

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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1- OzoNews on the web

To carry the ozone protection message further using different communication methods, **OzoNews** is now also available on the OzonAction Programme's web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

You will still continue to receive the emailed version as you have in the past.

2- Experts Consider New Dangers On International Ozone Day

As Planet Celebrates International Ozone Day on September 16, Scientists and the United Nations Environment Programme Urge Vigilance.

In honor of International Ozone Day, which was observed yesterday, international scientists and U.N. researchers are raising concerns about a range of new ozone-depleting chemicals that are beginning to appear on the market. These chemicals are currently not controlled by the 1987 Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, and while their manufactured quantities are currently small, experts are fearful that their production could escalate over the next several years... So far at least four new substances with potential to damage the ozone layer have been identified, according to UNEP. "These are, however, only the ones we know about so far," said **Nelson Sabogal**, a scientist with UNEP's ozone treaty secretariat in Nairobi. "There may be many more. One of our difficulties is that each of these new substances can have up to 15 different names, which can make monitoring and tracking of them in international trade a tough task for governments" (UNEP News Release 01/96)

Source: UN-Wire, 17 September 2001

Full Text @: <http://www.unep.org/Documents/Default.asp?DocumentID=214&ArticleID=2933>

3- Dawn of a New Ozone Hole

Our planet's Antarctic ozone hole is opening once again as Spring approaches in the southern hemisphere. In a few days spring will replace winter across our planet's southern hemisphere. At the South Pole itself the Sun will peek above the horizon for the first time in months. And while the returning Sun will surely be a welcome sight in that frozen land, with it comes a less popular springtime event -- the return of the ozone hole. Each year around this time, the ozone hole begins to open as light from the springtime Sun triggers the chemistry of ozone destruction. It's an annual event. The hole widens in mid-August, then contracts again in December ...

Source: NASA Science, 17 September 2001

Full Text @: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2001/ast17sep_1.htm?list116540

4- Antarctic Plants Resist Damage from Ozone Hole

The unique flora of Antarctica appears to be resisting damage from the ozone hole over the South Pole far better than anyone expected, Dutch scientists say. The hole has triggered fears that Antarctica's fragile plants could suffer severe DNA damage as they are exposed to higher intensities of ultra-violet light, which is normally filtered out by the ozone layer in the stratosphere. But a team led by Daniela Lud from the Netherlands Institute of Ecology in Yerseke says many plant species seem to have a repair kit that enables them to fix any damage almost overnight, the British weekly New Scientist reports in next Saturday's issue. Mosses, liverworts and other Antarctic plants produce sunscreen pigments and carotenoids in response to higher ultra-violet levels. These block out UV and mop up harmful oxygen radicals stimulated by the light that can damage cells. Antarctic plants probably had the survival

mechanism to hand as they are already exposed to high-intensity light in the southern hemisphere's summer, suggests Patrick Neale from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center near Washington. Ocean life may not be so lucky, as phytoplankton and other microscopic food are more sensitive to UV than their landbased neighbours, he says. Meanwhile, in the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, wildlife experts are battling environment problems of a different kind, New Scientist adds.

Source: AFP, Paris, 6 September 2001, [thedailystarnews.com](http://www.dailystarnews.com) @:
<http://www.dailystarnews.com/200109/06/n1090613.htm#BODY8>

United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service to help keep readers informed about current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The goal of OzoNews is to provide information, stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

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