNEP) (US \$6,000);

- (b) Two training sessions on good refrigeration service practices for 60 RAC technicians for subsequent certification (UNEP) (US \$10,000); and
- (c) Continued monitoring implementation of HPMP activities (UNEP) (US \$5,000 for national consultant).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

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

Legal framework

11. The Government of Sierra Leone has issued HCFC import quotas for 2020 at 0.56 ODP tonnes (10.18 mt), which is lower than the maximum allowed level of consumption of 1.09 ODP tonnes under the Montreal Protocol.

12. Regarding the recommendation of the verification report to enhance the efficiency of monitoring the licensing system submitted with the fourth tranche³, UNEP confirmed that the Government of Sierra Leone has developed and implemented the electronic system (ECAS) providing an online platform for importers' registration and application of import licenses and quotas. The provision of additional refrigerant identifiers (recommended by the verifier) would be included in the request for stage II of the HPMP.

Refrigeration servicing sector

13. Upon request for additional information on the technician certification programme, UNEP informed that certification of RAC technicians is a statutory requirement stipulated in the updated 2011 ODS regulation. Consequently, all technicians must be trained and certified by the competent authority of the Environment Protection Agency. However, the country has not restricted access to HCFC solely to certified technicians.

14. At the time of approval of the fourth tranche of stage I, one centre of excellence was fully functional and used for training of technicians, while two other centres were facing challenges with the location of their facility. In this regard, the Secretariat asked whether a long-term solution for permanent premises for these centres had been identified. UNEP responded that only one centre (the Government Technical Institute Kissy Dockyard Freetown) was fully equipped and operational, and most of the training programmes were held in that centre. One additional permanent location had been identified in the eastern region at the Easter Polytechnic College. The NOU with the assistance from UNIDO will continue working to make the other two centres fully operational.

15. The date of completion of stage I is 31 December 2021, as established in paragraph 14 of the Agreement.

Gender policy implementation⁴

16. The Secretariat noted that the Government of Sierra Leone is already implementing the gender mainstreaming policy. During the fourth tranche, the Government and UNEP trained 17 female customs

³ Paragraph 5 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/83/35

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

officers (i.e., 28 per cent of the total officers trained). The NOU will be tracking gender in customs and refrigeration technician training, capacity-building programme, in outreach activities and in the distribution of tools and equipment, and specific indicators will be reported on as part of tranches of stage II of the HPMP.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out

17. The Government of Sierra Leone has integrated Montreal Protocol issues, particularly those relating to ODS regulations, into the regular training of Customs and enforcement officers, thus enhancing their capacity to monitor and control imports and prevent illegal trade of ODS. The implementation of ECAS and coordination of the system with the Customs Department will further improve the enforcement of the licensing and quota systems in place. Sustainability of technicians' training is supported by the certification scheme in place, as well as by the technical support provided by the centre of excellence. With these measures, the Government would be able to achieve sustainable HCFC phase-out in the country.

Conclusion

18. The Government of Sierra Leone has an operational licensing and quota system, which has been instrumental in controlling imports of HCFCs. The HCFC consumption for 2019 of 0.56 ODP tonnes was 67 per cent and 63 per cent below the HCFC baseline and the level allowed under the Agreement between the Government and the Executive Committee, respectively. Recommendations from the previous verification have been implemented. Training continues to be provided to customs and enforcement officers, and refrigeration service technicians, which has built the capacity of these stakeholders, along with a technician certification programme. Implementation of all activities is proceeding well, and the project has reported 87 per cent disbursement from the previous tranche and an overall disbursement rate of over 98.5 per cent for all funding approved for all tranches.

RECOMMENDATION

19. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the fourth tranche of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan of (HPMP) for Sierra Leone; and further recommends blanket approval of the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Sierra Leone, 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, fifth tranche)	21,000	2,730	UNEP