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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninetieth Meeting
Montreal, 20-23 June 2022
Items 9(a) and (d) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Côte d'Ivoire

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase out plan (stage I)	UNEP (lead), UNIDO	66 th	35% by 2020

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2021	35.84 (ODP tonnes)
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(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)								Year: 2021	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Serviceing				
HCFC-22					35.84				35.84

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009 - 2010 baseline:	63.80	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	63.80
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (ODP tonnes)			
Already approved:	22.33	Remaining:	41.47

(V) BUSINESS PLAN		2022	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	2.27	2.27
	Funding (US \$)	208,222	208,222
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.00	0.00
	Funding (US \$)	0	0

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020	2021	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits			n/a	63.80	63.80	57.42	57.42	57.42	57.42	57.42	41.47	41.47	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	63.80	63.80	57.42	57.42	57.42	57.42	57.42	41.47	41.47	n/a
Agreed funding (US\$)	UNEP	Project costs	250,000	0	190,000	0	0	0	0	280,000	0	185,740	905,740
		Support costs	30,260	0	22,998	0	0	0	0	33,891	0	22,482	109,631
	UNIDO	Project costs	460,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	460,000	0	0	920,000
		Support costs	34,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	32,200	0	0	66,700
Funds approved by ExCom (US\$)	Project costs		710,000	0	190,000	0	0	0	0	740,000	0	0	1,640,000
	Support costs		64,760	0	22,998	0	0	0	0	66,091	0	0	153,849
Total funds requested for approval at this meeting (US\$)	Project costs		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	185,740	185,740
	Support costs		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,482	22,482

* The third and fourth tranches were combined at the 84th meeting

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, 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 \$185,740, plus agency support costs of US \$22,482 for UNEP only.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2019 to 2021, and the 2022 tranche implementation plan.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire reported a consumption of 35.84 ODP tonnes of HCFC in 2021, which is 44 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2017-2021 HCFC consumption is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Côte d'Ivoire (2017-2021 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	855.68	819.03	752.00	700.00	651.57	1,159.70
ODP tonnes	47.06	45.05	41.36	38.50	35.84	63.80

3. The consumption of HCFCs is decreasing in the country on account of the continued implementation of HPMP activities including controls on the import of HCFC-22, better servicing practices followed by technicians as a result of training, and adoption of equipment using HCFC alternatives (e.g., R-410A, R-407C, R-404A) in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector.

Country programme (CP) implementation report

4. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2021 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 and that the total consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2019 to 2021 was correct (as shown in Table 1 above). The verification concluded that Côte d'Ivoire complied with both the Montreal Protocol control measures and the maximum allowable consumption in the Agreement with the Executive Committee, for HCFCs in 2019, 2020, and 2021, and that the country has a legal and institutional framework to implement the Montreal Protocol, including a reliable licensing and quota system for controlling ODS. The monitoring system established by the national ozone unit (NOU) is working well as it allows a good control of the quotas allocated. The report also recommends *inter alia* continued coordination meetings with the customs department and other relevant stakeholders on better monitoring of HCFCs and HFCs, periodic market visits to control quality of refrigerants and prevent sale of undeclared goods, continued training and capacity building of officers in the Customs department and the Ministry of Commerce, strengthen and adopt regulations on management and disposal of ODS, implement new Harmonized System (HS) codes, and information and outreach programmes for stakeholders on monitoring and reporting of ODS trade.

² As per the letter of 15 March 2022 from the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable of Côte d'Ivoire to the Secretariat.

Progress report on the implementation of the third and fourth tranches of the HPMP

Legal framework

6. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has adhered to the Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) sub-regional regulations that harmonize the management of controlled substances, including HCFCs. The country has a legislative, regulatory and legal framework in place for controlling HCFC import and use, including a quota system for HCFCs that entered into force in 2013; import of second-hand HCFC-22-based RAC equipment is prohibited. Issuance of HCFC import quota is handled by the Directorate of Trade after consultation with the NOU.

