

Sir/Madam,

General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention: annual progress update and invitation for contributions

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

Despite the disruption the coronavirus pandemic has caused to the meetings under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol for 2020 and 2021, the Ozone Research Managers managed to discuss all required issues at two online sessions of their eleventh meeting (ORM11 part I and II). At the online combined 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, part II, and the 33rd meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (COP12(II)/MOP33) in October 2021, parties took important decisions including three decisions (COP decisions XII/1 and XII/2; and MOP decision XXXIII/4) on matters of relevance to the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations.

In **COP decision XII/1**, the parties were encouraged to adopt and implement, as appropriate, the ORM11 recommendations adopted by the Ozone Research Managers in October 2021 and to accord priority to research and systematic observation activities; maintaining, augmenting restoring and, where feasible, establishing new long-term capacity and infrastructure for the atmospheric monitoring and observation of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol; improved management and analysis of observation data; and support for capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In **COP decision XII/2**, the parties were encouraged to make contributions to the Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations for the purpose of improving the global observing system in line with the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action prepared by the Advisory Committee of the Trust Fund. The Committee was also requested to continue to implement its strategy and plan with the assistance of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Ozone Secretariat.

In **MOP decision XXXIII/4**, the Ozone Secretariat was requested to provide information on options to enhance global and regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in consultation with relevant experts from the Scientific Assessment Panel, the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention.

In this correspondence, I would like to provide a summary of the customary annual update on the status of the Trust Fund and the work of its Advisory Committee, as requested in paragraph 2(d) of decision XI/2 adopted by the COP in 2017. While a progress report was provided to COP12(II) in document UNEP/OzL.Conv.12(II)/8; the current update includes information that has become available since the time of preparation of that document in July this year. The status of financial contributions, the availability of funds to support future activities and the status of activities as at 30 November 2021 are summarized in the annex to this letter:

- Since its establishment in 2015, the Advisory Committee has met nine times and has additionally held discussions by electronic means. It has considered 18 activities requesting support from the Trust Fund and has approved 15 of those, taking into account the availability of funds.

- In December 2020, the Secretariat invited developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit new project proposals by 30 June 2021 for support under the Trust Fund. In response, 10 proposals were submitted by six parties. One of those proposals, already considered by the Committee, was not approved. The remaining nine proposals, listed in table 3C, are currently under the Committee's consideration. The total amount of funds requested in those proposals is \$486,546.
- The Committee has worked to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, including by identifying gaps and needs in research and monitoring; exploring the use of new and cost-effective instrumentation; fostering stronger relationships with related institutions and networks; and developing a strategic plan for mobilizing resources. The Committee's report on the implementation of its strategy and plan was set out in section VII of document UNEP/OzL.Conv.12(II)/8. The Committee will continue to implement its strategy in accordance with the request of the parties in decision XII/2.
- As at 30 November 2021 the total funds received for activities were \$659,376, including financial contributions to the Trust Fund (\$623,831) and contributions made directly to WMO to be used for activities under the Trust Fund (\$35,545). Out of this amount, a total of \$503,522 was disbursed and allocated to activities (completed, ongoing and planned). The total amount of funds currently available for future activities is \$155,854.

As the total amount of funds currently available for future activities (\$155,854) is far less than that requested in the nine proposals currently under the Committee's consideration (\$486,546), the Secretariat wishes to encourage parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund in order to improve the global observing system, in accordance with paragraph 1 of decision XII/2.

I look forward to your cooperation and your continued support in enhancing research and systematic observations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Meg Seki
Executive Secretary

Annex

Status of funds related to activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund

Table 1

Financial contributions to the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Research and Systematic Observations as at 30 November 2021

| Contributing party | Year(s) of contribution | Total contribution (US \$) |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Andorra | 2011 | 5 573 |
| Australia | 2015 | 28 011 |
| Austria | 2017 | 17 773 |
| Czechia | 2006, 2008 | 18 000 |
| Estonia | 2006 | 2 000 |
| Finland | 2003, 2004, 2008–2011, 2013, 2014, 2016–2021 | 77 894 |
| France | 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020–2021 | 74,774 |
| Kazakhstan | 2004–2010, 2013 | 11 361 |
| Norway | 2017-2020 | 125 050 |
| South Africa | 2007, 2008 | 60 000 |
| Spain | 2005, 2006 | 12 341 |
| Sweden | 2018 | 44 121 |
| Switzerland | 2007, 2017, 2018, 2021 | 67 796 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2004, 2008 | 40 987 |
| Subtotal | | 585 681 |
| Other revenue* | | |
| Interest income | | 38 727 |
| Exchange gain/(loss) | | (577) |
| Subtotal | | 38 150 |
| Total income | | 623 831 |

* 2021 figures are interim and may change during closure of accounts.

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Research and Systematic Observations as at 30 November 2021

| | US \$ |
|---|------------------|
| Total income of the Trust Fund (table 1) | 623 831 |
| Contribution by Germany to WMO ¹ | 35 545 |
| Total funds available for activities | 659 376 |
| Total funds disbursed to completed and ongoing activities (table 3.A) | (480 922) |
| Total funds allocated to planned activities (table 3.B) | (22 600) |
| Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (tables 3.A and 3.B) | (503 522) |
| Total funds available for future activities | 155 854 |
| Funds requested in nine project proposal currently under consideration (table 3.C) ² | 486 546 |

¹ Germany contributed €30,000 to WMO in 2017 in support of activities relevant to the Vienna Convention Trust Fund. This amount is converted to US\$ using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 December 2017 (US \$1 = €0.844).

