



# OzonAction

A newsletter dedicated to the protection of the ozone layer and implementation of the Montreal Protocol

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## VIEWPOINT

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## Testing Times Ahead for the Multilateral Fund



The first financial mechanism to be born of an international environmental agreement, the Multilateral Fund, has been the economic muscle behind the widely hailed success of the Montreal Protocol. Yet as MARIA NOLAN, the Fund's Chief Officer, warns, this positive tale could face formidable challenges in the near future.

The Fund's headline achievement has been the phase-out of over 149,000 tonnes of controlled substances in the consumption sector and 60,600 tonnes in the production sector, as measured in December 2003. But it has brought about many other, less obvious advances. It has prompted massive transfers of technology to developing countries, of which 134 have received support from the Fund. Its application to environmental problem-solving has staked out important new territory in the way international environmental agreements operate.

This success would not have come about without the broad and willing participation of both industrialized and developing (in Protocol terminology, non-Article 5 and Article 5) countries, the ready availability of funding support from contributing Parties, and the dedication and hard work of the four implementing agencies and the National Ozone Units. Even so, the mission of the Fund and of the instruments it supports cannot yet be said to be fulfilled. The ozone layer which plays so vital a part in safeguarding our environment and protecting the health of present and future generations, is still at risk. The Fund could face formidable challenges in the near future in relation to compliance. Any lapse in our resolve to make the Protocol work could jeopardize our past gains.

With the 'compliance period' now well underway, the Fund is concentrating its resources on helping countries achieve their compliance targets. To this end, emphasis has been set in the past few years on a country-driven approach, whereby countries achieve compliance mainly by devising and implementing national/sector phase-out plans. Monitoring the progress of these activities is becoming more challenging and it will be critical to identify countries that are failing to comply with the control schedules or face potential difficulties. Interplay between the Executive Committee and the Implementation Committee, which monitors cases of non-compliance and prepares recommendations for the Meeting of the Parties, is therefore vital. Careful monitoring of phase-out plans and other activities will help to identify risks of non-compliance early on.

Entirely new problems, such as the growth in illegal trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) between developing countries will require new approaches focusing on a new mix of stakeholder organizations and groups, such as customs agencies and enforcement officials. The final major challenge to the Fund will be

the possibility that contributing governments may become less willing to provide the resources required for total phase-out, particularly in the final stages where the activities involved are small-scale and difficult to complete. By then, demands for spending on other environmental priorities will have grown, creating competition for the finite resources available for investment in sustainable development.

The best argument to counter 'donor fatigue' is simply that the Montreal Protocol works, clearly and unequivocally, and that other international environmental agreements will benefit from the positive signal given, and the valuable experience gained thanks to its successful resolution of a major threat to global environmental security. The signal must also convey that the Protocol is still necessary and its continued success is heavily reliant on unceasing maintenance of commitments by developed and developing countries alike.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### MBTOC CO-CHAIRS ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE EMOP

Following the decisions on applications for critical use exemptions (CUEs) for methyl bromide at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (EMOP), Drs JONATHAN BANKS and NAHUM MARBAN MENDOZA, Co-chairs of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC), discuss on p. 6 of this edition some of the complex issues that surround this topic.



Organic apple grows without methyl bromide



## Africa

### *Experts Warn of Market Pressure for More Methyl Bromide Imports to Francophone Africa*

While the world prepared for Montreal Protocol talks to consider methyl bromide (MB) critical use exemptions (CUEs) for developed countries (see p. 6), representatives from 18 francophone African countries, meeting at a Regional Workshop on Experiences of Use of Methyl Bromide Alternatives in Dakar, Senegal from 8-10 March, pledged a total phase-out of MB before 2015 international deadline set under the Montreal Protocol. They agreed that effective alternatives could help cut their use of MB by 20 per cent, by 2005. They also noted the success of communications initiatives by UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO and national NGOs in Kenya and Senegal, aimed at convincing Africa's farmers to adopt MB-free production. Many of the countries present at the workshop are involved in the regional project implemented by UNDP.

Members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Option Committee (MBTOC) presented information about chemical and non-chemical alternatives to MB use and details of soil pathogens and weeds controlled by each method.

All stressed the advantages of weaving these alternatives into an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. From discussions it emerged that although more than 20 MB alternatives were proving viable under trial in the region, they still raised issues of cost, efficiency, availability, access and procedures. More worrying, the participants learned that importers were still acting in ways that tended to prolong the use of MB. Though some accept exports treated with approved alternatives, buyers from Latin America and other developing regions still insist on MB fumigation, most notably for cocoa beans and cotton exported out of Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Participants will work through their delegations to OEWG to recommend that the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) provide the next MOP with procedures that importers could use to justify MB fumigation of agricultural products for which alternatives exist, as itemized in MBTOC's latest (2002) report.

**Contact:** Jeremy Bazye, UNEP ROA,  
**email:** [Jeremy.Bazye@unep.org](mailto:Jeremy.Bazye@unep.org)

# >> COMPLIANCE NEWS



## Asia and the Pacific

### *100 per cent Ratification of the Montreal Protocol Approaching Reality*

One hundred percent commitment to the Montreal Protocol from countries in Asia and the Pacific is close, a recent meeting in Agra, India of Ozone Officers from around the region, was told. Afghanistan and Bhutan, not being Parties to the Protocol, participated as observers to see at firsthand and through contact with other delegations what full participation in the Montreal Protocol 'family' means. In bilateral meetings with Pakistan and Iran, the Afghanistan delegation investigated the ratification process and its requisite follow-up. There was talk, too, of possible visits by representatives of these

neighbouring countries, to help bolster political support. Bhutan applauded progress made by other countries towards ODS phase-out and set a provisional deadline of July 2004 to ratify the Protocol. Good news came two months later when Afghanistan deposited the instruments of ratification on 17 June (see p. 10) thus becoming the 187th Party to the Protocol. This is a clear signal that 'South-South' cooperation is working well in the region.

