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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



Press Release

Africa and West Asia Join Forces to Protect Ozone Layer

Experts from 66 countries to share experiences in phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 17 March 2016 – Ozone Officers from Africa and West Asia gathered in Zimbabwe today to share best practices for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in developing economies, where cleaner alternatives are often lacking or unaffordable.

"UNEP uses the network to offer a platform for member states and implementing agencies to exchange views and experiences on the best methodologies and approaches in carrying out ODS alternatives surveys and to gain a better understanding of alternatives and the sectors to be surveyed under such projects," said Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of UNEP OzonAction.

The meeting, jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate of the Republic of Zimbabwe, takes place at a critical time for ozone action, with countries striving to meet their commitments to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) while avoiding substitutes with high global warming potential, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The 197 parties to the Montreal Protocol are currently working on an amendment to control the climate-change-inducing HFCs under the "Dubai Pathway" agreed in November last year.

"The Montreal Protocol's success in phasing out ozone-depleting substances had inspired around 40 parties including India, a broad coalition of Island Developing States, the European Union and North American States, to submit four proposed amendments to the Protocol to deal with HFCs," said UNEP Regional Representative in West Asia, Mr. Iyad Abumoghli.

This week's meeting is bringing together Ozone Experts from English- and French-speaking African countries and from West Asia, as well as the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Ozone Secretariat, the Implementing Agencies, bilateral agencies and regional institutions.

Over the course of the week, the regional experts will consider a range of compliance and enforcement issues, including capacity building of National Ozone Units; implementing phase-out plans; challenges of phasing out ODS in the refrigeration and air conditioning servicing sector and awareness-raising and outreach activities.

In the last thirty years, the 197 states, which have ratified the Montreal Protocol have reduced their consumption of ozone-depleting substances by approximately 98 per cent. In the process, the Protocol and its innovative Multilateral Fund have supported the development and operation of National Ozone Units in 148 countries, and the design and implementation of over 6,000 projects and activities valued at over \$3 billion.

For more information, please contact:

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