Healing the ozone layer with small brushes

53 images from the 1998 United Nations Environment Programme Children’s Painting Competition
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Forewords

Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director,
United Nations Environment Programme

The illustration on the cover of this collection of children’s paintings sends a simple but powerful message: children from around the globe join hands to help protect the ozone layer.

The 1992 Earth Summit produced Agenda 21 which highlights the importance of listening to children when it comes to protecting the environment—it is their future and we have an obligation to take their opinions into account. The 1998 UNEP Children’s Painting Competition was a step towards doing just that. Children from all over the world were invited to paint on the subject of the ozone layer and this selection of pictures from the finalists shows not only how much these young people are concerned about ozone depletion, but also how effective they can be in communicating the nature of the problem. These paintings are not only delightful to look at, but also inspire us with their energy, creativity and visual sophistication. These children show us how art and science can work together, mixing graphic images with technical information to illustrate the predicament of the ozone layer with persuasive simplicity and instructive clarity.

The threat to the ozone layer is a problem that we have created for ourselves. The children who have made these paintings show us through their talent, ingenuity and imagination that they are ready to make a real contribution to solving the problem of ozone layer depletion. Let us welcome their helping hands and be inspired to work together harder, using all our talents and resources, to heal the ozone layer once and for all.
It is a great pleasure to see the children of the world, the makers of our future, participating through their innocent art in expressing their concern on the dangers that threaten our planet’s environment, in this case the ozone layer—the shield that protects life on earth.

We are all in need of such innovative initiatives to move us and help deepen the human aspect of current youth to chart their way in life with more optimism for themselves and for future generations.

This initiative is an opportunity to discover new talents that deserve careful attention. It is also a bridge for establishing friendships and understanding among people of the world, until the day comes when prosperity, love and peace will prevail on our planet.
Introduction

If you care deeply about something that is in danger, but is invisible, how can you make the rest of the world see the importance of protecting it?

In 1998, UNEP asked children around the world to think about this question regarding the ozone layer and to put their ideas into paint for a UNEP sponsored Children’s Painting Competition. This book reproduces all 53 finalist paintings submitted to the jury, from which were chosen ten merit awards, two jury prizes and four final prize winners.

The ozone layer is made up of three bonded oxygen molecules and is depleted when attacked by chlorine molecules. But none of this is visible to the naked eye. How then do you illustrate something that cannot be seen? These paintings show that colour, form and imagination know no boundaries when it comes to painting the ozone layer. This book presents an extraordinary diversity of images, ideas and graphic innovations used to illustrate the problem of the ozone layer. This invisible protective covering goes through remarkable changes of colours, shapes and sizes here, all so that we can recognise the important functions it maintains. As you look through this book, the image of the ozone begins as a simple layer, and then is transformed into an umbrella, a cape, a canopy, or even a ceiling, all needing repair.
The ozone layer is both in danger and invisible, yet its well-being is crucial to protecting both us and the earth from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays.

The paintings and drawings presented here were created by children who care very much about what happens to the ozone layer and who want to encourage everyone to do their best to heal and protect it. These young artists have used their talent and imagination to help us all ‘see’ the present difficulties of the ozone layer, to appreciate how important it is for a healthy future for our planet, thereby helping to raise awareness and motivate people to ensure its recovery for future generations.

One possibility in organizing these paintings was to simply present them by country. In looking at all of them together, however, we could not help but note how much children around the world have in common when it comes to painting about ozone-layer depletion. Grouping them by use of images, ideas and graphic innovation emphasizes both the shared elements while also allowing the unique and distinctive imagination at work in each entry to be revealed. This presentation also reveals the sophisticated level of communication of these young artists, who despite their youth, are gifted in conveying scientific and abstract concepts using persuasive visual means. The results are sometimes comic, sometimes tragic, sometimes joyful. All have the capacity to move us through the sincerity of their message.
Earth preservation knows neither boundary nor age; each one of us has a key role to play every single day in acting as a responsible citizen.

The ozone layer is part of those elements essential to our life and well being. Children from all over the world used their imagination and commitment to serve this precious cause through art.
The collection of paintings featured in this booklet shows how much young people care about their environment and health; but most of all, these images encourage us to think about proper solutions and friendly practices that could save the ozone layer.

... so how will YOU protect it?
“As a child I can make a difference and get others to join me in helping to ensure that we have a home for the future if we protect the Earth today”

Ashli Fox, 11, Nassau, Bahamas
Participant to the Millennium International Children’s Conference, Eastbourne, UK, May 2000
What does the ozone layer look like and to what extent is it such an essential layer of the atmosphere? Here are some suggestions …

‘The ozone as a simple layer’

Even the most simple depiction of the ozone as a single layer can take a variety of different forms, from that of a thin, wavy blue line or as an eroding ring through which the earth will melt.