**Contact:** Atul Bagai, UNEP ROAP, **email:** [bagai@un.org](mailto:bagai@un.org)

### *Showing Methyl Bromide the Way Out in Fiji*

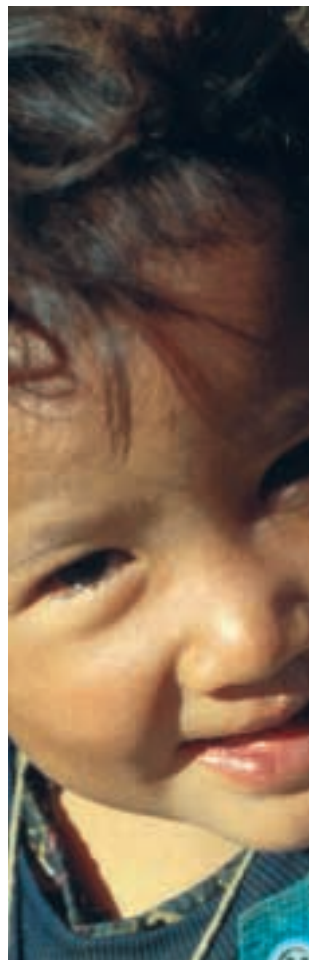
In the first meeting of its kind on Fiji, all the stakeholder groups that influence MB imports and uses in the country met in the capital, Suva, on 27 May to brainstorm ideas on how to phase out MB without negatively impacting the country's economy. Methyl bromide importers, fumigators, government officials, representatives from Chambers of Commerce and other interest groups attended the meeting, which the Government viewed as a means to consider the potential scope for an accelerated MB phase-out process to meet the country's Montreal Protocol commitments.

Though Fiji's consumption of this ODS is low (less than one ODP tonne in 2002), phasing out this chemical will require careful planning. The meeting agreed on the need for more comprehensive retrieval of data on MB use to determine accurate consumption as a basis for a phase-out plan, as well as to

boost enforcement of the permit system and enable a code of good practice for fumigators to be spelt out. Participants also stressed the need for a broader awareness raising campaign tailored to particular sectors or sub-sectors.

They decided that a national MB phase-out strategy should be prepared and developed as a short and medium-term priority, and resolved to establish a National Methyl Bromide Consultative Group to steer the country's MB phase-out activities. Experts from MBTOC and Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) provided technical advice and assistance during the event. CAP will provide ongoing support to the country to support the actions agreed upon during the meeting.

**Contact:** Cecilia T. Mercado, UNEP ROAP,  
**email:** [mercadoc@un.org](mailto:mercadoc@un.org)





## Europe and Central Asia

### *Europe and Central Asia Join Hands for Coordinated Action*

Throughout the centuries Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a crossroads where Orient and Occident meet to exchange goods, traditions and knowledge and to mix cultures. In the last week of May, this country welcomed Government representatives of 12 European nations that came to Sarajevo to exchange their experiences and approaches to advancing ozone layer protection. This second meeting of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia under Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP). It was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNEP DTIE in co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. The member countries of the Network are scattered throughout the Pan-European region. Most of them border on developed countries and countries with economies in transition operating under Article 2 of the Montreal Protocol. This specific geopolitical situation dictates the need for the Network to join forces with other countries of the region to tackle issues of common concern. Boosting regional cooperation therefore came high on the agenda at Sarajevo and tied together all topics for discussion. Participation by Network countries in advisory, technical and decision-making

bodies under the Protocol was another priority issue.

A blend of expertise and experience in all aspects of implementation of the Montreal Protocol has been accumulated in some Network countries. Several are well ahead of the approved ODS phase-out schedule, while some others are at the early stages of implementation or just about to launch their national phase-out plans. This diversity prompted the Network to adopt an innovative 'contact group' approach to provide a direct country-to-country assistance to those members facing immediate and long-term compliance challenges. This approach was first tested in March this year in Albania and then applied during the contact groups' consultations conducted at the margins of the Sarajevo meeting. It proved instrumental in searching for solutions to technical problems of countries in non-compliance. It also helped the Implementing Agencies better coordinate their efforts and target their compliance support. The merits of the 'contact group' approach will further be examined and refined during group meetings scheduled for the second half of 2004.

**Contact:** Alla Metelitsa, UNEP DTIE, email: [alla.metelitsa@unep.fr](mailto:alla.metelitsa@unep.fr)

### *Awareness Campaign Helps Macedonia Say Goodbye to Halons*

An energetic anti-halon awareness campaign conducted in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on national TV, radio and in the press for over seven years has played a catalysing role in ridding the country's fire protection sector of halon-based fire-fighting systems and equipment. The campaign also involved seminars, round tables and workshops that brought into the picture all the country's stakeholders – including fire-fighters, fire protection authorities and potential halon consumers such as banks, post, telecommunications and companies dealing with fire protection.

An inaugural national workshop on halon alternatives was held in

1998 and since then there has been no request to import halons into Macedonia. The first test came shortly afterwards, when tenders were invited for a new fire-fighting system for the telecommunications provider. The bidding documents required that any new system proposed should be based on ozone-friendly substances. A company offering FM-250® won the bid, paving the way for installation of seven similar systems around the country. In 2002 the Multilateral Fund's Executive Committee approved a Halon Management Plan for FYR Macedonia and implementation began in 2003.

