

## **South Sudan becomes 197th party to the ozone treaties**

On 12 January 2012, the Republic of South Sudan officially deposited the instruments of ratification of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer with the Depository, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in New York, becoming the 197th party to ratify the two treaties. This act by the world's youngest nation has restored the ozone treaties' status as the only universally ratified agreements.

This achievement was [communicated to the parties](#) to the two treaties by the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Mr. Marco Gonzalez, on 18 January 2012.

The two treaties, considered by many to be the most successful multilateral environmental agreements in history, will enter into force for South Sudan on 11 April 2012, before the country even celebrates its first birthday on 9 July 2012.

The instruments of ratification were deposited following the participation of the Minister of Environment of South Sudan, Mr. Alfred Ladu Gore, in the joint ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2011. On this occasion, [the Minister addressed the parties](#), affirming his Government's commitment to ratifying the Protocol and its amendments and requesting the parties' support to enable South Sudan to achieve the targets of the Protocol.

On 20 January 2012, the Ozone Secretariat, on behalf of the parties, [expressed its appreciation to the Minister](#) for his Government's determination to ratify the treaties and its willingness to tackle current environmental challenges.

To inform the public at large of this laudable achievement by South Sudan and the Ozone Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme published [a press release](#) on its website on 23 January 2012, which also contains more details about the ratification and success of the ozone treaties.