



SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2010-2011
TO THE OZONE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

THE OZONE UNIT OF THE GAMBIA WEST AFRICA
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DATED THE 23rd March-2011

The Ozone Unit under the Technical Services Network of the National Environment Agency is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the activities related to the United Nations Environment Programme funded project on Ozone Depleting Substances. The ultimate aim of the Project is to completely phase-out Ozone Depleting Substances from the Gambia and also tries to fulfill any other requirements as enshrined in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer.

Although the Ozone Unit was faced with a lot of challenges in the past, the unit is able to achieve some of its objectives. In a bid to achieving the set goals and objectives of a complete phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances we printed five hundred t-shirts which have already been distributed Nationwide for the common man to read and understand issues related to Ozone depletion. These t-shirts were evenly distributed in all the seven regions of the country.

In observance of world Ozone day on the 16th of September 2010 the Ozone unit organized in kanifing. The programme was graced by students, the police band, and the General public. At the end of the March pass participants were given T Shirts bearing different messages about Ozone Depletion.

As part of the celebrations to mark the world Ozone Day an open day was organized where many dignitaries, students and the general public were introduced to work being carried out by the Ozone Unit. Other units within the Agency were given the opportunity to display their work as well.

In another engagement the unit also organized a quiz for ten lower Basic Schools at the NEA main office grounds. This particular programme was successful for the fact that all the ten schools participated fully. Prizes were given to the best three schools and the remaining seven schools were given consolation prizes. Parents and teachers acknowledged the success of the quiz and some of them even called the office to express their appreciation of how the programme was conducted.

Our refresher trainings also were very successful, because we were able to conduct trainings in three provincial regions of the country for customs and other security officers. With regards refrigeration technicians also we conducted one for Central River Region and one in the Upper River Region.

In a bid to phasing out CFCs an incentive programme was initiated to help end users that are fish processing factory owners to retrofit or replace their equipment running on chlorofluorocarbons.

Four companies were identified and all of the four companies' were given money to either replace or retrofit their equipment. The final National consultancy report was a testimony to this significant achievement.

An inception workshop was organized to kick start the HPMP project preparatory activities.

During the month of April 2010, four Refrigerant Identifiers were distributed to Customs Officials along strategic border posts in the Gambia to strengthen our resolve and commitment in the fight against the smuggling of ODS from other countries.

Our awareness campaign to sensitize the public about matters relating to the depletion of the Ozone Layer is on-going, which includes radio shows in the Community Radio Stations throughout the country. This form of awareness campaign involves panel discussions on the radio during which listeners are given the opportunity to phone-in and ask questions seeking clarifications or even contribute by making suggestions as to the way forward. This particular activity took us to Community Radio Stations in Farafenni, Basse, and Soma.

A draft proposal has been produced for the phase-out of Hydrochlorofluo carbons from the Gambia .The draft is being finalized for submission to EXCOM for approval.