**Contact:** Marin Kocov, NOU Macedonia, email: [ozonunit@unet.com.mk](mailto:ozonunit@unet.com.mk)

### *How Industry Helped Hungary Drop Methyl Bromide Use in Tobacco Seedlings*

Hungary successfully phased out MB use on tobacco seedlings, the country's Ministry of Environment and Water reports. The main driving force behind this advance was the international tobacco industry's preference for discontinuing methyl bromide treatment. Trials were conducted with floating beds, sand beds and chemical control methods for treating soil in which tobacco seedlings are raised. The floating bed

method was found most suitable. Nearly US\$ 1.33 millions was invested in these trials and in phase-out activities that reduced MB use by 5 to 8 tonnes a year over four years. About half the cost was covered by grant support from the Tobacco Product Council.

**Contact:** Robert Toth, Ministry of Environment and Water of Hungary, email: [tothr@mail.kvvm.hu](mailto:tothr@mail.kvvm.hu)



## Latin America and the Caribbean

### *Stakeholders Lead the Way to Refrigerant Reforms in Chile*

The Government of Chile's National Refrigerant Management Plan (RMP) was devised as a way for the country's National Commission for Environment (CONAMA), working in association with Environment Canada and UNEP, to cut back the 200 tonnes (54 per cent) of Chile's CFC imports that were destined for the refrigeration and air conditioning service sector in 2002. The Plan has also brought fringe benefits, according to Chile's National Ozone Officer, Jorge Leiva, thanks to stakeholder participation in its design. The involvement of many different sectors and interest groups, in and outside industry, has helped to trigger political support and action, as well as to unite previously separated or competing groups behind a shared agenda, and to raise the profile of a sector that formerly lacked recognition and status. A National Advisory Committee (NAC) was set up to brief CONAMA on needs and challenges specific to Chile and on the service sector's vision of how the country should handle Montreal Protocol issues. The NAC also helped identify end-users and technicians involved in CFC use. The resulting Plan's provisions range from training and capacity-building to legislating

for import controls, stimulating public awareness and introducing good recovery and recycling practices for CFCs across the sector. It also calls for appropriate modules to be included in University and Technical School syllabuses. Thanks to NAC involvement, Chile's Association of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning has grown in membership, while the country's Technical Schools have gained in terms of student numbers and influence within the trade. They have also taken advantage of opportunities to upgrade equipment, tools and human resources.

CONAMA has brought NAC together with the national Customs Service and the Ministry of Health to analyze regulations that apply to ODS. On the political front, service sector groups have subsequently sought interviews with Parliamentary representatives to lobby for specific legislation to regulate CFC use. Leiva reports that Chile aims to maintain this 'win-win' process after the RMP term is up, as a sustainable way to comply with the country's Montreal Protocol requirements.

**Contact:** Mirian Vega, UNEP ROLAC, email: [mirian.vega@pnuma.org](mailto:mirian.vega@pnuma.org)

## Suriname's Youngsters Tackle Poster Design Challenge to Raise Ozone Awareness

As part of a Country Programme and Refrigerant Management Plan coordinated by the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS), a national ozone design competition for youngsters from nine to sixteen years old was organized in association with UNEP between 21 July and 22 August 2003. The aim of the contest was to help raise public awareness in all age-groups of the importance of protecting the ozone layer. Entry forms and background information were distributed countrywide and the event was promoted through a press launch, newspaper adver-

tisements, TV talkshows and radio programmes. Some 300 designs were submitted by the nation's children, competing for cash prizes worth between US\$100 and US\$250. All participants received posters, CDs, books and other awareness materials made available by UNEP. The four winning designs, printed as posters, went on general distribution through schools and public institutions in February 2004 after an official launch by the Minister of Labour, Technological Development and Environment.

**Contact:** Mirian Vega, UNEP ROLAC,  
**email:** mirian.vega@pnuma.org



Winning entries for the drawing competition in Suriname



## West Asia

### Tough Measures to Curb Illegal ODS Trade : Regional Strategy

A Regional Workshop on Means of Combating Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances were discussed in Damascus, Syria from 7 to 9 December 2003. Organized by the Compliance Assistance Programme of the Regional Office for West Asia (CAP/ROWA) and hosted by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment of the Syrian Arab Republic, the meeting brought together delegations from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen and representatives of the Palestinian National Authority. Also participating were representatives of United Nations bodies, the League of Arab States (LAS), the Regional Office for the Exchange of Customs Information, the World Customs Organization (WCO), bilateral agencies, NGOs and various other official and observer groups.

Among topics discussed were fraudulent means used in illegal trade and how reduce continuing flow of cheap ODS and ODS-based products and equipment around the region. All Parties were urged to tighten up compliance conditions for ODS-producing countries and countries in the region were offered guidance on regulating illegal trade. Recommendations arising from these and from other workshop discussions urged CAP to :

- Work with the WCO to provide countries with its latest rules and to ask the Regional Office for the Exchange of Customs Information to include ODS monitoring in its regular updates;
  - Ask the Secretariat of the LAS to involve the West Asia Regional Network in meetings on relevant customs issues, and to invite LAS officials to participate in relevant CAP/ROWA activities, to ensure reciprocity;
  - Maintain links with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for the purpose of controlling trade in ODS among the GCC countries;
  - Explore possible means of support for the Palestinian National Authority.
- The meeting also stressed the importance of Decision XIV/7 on monitoring trade in ODS and preventing illegal trade. Countries were urged to give priority to implementing this decision, and to notify the Regional Network and UNEP/DTIE of national progress.