(Figures 1 to 6)

‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

An umbrella is a light, even delicate apparatus, offering protection from both the sun and the rain. We can see that children from every continent in the world use this image to show that the ozone layer can protect us only insofar as it is cared for and kept whole. Otherwise, with the tears and holes that result from human pollution and neglect, it becomes fragile and cannot do its job properly, in turn wreaking havoc upon our planet.

(Figures 7 to 17)

‘Repairing the fabric of the ozone layer’

If we imagine the ozone layer in a material way, it can take on the character of a ceiling, or even as the fabric of a cape!

(Figures 18 to 21)
Images of the Ozone Layer

“The ozone as a simple layer”

Figure 1
Roan Alramahila (aged 11)
JORDAN

Figure 2
Samba Jah (aged 16)
GAMBIA
Figure 3
Liduvina E. Gutierrez Amados (aged 8)
MEXICO
Images of the Ozone Layer

‘The ozone as a simple layer’

Figure 4
Alvaro Rodolfo Torres Perez
(aged 16)
URUGUAY

Figure 5
Maharshi Bhupendra Jesalpura
(aged 10)
INDIA
Figure 6
Mariam Aliza Anwaar (aged 12)
PAKISTAN
Figure 7
Manuel Arcia (aged 15)
PANAMA
‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

Images of the Ozone Layer

Figure 8
Guzlan Ali Al-Badran (aged 10)
KUWAIT

Figure 9
Bachari Saidou
(aged 15)
NIGER
Images of the Ozone Layer

‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

Figure 10
Marcos Augusto Slivero Alfonso
(aged 10)
PARAGUAY

Figure 11
Ikramah Muhamed Jafar
(aged 14)
SEYCHELLES
Images of the Ozone Layer

‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

**Figure 12**
Snajovic Fain
BOSNIA

**Figure 13**
Sonia Graciela Vaughan Acevedo
(aged 11)
NICARAGUA
Images of the Ozone Layer
‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

Figure 14
Emilia Stefanovska (aged 12)
MACEDONIA

Figure 15
Dau Thanh Huong (aged 14)
VIET NAM
Images of the Ozone Layer
‘The ozone layer as an umbrella’

Figure 16
Roze Fadil (aged 15)
MAURITIUS

Figure 17
Betty Quansah (aged 11)
GHANA
Images of the Ozone Layer
‘Repairing the fabric of the ozone layer’

Figure 18
Dea Attar (aged 10)
SYRIA

Figure 19
Eros Puentes Rodriguez (aged 11)
CUBA
‘Repairing the fabric of the ozone layer’

Figure 20
Erick Joaquin Alaja
(aged 11)
PERU

Figure 21
Angela Marcela Castillo Gil
(aged 14)
COLOMBIA
“I believe the children’s art can affect the adults and encourage them to establish some measures about the environment”

Natalia Baturina Novosibirsk, Russia
Participant to the Millennium International Children’s Conference,
Eastbourne, UK, May 2000
After having described the ozone layer, let’s look into our own failures in protecting it and the harm it does to nature and to us …

‘Contrasting concepts’

Protection of the ozone layer can be seen in terms of the contrast between opposites—between hurting the ozone or healing it—and between the two different worlds that each choice represents.

(Figures 22 to 26)

‘The ozone layer and the earth under siege’

The harsh reality of ozone layer depletion can result in portraying both the earth and the ozone layer as being under attack. In some cases, ozone depletion is represented here almost like a war zone. Some other paintings show how the spray of harmful aerosols is equated with the burning rays of the sun.

(Figures 27 to 36)

‘Ozone Layer protection as a microcosm’

A microcosm is a miniature version of the universe, in which we can see the importance of big ideas in small things. This idea is most clearly presented in Figure 29. A microcosm can also allow us to view the whole world in one glimpse, enabling us to change our perspective. If we see the importance of the delicate balance of ozone layer protection, we can work better to restore it.

