

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE OZONE RESEARCH MANAGERS OF THE PARTIES
TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OZONE
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NATIONAL REPORT

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Introduction

Togo has established regulations for each specific problem in environmental issues. Thus, in the process of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) eliminating, several actions are carried out with significant results at the location of the various stakeholders. But ozone research needs huge efforts and financial support to achieve objectives of the laboratories in developing countries.

This report reviews current research and future research on releases of chemicals.

RESEARCH

In Togo, the research on chemical releases into the environment are conducted by the Laboratory of Atmospheric Chemistry, the laboratory of waste management, the Water Chemistry Laboratory at the University of Lome and the Laboratory of Sanitation Water Science and Environment at the University of Kara. Unfortunately, these laboratories conduct environmental impact studies of ecosystems through physicochemical characterizations of the samples. They lack the necessary scientific equipment to monitor ozone research.

Furthermore, the observation station Kuma Konda National Service of Meteorology provides only the temperature, pressure, rainfall. It is unable to provide data on the evolution of the ozone layer.

The research laboratories are therefore intended to reduce and eliminate or substitute these substances that deplete the ozone layer. The research is mainly based on evaluation of chemical releases into the environment. To this we can include research of Sabi Kokou and Ajavon on the estimation of ODS from 2000 to 2005 in Togo (Sabi, Déchets – revue francophone d'écologie industrielle, 2008, N° 51). In this article the authors evaluated the amounts of CFC11, CFC 12 and HCFC-22 consumed during the period from 2000 to 2005. In the area of waste can also meet the work Koledzi (Koledzi, Déchets – revue francophone d'écologie industrielle, 2011).

Besides research, they conducted training activities for the different actors involved in the issue of ODS. Several actions are also conducted within the framework of the implementation of the Management Plan for Final Disposal of ODS. This work was carried out by the Ministry of Environment with support from UNEP

This involved strengthening the capacities building of those who involved in the management and use of ODS. At the Ministry for the Environment the magazine called the "environment " had initiated in 2009 an information campaign for users and importers of ODS and ODS equipment repairers. The information is based on the dangers of these substances on the environment. These awareness are commonly organized by the National Ozone Unit (focal point) at the location of refrigeration technicians, main manipulators of CFCs. They are also educated on best practices in the refrigeration sector.

PROJECTS

- monitoring the evolution of the stratospheric ozone layer;
- looking for new hazardous substances ;
- rehabilitation of Kouma Konda meteorological station ;
- monitoring the process of reduction and ODS elimination ;
- alternative research ;
- qualitative and quantitative estimation of discharges of pollutants into atmosphere.

NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Needs

- slight scientific equipment for the recovery and recycling of ODS involving research laboratories;
- financial support to the location of the laboratories on the basis of projects submitted to conduct research activities;
- rehabilitation of the station Kouma-Konda station to monitor evolution of stratospheric ozone in the sub-region.

Recommendations

- material and financial support of laboratories in developing countries;
- establishment in Africa of a regional center for research on ozone-climate interactions
- initiation of research projects involving sub-regional researchers from several countries;
- encouragement of research structures in developing countries;
- creation of regional networks and international trade data, information and experiences on ODS;
- industrial involvement in the search for solutions to the ODS;
- more awareness among decision-makers to become more involved in finding solutions to environmental problems.

Conclusion

Despite the availability of researchers to become more involved in research on ozone, the lack of funding slows their activities. For similar reasons, the recommendations of 2008 (7th Meeting) were unsuccessful and no further significant. Unfortunately, when the Ozone Secretariat has launched an appeal to submit projects, we submitted the draft of Togo but no action was taken in our project. So we hope that new opportunities will be offered to submit our research projects.

Kara, 14th march 2011
Prof. Gnon BABA