**Contact:** Abdulelah Al-Wadaee, UNEP ROWA, **email:** Abdulelah.Alwadaee@unep.org.bh

### Kuwait Helps Customs Officers Means to Stamp out Illegal Trade

From 13-14 April 2004, Kuwait's Environmental Protection Agency, which provides the country's National Ozone Unit (NOU), pooled resources with the country's General Customs Affairs Council in a move to equip Kuwait's customs officers with the skills and knowledge needed to curb illegal trade in ODS. The Kuwait College of Applied Science also provided technical support related to air conditioning and refrigeration. This training event was the second part of a project supported by the Multilateral Fund and organized with support from the regional team of UNEP's CAP. Under the same project, the country's customs training staff were previously instructed in the ODS training methodology developed by UNEP. This time around, the same trainers applied what they learned to training 27 out of Kuwait's 300 customs line officers. The officers ended up with a wider understanding of

the Montreal Protocol, the mechanics and methods of ODS trade, and the problem of illegal commerce. They also gained skills required to use ODS analyzers effectively. Results exceeded expectations and the knowledge gained was soon applied to real effect. Trainees identified cylinders containing CFC-12 that were under customs custody at the time and which were subsequently re-exported as they were found not to have prior permit to import. These results show how training can result directly in actions to support compliance. The NOU is arranging regular weekly follow-up meetings for the trainers to review information and attend lectures. The EPA expects the second phase of training for customs line officers to be completed by the beginning of 2005.

**Contact:** Abdulelah Al-Wadaee, UNEP ROWA, **email:** Abdulelah.Alwadaee@unep.org.bh



# >> SPOTLIGHT ON TAJIKISTAN



Abdukarim Kurbanov, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment, Tajikistan

Ratification of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol by the Government of Tajikistan prompted the country's President to set up a Task Force to develop a National Programme for protecting the ozone layer. Vice Minister Abdukarim Kurbanov, who was appointed National Coordinator for implementing this programme, answers questions from OzonAction Newsletter about his country's progress and prospects.

*Q. How was the National Programme developed?*

A. It was developed by local personnel with the assistance of international experts. I want to give special thanks to Ms Aneta Kalnieva (UNEP) and Dr Adham Khalil (UNDP) for their support and valuable inputs in this respect. The draft programme was approved by the Government and subsequently by the Global Environment Facility within the agreed deadlines. Activities under the programme have so far been on schedule. The National Ozone Centre (NOC) is dedicated to the National Programme's full implementation and is helping to

organize awareness raising seminars, training of technicians in the refrigeration servicing sector and retrofitting of refrigeration plant.

*Q. What are the main achievements in terms of implementing the National Programme?*

A. One of our most successful activities has been raising awareness of the public at large of the need to protect the ozone layer. NOC is proud of its comprehensive awareness raising campaign, which covers all regions of the country. Another solid achievement has been in various areas of training: training of technicians in recycling and recovery methods, training of trainers for follow-up, training of customs officers to help combat illegal trade in ODS, and training of trainers in good practices in refrigeration for the further training of technicians in the refrigeration servicing sector. On the legislative front, the Government of Tajikistan has issued a Decree on a state licensing system for import, handling and use of ODS and ODS-containing products, which will greatly aid future implementation efforts.

*Q. How was Ozone Day celebrated in Tajikistan?*

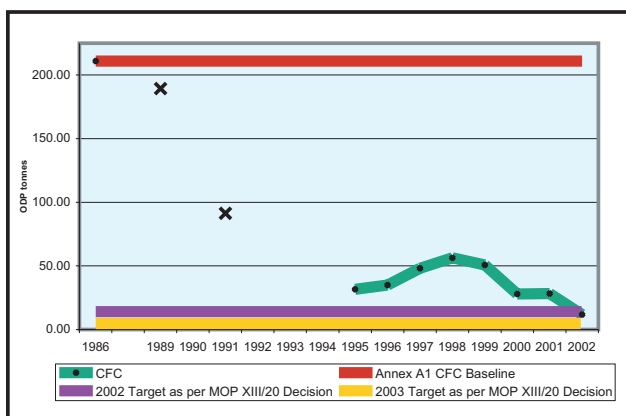
A. Celebrations were organized in many regions of the country under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, including festivities at servicing workshops and production plants, meetings at regional Committees of the Environment, and lectures at schools and universities. A special issue of the national newsletter with statement by the Minister of the Environment and various articles drafted by NOC staff was printed and widely distributed. A special poster on ozone was also prepared (see right). The National Ozone Coordinator and other NOC staff addressed the public on national TV and radio.

*Q. What are the main obstacles to implementing the Montreal Protocol in Tajikistan?*

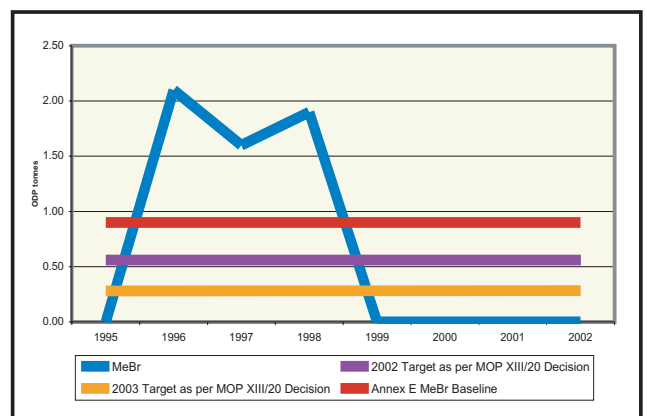
A. Illegal trade of ODS is a growing concern for Tajikistan as well as for other countries of Central Asia. All round the region one can easily find ODS and ODS-containing products illegally imported from China, the Russian Federation and India. Better border controls, effective legislation and regional customs cooperation are indispensable if we are to get on top of smuggling of ODS in Central Asia. We hope UNEP and other international organizations will help us and our neighbours to develop and to put into operation a regional strategy to combat illegal trade.