(Figures 37 to 41)
Ideas for ozone layer protection
‘Contrasting concepts’

figure 22
Najla Hussein Eid (aged 5)
EGYPT

![Painting of the ozone layer with people and trees]

Images from the 1998 United Nations Environment Programme Children’s Painting Competition
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘Contrasting concepts’

Figure 23
Elvis A. Herbert
(aged 15)
ST KITTS

Figure 24
Nam Bahadur B.K. (aged 15)
NEPAL
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘Contrasting concepts’

Figure 25
Shanika Harshani Perera
(aged 15)
SRI LANKA

Figure 26
Tefo Richard Ubom (aged 15)
NIGERIA
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘The ozone layer and the Earth under siege’

Figure 27
Zaidee Walker (aged 12)
TRINIDAD
Idea for ozone layer protection

‘The ozone layer and the Earth under siege’

Figure 28
Tracy Ann Lewis (aged 17)
JAMAICA

Figure 29
Ahadu Tsegaye Abebe (aged 16)
ETHIOPIA
Healing the Ozone Layer with Small Brushes

Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘The ozone layer and the Earth under siege’

Figure 30
Meleko Mokgosi (aged 16)
BOTSWANA

Figure 31
Mona Salem (aged 6)
QATAR
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘The ozone layer and the Earth under siege’

**Figure 32**
Sophiko Kajaia (aged 11)
GEORGIA

**Figure 33**
Buez Jun Hao (aged 11)
SINGAPORE
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘The ozone layer and the Earth under siege’

**Figure 34**

Nesrine Meddour  
(aged 15)  
ALGERIA

**Figure 35**

Celso T. Delosa III  
(aged 13)  
PHILIPPINES
Figure 36
Rosa Kallontarpour (aged 14)
IRAN
Ideas for ozone layer protection

"Ozone layer protection as a microcosm"

Figure 37
Maria Rozica Popescu (aged 13)
ROMANIA

Figure 38
Qu Nan (aged 8)
CHINA
Ideas for ozone layer protection

‘Ozone layer protection as a microcosm’

Figure 39
Claire Semaan (aged 15)
LEBANON

Figure 40
Pongsak Poolchuen (aged 15)
THAILAND
Figure 41
Lim Yang Yang (aged 11)
MALAYSIA
“Let us learn to appreciate
the importance of the ozone,
let us kick ignorance out of our country
and let us save our sky and our skin.”

Harriet Kamaki,
Winner of Kenya’s 1998 student essay contest
on ozone protection
Feelings of joy, sadness, fear or seclusion enhance these final paintings. Children have a unique ability to express their concerns or expectations through a meaningful use of colours and contrasts …

‘Use of colour’

Colour used almost exclusively can be a very expressive way to convey a simple message. Black is used to show the harmful effects of ozone depletion on our atmosphere. Ozone depletion is expressed in terms of being held in a black box, outside of which is dangerous red. (Figures 42 to 44)

‘Use of line’

Sometimes the most economic use of lines can be the most dramatic way of expressing an idea. (Figures 45 to 48)

‘Use of composition’

Composition, or the layout out of a picture, can be used to varying effects in expressing ideas. A dreamlike, almost supernatural layout is demonstrated, where we can see several scenes in one landscape under the damaged ozone layer. Playful compositions as well as colour express joy in restoring the ozone layer. (Figures 49 to 53)
Figure 42

Ahnaf Rafid Bin Habib (aged 5)

BANGLADESH
Figure 43
Marko Jovic
(aged 5)
YUGOSLAVIA

Figure 44
Antonella Perillo
(aged 6)
ARGENTINA
Figure 45

Choi Yerang (aged 14)

KOREA
Figure 46
Benily Bolivar Rengifo
(aged 15)
VENEZUELA

Figure 47
Ndiagne Mboup (aged 14)
SENEGAL
**Figure 48**

Hadjipetrou Panayiotis (aged 15)
CYPRUS
**Graphic creativity**

‘Use of composition’

**Figure 49**
Mariam Salman Al Oraibi  
(aged 12)  
BAHRAIN

**Figure 50**
Michelle Klink (aged 16)  
NAMIBIA
Figure 51
Laila Nuri (aged 8)
INDONESIA
Figure 52
Macing Dar Ni Htem
(aged 13)
MYANMAR

Figure 53
Wilmer Alexi Lopez
(aged 16)
HONDURAS
Background
The 1998 Children’s Painting Competition was part of UNEP’s public awareness campaign to assist the countries that committed themselves to phase out ozone depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol. The competition was open to children and young people from developing countries aged 5 to 16 years old.

In May 1998, the OzonAction Programme requested each National Ozone Unit to organize a National Painting Competition and to choose one national winner whose work would then qualify for final selection in Paris. Most of the National Painting Competitions were held as part of the activities to celebrate International Ozone Day.

The 53 selected paintings have since been reproduced on posters, calendars, publications, etc. to promote action worldwide.

The paintings on display around the world

Cairo, Egypt
The first five winners received an all-expenses-paid trip to Egypt to attend the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol from 17–25 November 1998, where the awarding took place. The event was organized jointly by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and by UNEP.

