

**UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund****UNEP Releases New Publications on Ozone Protection**

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CAIRO, EGYPT, 23 November 1998 - The UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme released four new publications that will assist developing countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs) in phasing out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and meeting their commitments to the Montreal Protocol. These publications were released during the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

The new publications are intended for National Ozone Units, industry and non-governmental organizations and cover a wide range of issues: providing information on methyl bromide and safe and effective alternatives, phasing out ODS in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and developing import/export licensing systems for ODS.

**1) Methyl Bromide Information Kit**

The purpose of the information kit is to create and enhance awareness among National Ozone Units (NOUs), methyl bromide users, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) about methyl bromide use, alternatives and phase-out deadlines. The kit includes (1) a brochure entitled Methyl Bromide: Getting Ready for the Phase Out, describing the methyl bromide issue and the importance and benefits of ratifying the Copenhagen Amendment, (2) a short television public service announcement (PSA) that can be aired and shown on national television and (3) a poster depicting aspects of the methyl bromide issue.

**2) Protecting the Ozone Layer, Volume 6: Methyl Bromide**

This publication summarizes the current uses of methyl bromide, the availability of substitutes and the technological and economic implications of moving away from methyl bromide. It is a simplified version of the original reports of the UNEP Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MTOC) and was produced in collaboration with MTOC.

**3) How Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Developing Countries Can Protect the Ozone Layer**

This publication is intended for SMEs that are involved in the refrigeration and air conditioning, foams, aerosols and solvents sectors and provides guidance on how to select and adopt cost-effective alternatives to ODS. This publication is a product of active collaboration with the Technical Options Committees and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.

**4) ODS Import/Export Licensing Systems, Resource Module: Phasing out ODS in Developing Countries**

Developed in cooperation with the Stockholm Environmental Institute, this UNEP publication is intended to assist NOUs in the design and establishment of import/export licensing systems and provides practical help and step-by-step guidance for the design and implementation of ODS import and export controls.

These publications are available in English from the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme and will soon be available in French and Spanish.

**NOTE TO JOURNALISTS:****About the Montreal Protocol**

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the international environmental agreement that has galvanized global cooperation to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The Protocol was signed by 24 countries in 1987 and as of August 1998, has been ratified by 168 countries or Parties to the Protocol. A number of ozone-depleting substances (chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and halons) have already been phased out in developed countries, except for about 10,000 tonnes used as essential uses.

**About UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme**

Since 1991, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme in Paris has been strengthening the capacity of governments (especially National Ozone Units) and industry in developing countries to make informed decisions on technology and policy options that will result in cost-effective ODS phase-out activities with minimal external intervention. The Programme accomplishes this by delivering a range of need-based services, including:

#### **Information Exchange**

To enable decision makers to take informed decisions on policies and investments. Information and management tools already provided for developing countries include the OzonAction Information Clearinghouse (OAIC) diskette and World Wide Web site, a quarterly newsletter, sector-specific alternative technologies and policy guidelines.

#### **Training and Networking**

To provide platforms for exchanging experiences, developing skills, and tapping the expertise of peers and other experts in the global ozone protection community. Training and network workshops builds skills for implementing and managing phase-out activities and are conducted at the regional level (support is also extended to national activities). The Programme currently operates seven regional and sub-regional Networks of ODS officers comprising more than 80 countries, which have resulted in member countries taking early steps to implement the Montreal Protocol.

#### **Country Programmes, Institutional Strengthening and Refrigerant Management Plans**

To support the development of national ODS phase-out strategies and programmes, especially for low-volume ODS-consuming countries. The Programme currently assists 74 countries in the development of their Country Programmes and implements Institutional-Strengthening projects for 50 countries. The Refrigerant Management Plans will assist Low-Volume Consuming Countries (LVCs) in achieving integrated phase out of CFCs in the refrigeration sector.

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