Trend in CFC consumption in Tajikistan



Trend in MB consumption in Tajikistan





# >> SPECIAL FEATURE

## MBTOC CO-CHAIRS ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE EMOP



Nahum Marban Mendoza (left) and Jonathan Banks, Co-chairs of UNEP Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee.

*OAN: Knowing that methyl bromide has an ODP of only 0.6 and very short atmospheric life time, why is its phase-out so important for the success of the Montreal Protocol?*

NMM: The phrase that might sum up the answer best, is 'the sooner, the better' meaning that although MB has this very short period of life – under 2 years – in the atmosphere, an ODP amount of 0.6 is very high by any standard and something to take very seriously. So if we manage to phase it out very soon the impact on the environment will be very quickly erased, too.

JB: That's right, it is very important to go quickly on this because the ozone layer is at a critical stage. It's very damaged for the moment and those products to have a short half life give instant responses compare to those with a long half life. You don't see it mending quickly if you concentrate mainly on those. And looking at concentrations in the upper atmosphere following MB phase-out, I can foresee a great success.

*OAN: In your view, what was the main outcome of the EMOP?*

JB: To my mind, the single most important outcome was that the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to phase out MB. It's the first Extraordinary Meeting ever to be held, that speaks volumes for the importance of MB. Now we have gone through that process, and come out the

other side of it agreeing to proceed with phasing out MB. Exemptions we expected; the Protocol itself provides for them. I believe that the key message was that we are on track to phase out MB as one of the critical ODS.

It has been a very difficult process, very much a learning process, but we hope it will lead to much more rapid consideration of critical use nominations in the future and much better efforts on behalf of the Parties so they will perhaps understand more about the process. Which is of course their process. And MBTOC is continuing to learn through the same process too. It's always difficult to satisfy all the Parties because some Parties are able to go faster on phase-out than others, it's all about local circumstances. After EMOP at least satisfaction was expressed by all and we can continue to move forward.

*OAN: In your view, what are the next steps to convince Parties and users of the environmental, economic and technical feasibility of MB alternatives?*

NMM: I believe that there is a chance for non-chemical alternatives right now to replace MB use; but that requires registrations. Then after registration there is a lack of time for adoption of those alternatives. So we have observed that the lack of registrations or legal problems with alternatives can frequently block their adoption. I hope improving registrations will produce a faster phase out of MB. But those things are not coming by magic. It requires effort from the manufacturing sector, from technical people, from universities, agencies, facilitators, everybody has to be involved in that mechanism for teaching, educating, pushing the people to adopt the new alternatives.

*OAN: So what about economic side?*

NMM: The economic side is always tied to any alternative. No alternative has any chance if it is not economically feasible. They work together, it can be the best solution technically but if it's not cost-effective nobody is going to use it.

*OAN: What role can capacity building, awareness and training play in assisting Parties meet their methyl bromide compliance commitments in the new post-EMOP climate?*

JB: A post-EMOP climate means 'when am I going forward with phase-out?' It's been, just like a little extra step, but a very important one. In any of these things where you have an alternative and it's not an established alternative, you have an educational problem. Whether it's the farmers themselves, or the bank managers because these are part of the process in developed countries or the applicators because all industries have to apply alternatives; all those people have to go through an programme, call it education or call it awareness. One of the things we find as we go around is that still people are not really aware of the damage MB is doing to the ozone layer and why it is that you need alternatives. So at ground level there is a need for further awareness. Training is vital. If you are trying to get an alternative up and running you really do need training in its use.

One of the problems is that alternatives have been there long time but their use has not been optimized. Compare MB, which is in a sense quite easy to use with an alternative pesticide like metam sodium which is sometimes used less well. If you can switch to a better or easier application method, maybe you can improve the efficiency of your existing alternative so that users accept it as comparable with MB. There is also a question of identifying 'champions': a whole production industry and a whole infrastructure behind it supports MB. It would be nice to have champions for the alternatives identify themselves, too. In a free market system without tax breaks or some such inducement the only way to go forward is to go out there and sell it not just in terms of price but sell it so everyone is convinced this is the product everybody wants.

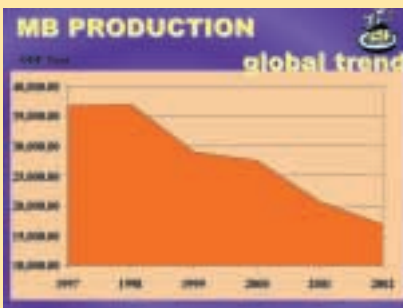
 See the video of this interview on the Ozonaction web site at [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction)



## Critical Use Exemptions for Methyl Bromide (MB): a Headline Issue at Montreal EMOP

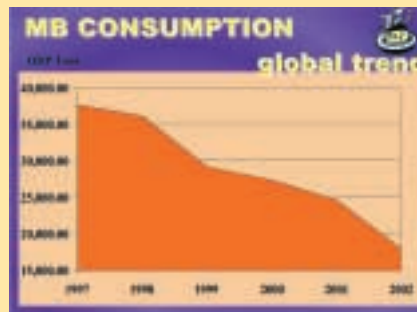


An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (EMOP) to the Montreal Protocol took place in Montreal, Canada from 24 to 26 March 2004. The Meeting adopted five decisions including the most important one on 'critical use' exemptions (CUEs) to rules for limiting MB production for 2005. Exemptions were approved, subject to certain conditions, for Australia (145 tonnes), Belgium (47 tonnes) Canada (55 tonnes) France (407 tonnes) Greece (186 tonnes), Italy ( 2,133 tonnes) Japan (284 tonnes) Portugal (50 tonnes), Spain (1,059 tonnes), United Kingdom (128 tonnes) and the United States (7,659 tonnes). The Parties also agreed to consider a related issue of multi-year CUEs including the elaboration of criteria and methodology for authorising such exemptions, by including a proposal on the agenda of the 16th Meeting of the Parties, in November 2004.