7. Pursuant to decision 88/18(b),³ the Government of Côte d'Ivoire reported that the inter-ministerial order for regulating import, export, transit, re-export, distribution, marketing, possession and use of ODS is now being reviewed by the Cabinet of the Ministry of the Budget and Finance. The NOU is continuing to follow up on the signing of the order.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. The following activities have been conducted:

- (a) Nine training workshops for 260 customs and trade officers on control and identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, as well as illegal trade; an additional 40 customs and trade officers would be trained by July 2022;
- (b) Ten in-person training workshops for 303 refrigeration technicians on good practices in refrigeration and in safe handling of hydrocarbon technologies; an additional 147 refrigeration technicians would be trained by July 2022;
- (c) Service equipment and tools (e.g., recovery units, leak detectors, refrigerant identifiers, brazing and welding units, vacuum pumps, manifolds and tool sets) were procured and provided to the beneficiary vocational training centre (Centre de Perfectionnement aux Métiers de Mécanique et d'Electricité (CPMME)); training was provided to about 20 trainers on the use of the equipment; an inter-ministerial agreement between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Technical Teaching was signed to organize RAC training courses at two provincial training centres in Daoukro and San Pedro; the facilities in San Pedro, Daoukro and Koumassi have been assessed for additional training equipment needs, particularly for training technicians in handling flammable refrigerants.

Project implementation and monitoring

9. The NOU, assisted by one refrigeration expert and one customs expert, monitored the HPMP activities and collected the relevant data including support to an independent expert recruited for an independent verification. The total expenditures incurred under stage I for project implementation and monitoring amount to US \$170,000, including staff and consultants (US \$65,000), travel (US \$40,000), workshops and meetings (US \$45,000), and communication (US \$20,000).

³ To request the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to provide an update, through UNEP, at the 90th meeting, on the adoption of the "arrêté interministériel" for regulating import, export, transit, re-export and trade of ODS and other measures for strengthening monitoring and reporting systems relating to HCFC import and export under stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire.

Level of fund disbursement

10. As of April 2022, of the US \$1,640,000 approved so far, US \$990,559 had been disbursed (US \$690,000 for UNEP and US \$300,559 for UNIDO), as shown in Table 2. The balance of US \$649,441 will be disbursed in 2023.

Table 2. Financial report of stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire (US \$)

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	250,000	460,000	710,000	71
	Disbursed	250,000	252,595*	502,595	
Second	Approved	190,000	0	190,000	100
	Disbursed	190,000	0	190,000	
Third & fourth	Approved	280,000	460,000	740,000	40
	Disbursed	250,000	47,964*	297,964	
Total	Approved	720,000	920,000	1,640,000	60
	Disbursed	690,000	300,559	990,559	

*The balance under the UNIDO component would be disbursed by the end of June 2022 as the procurement process of equipment is complete.

Implementation plan for the fifth and final tranche of the HPMP

11. The following activities will be implemented between July 2022 and December 2022:
- Six workshops in Abidjan and some important ports of entry for 150 customs officers on control and identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment and illegal trade of controlled substances (US \$50,000);
 - Eight workshops for about 200 refrigeration technicians on good practices in refrigeration, use of HCFC alternative refrigerants, and servicing of air-conditioning equipment (US \$85,000); and
 - Project monitoring (US \$50,740): Recruitment of two national consultants (one refrigeration expert and one customs expert) for project management and monitoring (US \$25,000); staff travel for project coordination (US \$10,740); workshops (US \$10,000); and communication (US \$5,000).

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

12. On the recommendations given in the verification report, UNEP explained that the NOU continues to: work on strengthening its partnership with customs department through periodic consultations and coordination meetings; have regular market visits to control quality of refrigerants and prevent illegal trade of goods; implement the information outreach programme on controls and monitoring of HCFCs and training of officials from the Ministry of Commerce; follow up on the signing of the inter-ministerial decree with relevant Ministry(ies); and follow up on the implementation of new HS codes after approval by ECOWAS.

Progress report on the implementation of the third and fourth tranches of the HPMP

Legal framework

13. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has already issued HCFC import quotas for 2022 at 38.50 ODP tonnes (700 metric tonnes), which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Refrigeration servicing sector

14. Upon a request for information by the Secretariat, UNEP indicated that there is no retrofitting of HCFC-22-based equipment to hydrocarbon taking place in Côte d'Ivoire and that the Government, UNEP and the refrigeration servicing sector were not promoting such practices. UNEP also explained that during the training programmes on good refrigeration practices, training on the safe handling of flammable refrigerants is covered. UNEP also confirmed that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire was fully aware of Executive Committee decisions⁴ on this practice.