² The Committee decided not to approve three project proposals submitted by Oman, Togo and Pakistan that requested \$50,000, \$786,073 and \$194 000, respectively.

Table 3

Status of activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations as at 30 November 2021 (in US dollars, including administrative costs) #

| A. Completed and ongoing activities | | Funds disbursed |
|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Dobson intercomparison – <i>Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004</i> | 16 950 |
| 2 | Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 116 – <i>Bandung, Indonesia, 5–9 September 2006</i> | 18 193 |
| 3 | Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 176 – <i>Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006</i> | |
| 4 | Dobson intercomparison – <i>Irene, South Africa, 12–30 October and 15–26 November 2009</i> | 25 083 |
| 5 | Workshop on data quality in the total ozone network – <i>Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 14–18 February 2011</i> | 38 227 |
| 6 | Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, Russian Federation, April 2015* | 13 593 |
| 7 | Dobson training course in <i>Hradec Králové, Czechia, 7–14 April 2015</i> ; Dobson training course in <i>Amberd, Armenia, 28 September–4 October 2015</i> | |
| 8 | Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia – <i>Tsukuba, Japan, 7–25 March 2016*</i> | 27 445 |
| 9 | Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania – <i>Melbourne, Australia, 13–24 February 2017*</i> | 20 204 |
| 10 | Dobson intercomparison campaign for North Africa – <i>El Arenosillo, Spain, 4–15 September 2017*</i> | 32 654 |
| 11 | Training workshop for Brewer operators – <i>Sydney, Australia, 4–9 September 2017*</i> | 20 000 ¹ |
| 12 | Joint project proposal by WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch and Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes: Jülich Ozone Sonde Intercomparison Experiment 2017 – <i>Jülich, Germany, 9–20 October and 23 October–3 November 2017</i> | 20 000 |
| 13a | Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 1 – <i>Hradec Králové, Czechia, and Payerne, Zürich and Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18 June–6 July 2018</i> | 25 015 |
| 13b | Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 2 – <i>Kenya, 18–27 March 2019</i> | 17 021 |
| 14 | Dobson intercomparison campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean – <i>Buenos Aires, 4–22 March 2019*</i> | 40 000 ² |
| 15 | Ecuador: The Ecuadorian Highlands Ozonesondes project – <i>Cumbayá, Ecuador, 1 March 2019–30 April 2020</i> | 56 274 |
| 16 | Dobson intercomparison campaign for southern Africa – <i>Irene, South Africa, 7–18 October 2019*</i> | 25 513 |
| 17 | Kyrgyzstan: Technical support, information exchange for atmospheric monitoring at the shore of the high mountain lake, Issyk-Kul (<i>by 30 June 2020</i>) | 33 900 |
| 19 | Comoros: Project on the establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros | 50 850 |
| Subtotal | | 480 922 |
| B. Planned activities | | Funds allocated |
| 18a | Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway) to Belarus* | 22 600 |
| 18b | Preparing for and undertaking intercomparison sessions of three instruments to monitor total ozone and ultraviolet radiation in Belarus ³ | |
| Subtotal | | 22 600 |
| Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (Tables 3.A and 3.B) | | 503 522 |

The numbering of activities is based on the order of their approval by the Advisory Committee.

* Activity listed for priority funding by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting in May 2014.

¹ The activity was also supported by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund with an additional \$20,000.

² The Trust Fund disbursed only \$40,000 out of the \$50,000 originally allocated. WMO contributed an additional \$10,000.

³ Dobson no. 8 will be relocated to Belarus for a two-year period as a loan to enable the party to implement its project, previously indicated as Activity 20.

| C. Activities under consideration | | Funds requested |
|--|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Brazil: South American Brewer Spectrophotometer network ** | 99 681 |
| 2 | China: 1. International Integration and Capacity Building for Observations of controlled Substances in Asian Developing Countries | 50 000 |
| 3 | China: 2. International and Domestic Communication on ODS and HFCs Monitoring Technology, Data Analysis and Quality Control Methods | 50 000 |
| 4 | Ecuador: 1. Expanding ozone sounding operations in Ecuador from the Andes to the Galapagos Islands: the ECHOZ-SHADOZ synergy | 36 945 |
| 5 | Ecuador: 2. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation and its dermatological effects in productive sector workers in the Pichincha, Guayas, Manabí, Pastaza and Galápagos provinces of Ecuador | 50 000 |
| 6 | Ecuador: 3. Establishment of the “Mitad del Mundo” solar energy and ozone research centres (Ciensolo) | 50 000 |
| 7 | India: 1. Capacity Building and Awareness Workshop on Stratospheric and Tropospheric Ozone Measurements and Calibration of Ozone Measuring Equipment | 49 920 |
| 8 | India: 2. Impact of trace gases emissions changes on the stratospheric ozone layer and the present day and future climate over South Asia | 50 000 |
| 9 | Mexico: UV-B solar radiation monitoring in Central America and the Caribbean as an indirect way to gain knowledge on the condition and behavior of the ozone layer ** | 50 000 |
| Total funds requested | | 486 546 |

** Regional project.