The Parties also approved a decision on conditions for granting and reporting CUEs for MB. Under this decision, any Party granted a CUE will have to submit (among other things) information to the Ozone Secretariat on available alternatives to MB by February 2005, a national management strategy for MB by February 2006, and from January 2005, a summary of each crop or post-harvest use nominated as critical – that is, relating to information specified in the initial decision. The Parties also discussed ways and means to review the working procedures and Terms of Reference of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC). They established an ad hoc Working Group consisting of 24 Parties (12 each from devel-

oped and developing countries), for reviewing MBTOC's working procedures and mandate as they relate to the evaluation of nominations for critical use exemptions. This Group will meet for three days in July immediately preceding (and will report its findings to) the 24th session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties.



Two further decisions addressed concerns of developing countries. One dealt with an adjustment of the Montreal Protocol proposed by the European Community, calling on developing countries to introduce further interim MB reductions between 2005 and 2015. The Meeting decided to keep the proposal under review and consider it again, ideally by not later than 2006. The other decision addressed the issue of voluntary commitments by developing countries to accelerate the phase-out of MB. The Meeting requested the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Multilateral Fund to adopt a flexible approach whenever a Party that has concluded agreements with the Fund on early phase-out, fails to meet a reduction step specified in the agreement. ExCom could exercise such flexibility by, for example, prolonging the final reduction step, though not beyond 2015. It could also flex the schedule of funding in cases where a Party implements alternatives in good faith but meets with demonstrable difficulties in gaining acceptance for their use.

**Contact: Marco Gonzalez,**  
**UNEP Ozone Secretariat,**  
**email: [marco.gonzalez@unep.org](mailto:marco.gonzalez@unep.org),**  
**[www.unep.org/ozone](http://www.unep.org/ozone)**



*Tech Talk showcases commercially-available technologies that reduce or replace ODS, as well as technologies currently under research. Without seeking to endorse any technology or product, Tech Talk covers all technologies permitted under the Montreal Protocol, including those using transitional substances (HCFCs) and not-in-kind alternatives. We welcome information and contributions from all interested parties.*

## FOAMS

### New Zero-ODP, Zero-GWP Foam Blowing Agent replaces HCFC-141b

After three years of laboratory and field testing, Foam Supplies Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, USA says it has developed a new family of rigid polyurethane systems that uses an alternative blowing agent called ecomate<sup>®</sup>, which reportedly has zero ozone depletion potential and no global warming potential. The company claims that the new technology, which is approved in the United States by both official regulators, eliminates the need for manufacturers to alter equipment, plant, or product specifications, unlike other options (such as pentane-based systems) that require costly modifications to foaming areas, machinery, and ventilation. Currently, ecomate<sup>®</sup> is being used in low-temperature appliance applications such as refrigerators, drink dispensers, and ice machines. Foam Supplies says its tests demonstrate that ecomate<sup>®</sup> is an ideal replacement for HCFC-141b and can offer thermal efficiency equal to or better than HCFC-22 and HFC-134a systems.

**Contact: Todd Keske, Foam Supplies,**  
tkeske@foamsupplies.com, www.foamsupplies.com

## METHYL BROMIDE

### California is Latest US State to Register Arvesta's Methyl Bromide Alternative

Arvesta Corporation has announced the California registration of its Chloropicrin<sup>®</sup> soil fumigant, which it began manufacturing and marketing in early 2003. The first of many



Wireworm damaging to corn seed

fumigant products Arvesta plans to introduce over the next few years, Chloropicrin is used for the control of soil-borne pests and diseases such as wireworms, nematodes, phythium, phytophthora, fusarium and verticillium in various crops. Chloropicrin is now registered for use in 11 US States. In addition to Chloropicrin, Arvesta is awaiting registration of MIDAS<sup>®</sup> (Iodomethane) Soil Fumigant by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. According to Arvesta trade literature, MIDAS<sup>®</sup>

has been called the only true 'drop-in replacement' for methyl bromide.

**Contact: Bob Kreger, Arvesta Corporation,**  
bkreger@arvesta.com, www.arvesta.com

## SOLVENTS

### Natural Solvent from Florida Chemical Promises Safer Cleaning Power

Florida Chemical Inc. is introducing a new solvent called Citrus Burst 7<sup>®</sup>, a blend of d-limonene and naturally derived esters that the company says is ideally suited for cleaning parts, paint, ink and graffiti. It also recommends the product for cleaning in the electronics industry as it dries quicker than established products and leaves no residue. All components of Citrus Burst 7<sup>®</sup>, have either a GRAS (Generally Recognized As Safe) or food grade rating from the US Food and Drugs Administration. Each is derived from natural plant sources and its makers say the product has no ozone depleting or otherwise environmentally hazardous ingredients, is biodegradable, water-soluble, non-carcinogenic and non-corrosive, leaves no film or residue and requires no surfactants.

