

Ref: Oz-Sec/VCTF Monitoring/SM

23 November 2022

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.

I have the honour to refer to decisions on matters of relevance to the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations, adopted by the parties 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, and the 34th meeting of the Parties (MOP34) in November 2022. An outline of those decisions is set out in annex I to this letter.

In accordance with paragraph 2(d) of decision XI/2 adopted by the COP in 2017, I would also like to provide a brief update on the status of the Trust Fund and the work of its Advisory Committee which oversees the Trust Fund activities and the implementation of the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for this Fund. The status of financial contributions, the availability of funds to support future activities and the status of activities as at 31 October 2022 are outlined in annex II to this letter. Summaries of the completed activities are available at the [Secretariat's website](#).

- Since its establishment in 2015, the Advisory Committee has met eleven times and has had intersessional consultations, as necessary. It has considered 28 activities requesting support from the Trust Fund and by 31 October 2022 it approved 15 of those, taking into consideration the availability of funds.
- In 2021 and 2022, the Committee considered 11 project proposals which were submitted by seven parties in response to the Secretariat's invitation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in December 2020. While one of those proposals was dismissed by the Committee, a decision on which of the remaining ten proposals (listed in annex II, table 3C) to fund was reached at the Committee's eleventh meeting, held in November 2022. All proposers will be informed on the Committee's conclusions accordingly and some may be requested to provide further clarifications, as necessary.
- The total funds requested in nine of the ten proposals considered recently by the Committee is US \$486,546. The cost of one proposal is yet to be determined.
- The Committee has been working to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, outlined in section VII of document [UNEP/OzL.Conv.12\(II\)/8](#), including on identifying gaps and needs in research and monitoring; facilitating the relocation of unused Dobson and Brewer instruments and the use of ozonesondes; fostering stronger relationships with related institutions and networks; and exploring opportunities to leverage and catalyse its resources to safeguard necessary research and observation activities in line with its strategic plan, as requested by the parties in decision XII(II)/2.
- As at 31 October 2022, the total funds received from parties for activities were US\$704,092, including financial contributions to the Trust Fund (US\$668,547) and contributions made directly to WMO to be used for activities under the Trust Fund (US\$35,545). Out of this amount, a total of US\$500,822 was disbursed and allocated to activities (completed, ongoing and planned). The total amount of funds currently available for future activities is US\$203,270. However, at the time of the finalization of the present report, two parties pledged to contribute a total of €28,000 which will raise the amount available for future activities to approximately US\$232,000.

- In-kind contributions have also been provided by at least ten parties to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement activities supported by the Trust Fund.

As the total amount of funds currently available for future activities (US\$203,270) is far less than that requested in the proposals recently considered by the Committee (US\$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.



Megumi Seki Nakamura
Executive Secretary

Annex I

COP and MOP decisions of relevance to the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations and the work of its Advisory Committee

In [COP decision XII\(II\)/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\(II\)/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, 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, to provide to the parties at the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG45) in 2023 information on options to enhance global and regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol including on the identification of suitable locations for possible high-frequency measurements and flask sampling for regions with no or insufficient coverage. The Secretariat provided a progress report to OEWG44 in July 2022, as was also requested in the decision.

In [MOP decision XXXIV/5](#),¹ the Protocol's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel was requested to prepare a report for OEWG45 on chemical pathways in which substantial emissions of controlled substances are likely to occur; best practices available to control these emissions; and gaps in understanding the sources of such emissions. It is expected that the Panel's report will inform the parties' discussions on the identification of gaps in the global coverage of atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances and options for enhancing such monitoring. The information will also inform the work of the Advisory Committee in implementing its long-term strategy for the Trust Fund.

¹ Currently included in a document compiling all decisions adopted by the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (unedited advance).

Annex II

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 31 October 2022

Contributing party	Year(s) of contribution	Total contribution (US \$)
Andorra	2011	5 573
Australia	2015	28 011
Austria ¹	2017	17 773
Czechia	2006, 2008	18 000
Estonia	2006	2 000
Finland ¹	2003, 2004, 2008–2011, 2013, 2014, 2016–2020, 2021	77 894
France	2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022	84 794
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
Netherlands	2022	32 258
Subtotal		627 959
Investment revenue		
Interest income		41 096
Exchange gain/(loss)		(508)
Subtotal		40 588
Total income		668 547

¹ At the time of finalizing this report, Austria and Finland pledged to contribute €20,000 and €8,000, respectively, towards financing activities on research and systematic observations.

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Research and Systematic Observations as of November 2022

	US \$
Total income of the Trust Fund (table 1)	668 547
Contribution by Germany to WMO ²	35 545
Total funds available for activities	704 092
Total funds disbursed to completed and ongoing activities (table 3. A)	(478 222)
Total funds allocated to planned activities (table 3. B)	(22 600)
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (tables 3.A and 3.B)	(500 822)
Total funds available for future activities	203 270³
Funds requested in a project proposal currently under consideration (table 3. C)	486 546

² 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).

³ Upon inclusion of contributions against the pledges by Austria and Finland, amounting to a total of €28,000, the available funds for future activities will increase to approximately \$232,000.

Table 3

Status of activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations as of 31 October 2022 (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 (22 January 2020 - to be determined) ³	33 900
18	Comoros: Establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros (15 April 2021 - to be determined) ⁴	48 150 ⁵
Subtotal		478 222
B. Planned activities		Funds allocated
1	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway, and property of the Norwegian Polar Institute) to Belarus* (On hold) ⁶	22 600
Subtotal		22 600
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (Tables 3.A and 3.B)		500 822

* 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 activity was also supported by a WMO trust fund with an additional \$10,000.

³ The activity is ongoing as its completion, originally planned by 30 June 2020, has been delayed due to issues related to the coronavirus disease pandemic.

⁴ The activity is ongoing as its completion, originally planned by 30 April 2022, has been delayed due to technical and administrative issues.

⁵ The activity is also supported by WMO with an additional \$10,554.

⁶ The relocation of Dobson no.8 was previously destined for Sri Lanka and then Singapore. Due to Singapore's lack of interest, the Committee decided to lend the instrument to Belarus to assist the party to implement its proposal entitled "Preparing for and undertaking intercomparison sessions of three instruments to monitor total ozone and ultraviolet radiation in Belarus". The project is presently on hold due to the current political and economic situation in the country.

C. Activities under consideration		Funds requested
1	Brazil: South American Brewer Spectrophotometer Network ^a	99 681
2	China: International integration and capacity-building for observations of controlled substances in Asian developing countries	50 000
3	China: International and domestic communication on ODS and HFC monitoring technology, data analysis and quality control methods	50 000
4	Ecuador: Expanding ozone sounding operations in Ecuador from the Andes to the Galapagos Islands: the ECHOZ-SHADOZ synergy	36 945
5	Ecuador: Exposure to ultraviolet radiation and dermatological effects on people linked to productive sectors of the provinces of Pichincha, Guayas, Manabi, Pastaza and Galápagos, in Ecuador	50 000
6	Ecuador: Implementation of the Research Centre on Solar Energy and Ozone “Mitad del Mundo”	50 000
7	India: Capacity-building and awareness workshop on stratospheric and tropospheric ozone measurements and calibration of ozone measuring equipment	49 920
8	India: 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: Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band “B” in Central America and the Caribbean ^a	50 000
10	Burkina Faso: Acquisition of a ground-based ozone column measurement instrument	TBD ^b
Total funds requested		486 546

^a Regional project.

^b To be determined, based on further information to be requested from the party.