15. Regarding the certification programme for technicians, the Government, with support from UNEP, had detailed consultations with relevant experts and obtained inputs based on the implementation of certification systems from other countries such as Tunisia. Based on these consultations, the Government is planning to implement a certification system during stage II of the HPMP.

Completion of stage I

16. The completion date for stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire was originally planned for 31 December 2021. At the 88th meeting, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire submitted a request for the extension of the completion date of stage I to 31 December 2023. Subsequently, the Executive Committee *inter alia* allowed the country, on an exceptional basis, to continue implementation of the outstanding activities related to stage I and requested that a revised implementation plan, including, as applicable, requests for the remaining tranches under stage I be submitted to the 90th meeting (decision 88/29). Based on the implementation plan for the fifth tranche, the Government is requesting an extension on the date of completion of stage I to 31 December 2022 and has agreed to financially complete the project by 30 June 2023. This extension would allow the country to complete the remaining activities under stage I and continue achieving and sustaining its compliance targets. UNEP also indicated that the Government is considering submitting stage II of the HPMP in 2023.

Gender policy implementation⁵

17. The Government, UNEP and UNIDO are fully committed to implementing the gender policy of the Multilateral Fund in line with decision 84/92(d). The NOU will include specific sessions on gender mainstreaming in the meetings of the Steering Committee; and collect gender-disaggregated data on training activities and follow up on any specific proposals/recommendations on gender-related aspects. Thus, the NOU will progressively implement measures for gender mainstreaming in future activities.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out

18. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire is implementing a licensing and quota system that ensures that the imports of HCFCs are controlled and monitored; additional measures in strengthening regulations recommended in the verification report will be implemented during the fifth tranche of stage I and during stage II of the HPMP. The Government ensures continuous and sustained training of relevant stakeholders

⁴ Decisions 72/17 and 73/34

⁵ Decision 84/92(d) requested bilateral and implementing agencies to apply the operational policy on gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle.

by providing training to customs and enforcement officers on controlling and monitoring import and use of HCFCs and conducting outreach programmes with importers and other stakeholders dealing with HCFC trade. Equipment and tools for training service technicians on good servicing practices were provided to CPMME and its trainers were trained; this would result in ongoing capacity building of service sector in adopting good servicing practices, safe use of flammable refrigerants and facilitate the implementation of a certification system in the country. Through a combination of enforcement of HCFC licensing and quota system and continued training of service technicians and enforcement officers, the Government would achieve sustainable phase-out of HCFCs.

Conclusion

19. The implementation of the HPMP is progressing. The country's import licensing and quota system is operational, and the consumption of HCFCs for 2021 was 13.5 per cent below the Montreal Protocol control targets; the Government has also committed to implement the recommendations in the verification report. The country commits to complete the activities under stage I by December 2022 and financially complete the project by 30 June 2023; stage II of the HPMP is expected to be submitted by 2023. While the inter-ministerial decree is yet to be signed by all Ministries due to frequent changes in the Government, the NOU is following up on this matter with the relevant Ministries. About 60 percent of funds approved have been disbursed. The combination of monitoring and controlling of HCFC-22 imports, training and capacity building of technicians and training centres and reducing dependence on HCFC-22-based equipment would contribute to long-term sustainability of HCFC phase-out.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

- (a) Takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the combined third and fourth tranches of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Côte d'Ivoire;
- (b) Approves, on an exceptional basis, given delay in implementing phase-out activities, and noting that no further extension of project implementation would be requested, the extension of the date of completion of stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire to 31 December 2022; and
- (c) Requests the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNEP and UNIDO to submit a progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche and the project completion report to the second meeting of the Executive Committee in 2023 and to return all remaining balances by 30 June 2023.

21. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fifth and final tranche of stage I of the HPMP for Côte d'Ivoire, and the corresponding 2022 tranche implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below on the understanding that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire will provide an update, through UNEP, at the 91st meeting, on the adoption of the inter-ministerial decree for regulating import, export, transit, re-export and trade of ODS, and other measures on strengthening monitoring and reporting systems relating to HCFC import and export.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support cost (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fifth tranche)	185,740	22,482	UNEP