**Contact: John Pleggenkuhle,**  
Florida Chemical Inc., info@floridachemical.com,  
www.floridachemical.com

## Zero Tolerance for Illegal ODS Trade in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Just a fortnight after its accession to the European Union, Hungary hosted a unique meeting convened at the World Customs Organisation centre in Budapest. Hungary's Customs and Finance Guard organized the Regional Workshop jointly with the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) regional project 'Promoting Compliance with the Trade and Licensing Provisions of the Montreal Protocol in Countries with Economies in Transition'. Government representatives and customs officers from 21 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia discussed new safeguards against environmental crime, most notably the rapid increase throughout the region in illegal ODS trade. Other concerns were trade in hazardous chemicals, toxic wastes and goods derived from protected natural resources. Region-wide, such trade is thought to be worth some US\$ 30 billion. Participants agreed that there was ample scope to apply the experience gained from monitoring and controlling ODS trade in

the region to tracking and halting trade in other potentially harmful goods or substances. Delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan pledged to further advance ODS monitoring and control operations in the region. In the late 1980s, these countries consumed nearly 150,000 tonnes of CFCs each year. The annual level has now been reduced to under 1,000 tonnes, thanks to support provided by the GEF and assistance from the World Bank, UNDP, UNIDO and UNEP. Countries represented at the Budapest meeting agreed to review their licensing systems

and import-export regulations, as well as to introduce tougher enforcement measures. They also discussed the impact of additional obligations on countries that had recently joined the EU and agreed to set up co-operative mechanisms with them, such as informal intelligence sharing and an e-network of customs officers for rapid information exchange.

**Contact: Rajendra Shende, UNEP DTIE, email:**  
rmshende@unep.fr



Participants in the Budapest workshop





### **Multilateral Fund Secretariat: ExCom Pledges US\$ 100 Million Plus for ODS Phase-out**

At the 42nd meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) in

March/April 2004, a total of US\$ 74 million was approved for 75 ODS phase-out projects and activities in 44 Article 5 countries, intended to phase out over 2,600 ODP tonnes of controlled substances in the consumption sector and over 6,500 ODP tonnes of CFCs in the production sector. The ExCom also committed US\$ 31 million for national CFC consumption phase-out plans in Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Venezuela and approved financing for projects to help Côte d'Ivoire and Mexico phase out methyl bromide (MB). Following the decision by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to grant 'critical use exemptions' to 11 non-Article 5 countries facing the 2005 MB deadline (see p. 7), the ExCom is looking at ways of further assisting Article 5 countries to comply with the 2007 and 2015 MB control measures. It intends to examine the issue in greater depth at its 43rd meeting in July.

**Contact:** Ms Maria Nolan, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, 1800 McGill College Avenue, 27th floor Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 3J6, tel: +1 514 282 1122 – fax: +1 514 282 0068, email: [secretariat@unmfs.org](mailto:secretariat@unmfs.org), [www.multilateralfund.org](http://www.multilateralfund.org)



### **UNEP Ozone Secretariat: MB Exemptions Top Agenda**

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was successfully organised in Montreal from 24-26 March 2004 (see p. 7). The Meeting adopted five decisions, including the most important one on critical use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2005. The exemptions were approved for specific developed countries.

The Secretariat is preparing for the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties, the ad hoc working group on methyl bromide working procedures and terms of reference of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) and the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol in Geneva in July 2004.

**Contact:** Mr Marco Gonzalez, Ozone Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya, tel: +254 20 623452, fax: +254 20 62 36 10/39 13, email: [marco.gonzalez@unep.org](mailto:marco.gonzalez@unep.org), [www.unep.org/ozone](http://www.unep.org/ozone)



### **UNEP DTIE : Launch of New Video Service**

The 42nd ExCom approved US\$ 1.1 million for 15 UNEP projects.

A first compliance consultative meeting involving Albania, FYR Macedonia, UNEP and UNIDO was held in Tirana on 12 March to facilitate cooperation between the two countries with a view to assisting Albania to return to compliance. It was agreed that the National Ozone Unit (NOU) of Macedonia, which gained valuable experience in successfully phasing out about 90 per cent of Macedonia's ODS consumption over the last five years, would provide regular support, guidance and advice to its counterpart in Albania. The Information Clearinghouse introduced a new video interview service on hot topics of current interest (see website, below). The first video is the interview of MBTOC Co-Chairs (see story, p. 6). Since the Montreal Protocol is a treaty with established compliance and enforcement procedures, CAP was invited by UNEP's Division for Policy Development and Law to cooperate on the preparation of manual on compliance and enforcement of MEAs. This manual is intended to serve as a source book for national decision-makers and experts.

**Contact:** Mr Rajendra M. Shende, UNEP DTIE, 39-43 quai André Citroën, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France, tel: +33 1 44 37 14 50, fax: +33 1 44 37 14 74, email: [ozonaction@unep.fr](mailto:ozonaction@unep.fr), [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction)

## >> News from International Agencies



### **UNDP: Green Light from ExCom to Enable 13 Developing Countries to Comply**

During the first quarter of 2004, UNDP submitted a

Business Plan for 2004-2006 as well as work programmes for approval at the 42nd ExCom, all aimed at continuing efforts to help developing countries meet compliance needs. The planned activities are worth altogether US\$ 9.24 million, including support costs and new project preparation funding for 13 countries. A terminal project to phase out CFC-12 consumption in Bolivia's commercial refrigeration sub-sector was approved by ExCom, so was new backing for China's Solvent Sector and Mexico's Foam Sector Phaseout Plans. National Phaseout Plans for Iran, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were also approved. UNDP was voted US\$ 350,000 to help implement El Salvador's plan to phase out 85 per cent of CFC baseline consumption by 2007. Lastly, UNDP received approval to assist the Government of Jamaica to implement a Technical Assistance Project to phase out solvents and bar the use of sterilants that release ODS.