Eastbourne, United Kingdom
A limited number of selected paintings were exhibited at the Millennium International Children Conference in Eastbourne, United Kingdom on 22–24 May 2000.

Paris, France
The 53 paintings were exhibited at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, from 6–16 September 2001 to celebrate International Ozone Day. Healing the Ozone Layer with Small Brushes was launched on this occasion.
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Nations around the world are taking concrete actions to reduce and eliminate emissions of CFCs, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, methyl bromide and HCFCs. When released into the atmosphere these substances damage the stratospheric ozone layer—a shield that protects life on Earth from the dangerous effects of solar ultraviolet radiation. Nearly every country in the world—currently 170 countries—has committed itself under the Montreal Protocol to phase out the use and production of ODS. Recognizing that developing countries require special technical and financial assistance in order to meet their commitments under the Montreal Protocol, the Parties established the Multilateral Fund and requested UNEP, along with UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank, to provide the necessary support. In addition, UNEP supports ozone protection activities in Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs) as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Since 1991, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme has strengthened the capacity of governments (particularly the National Ozone Units or ‘NOUs’) and industry in developing countries to make informed decisions about technology choices and to develop the policies required to implement the Montreal Protocol. By delivering the following services to developing countries tailored to their individual needs, the Programme has helped promote cost-effective ODS phase-out activities at the national and regional levels:

- **Information Exchange**
  ... provides information tools and services to encourage and enable decision makers to make informed decisions on policies and investments required to phase out ODS. Since 1991, the Programme has developed and disseminated to NOUs more than 100 individual publications, videos, and databases that include public awareness materials, a quarterly newsletter, a web site, sector-specific technical publications for identifying and selecting alternative technologies and guidelines to help governments establish policies and regulations.

- **Training**
  ... builds the capacity of policy makers, customs officials and local industry to implement national ODS phase-out activities. The Programme promotes the involvement of local experts from industry and academia in training workshops and brings together local stakeholders with experts from the global ozone protection community. UNEP conducts training at the regional level and also supports national training activities (including providing training manuals and other materials).
Networking
... provides a regular forum for officers in NOUs to meet to exchange experiences, develop skills, and share knowledge and ideas with counterparts from both developing and developed countries. Networking helps ensure that NOUs have the information, skills and contacts required for managing national ODS phase-out activities successfully. UNEP currently operates 4 regional and 3 sub-regional Networks involving more than 109 developing and 8 developed countries, which have resulted in member countries taking early steps to implement the Montreal Protocol.

Refrigerant Management Plans (RMPs)
... provide countries with an integrated, cost-effective strategy for ODS phase out in the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors. RMPs have evolved to meet the specific need to assist developing countries (especially those that consume low volumes of ODS) to overcome the numerous obstacles to phase out ODS in the critical refrigeration sector. UNEP DTIE is currently providing specific expertise, information and guidance to support the development of RMPs in 40 countries.

Country Programmes and Institutional Strengthening
... support the development and implementation of national ODS phase-out strategies especially for low-volume ODS-consuming countries. The Programme is currently assisting more than 90 countries to develop their Country Programmes and more than 75 countries to implement their Institutional Strengthening projects.

For more information about these services please contact:

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About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is to help decision makers in government, local authorities and industry develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer;
- make efficient use of natural resources;
- ensure adequate management of chemicals;
- incorporate environmental costs;
- reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), with its head office in Paris, is composed of one centre and four units:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.

- Production and Consumption (Paris), which fosters the development of cleaner and safer production and consumption patterns that lead to increased efficiency in the use of natural resources and reductions in pollution.

- Chemicals (Geneva), which promotes sustainable development by catalysing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC, jointly with FAO).

- Energy and OzonAction (Paris), which supports the phase out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and promotes good management practices and use of energy, with a focus on atmospheric impacts. The UNEP/RISØ Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment supports the work of the Unit.

- Economics and Trade (Geneva), which promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial institutions in promoting sustainable development.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of information, building capacity, fostering technology cooperation, partnerships and transfer, improving understanding of environmental impacts of trade issues, promoting integration of environmental considerations into economic policies, and catalysing global chemical safety.
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This booklet reproduces all 53 paintings sent by children from country members to the Montreal Protocol for the 1998 Children’s Painting Competition on the Protection of the Ozone Layer organised by UNEP.

Each painting illustrates the invisible and fragile ozone layer with diverse ideas and extraordinary creativity.

From Nicaragua to Malaysia, from Niger to Kuwait, these children have communicated a comic, tragic yet hopeful message to us all.