**Contact:** Dr Suely Carvalho, Montreal Protocol Unit, UNDP, 304 East 45th Street, Room FF970, New York, NY 10017, USA, tel: +1 212 906 5004, fax: +1 212 906 6947, email: [suely.carvalho@undp.org](mailto:suely.carvalho@undp.org), [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)



### **UNIDO: ExCom Approves Steps to Phase out More than 775 ODP tonnes**

The 42nd ExCom approved projects for implementation through UNIDO worth some US\$ 27.6 million which, when implemented, will phase out over 775 ODP tonnes. Highlights included the last tranche of Algeria's Refrigerant Management Plan to phase out 245 ODP tonnes, the second tranche of Iran's National CFC

Phase-out Plan to phase out over 274 ODP tonnes and the 2004 tranche of China's tobacco sector project to phase out 245 ODP tonnes of CFC-11. On the production side, ExCom approved a Sector Plan for phasing out CFC-11 and CFC-12 (second tranche) in Mexico, and closure of an ODS production plant in the Democratic Republic of Korea, where the second tranche of phase-out in the domestic refrigeration sector amounting to 56 ODP tonnes was also approved. A phase-out plan for CFCs and other ODS in Serbia and Montenegro was brought forward to UNIDO's 2004 Business Plan. CFC phase-out plans for three countries (Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela) were approved in principle with a total phase-out impact of more than 4,500 ODP tonnes.

**Contact:** Mr Si Ahmed, UNIDO, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, tel : +43-1-26026 3782 fax :+43-1-26026 6804, email: [s.ahmed@unido.org](mailto:s.ahmed@unido.org), [www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)



### **World Bank: Workshop Debates Voucher Route to Curbing CFC-12 Consumption**

In mid-April, the Bank's Montreal Protocol team hosted its eighth annual Workshop for Financial Agents in Washington, DC, attended by representatives of NOUs and financial institutions from 11 countries. A highlight of this year's event was a lively debate on using a voucher system to enable the servicing sector to acquire equipment for reducing CFC-12 consumption. There was also a special information session on chiller replacement. The event was followed by the 21st meeting of the Ozone Operations Resource Group, a group of technical experts of international repute convened by the Bank. In Montreal earlier, in March, the 42nd ExCom, the Multilateral Fund allocated the World Bank's ODS programme US\$ 31.25 millions for projects and annual plans to phase out 675 ODP tonnes in Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Tunisia.

**Contact:** Mr Steve Gorman, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW Washington, DC 20433, USA, tel: +1 202 473 5865, fax: +1 202 522 3258, email: [sgorman@worldbank.org](mailto:sgorman@worldbank.org), [www.worldbank.org/montrealprotocol](http://www.worldbank.org/montrealprotocol)

# New Publications

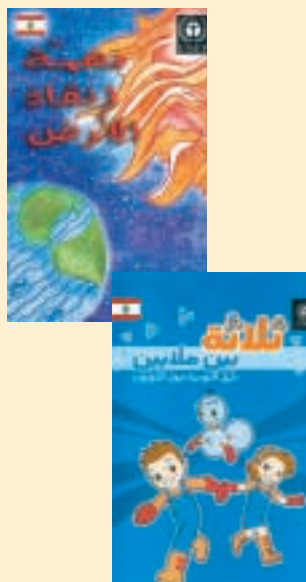
The Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development of Moldova has published a book in Romanian and Russian on *International and National Legislation of the Republic of Moldova on the Protection of Ozone Layer*. It includes Governmental decrees, the national programme to phase out ODS, the national law on licensing system and related acts on import, export and use.



Albania has published a book on *The Albanian National ODS Phase-out Plan* under its Institutional Strengthening project. It is part of national awareness raising campaign activities. This publication includes general information on ozone treaties, implementing agencies and the national phase-out plan.



*Three Among Millions: Awareness Guide on the Ozone Layer*, published by the Government of Lebanon as part of a Multilateral Fund regional awareness project for West Asia.



# Forthcoming Meetings

24th Open-Ended Working Group Meeting (OEWG), Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 July 2004

Fifth International Conference on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide, Lisbon, Portugal, 27-30 September 2004

6th International Symposium on Chemical and Non-Chemical Soil and Substrate Disinfection, Corfu, Greece, 4-8 October 2004

Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP), Prague, Czech Republic, 22-26 November 2004

This newsletter is available online at: [www.uneptie.org/ozonaction](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction)

**OzonAction**, a tri-annual publication, is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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**Editor:** Mr Robert Lamb

**Publication Manager:** Ms Anne Fenner

**Information Manager:** Mr Jim Curlin

**Photo Courtesy:** Ms Alla Metelitsa and Dr Jonathan Banks

Please send comments and material for publication to Mr Rajendra Shende, Head, Energy and OzonAction Branch, at the address below:

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY,  
INDUSTRY AND ECONOMICS (UNEP DTIE)  
*OzonAction Programme*  
Tour Mirabeau 39-43, Quai André Citroën,  
75739 Paris, Cedex 15, France

TEL: +33 1 44 37 14 50 FAX: +33 1 44 37 14 74

E-MAIL: [ozonaction@unep.fr](mailto:ozonaction@unep.fr)

[www.uneptie.org/ozonaction](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction)

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## Progress in Ratification of the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments

