

Ref: Oz-Sec/VCTF Monitoring/SM

16 October 2023

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

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to refer to decisions on matters of relevance to the General Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention, 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) held in October 2021, and the 34th meeting of the Parties (MOP34) held in November 2022. An outline of those decisions and their follow up 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 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 30 September 2023 are outlined in annex II to this letter. Summaries of the completed projects are available on the [Secretariat's website](#).

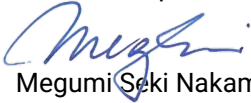
- Since its establishment in 2015, the Advisory Committee has met thirteen times and has had intersessional consultations, as necessary. It has considered 29 activities requesting support from the Trust Fund and by 30 September 2023 it approved 17 of those, taking into consideration the availability of funds.
- From 2021 to 2023, 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. One of those proposals was dismissed for not fulfilling some basic required criteria. Out of the remaining ten proposals, three were approved (listed in table 3B of Annex II to this letter), and one is still under consideration (set out in table 3C of Annex II to this letter) pending the provision of further clarifications.
- As requested by the parties in COP decision XII(II)/2, the Advisory Committee has been working to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, paying particular attention to 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. A report on the Committee's work will be prepared for the consideration of COP13 in 2024, as also requested in that decision.
- As at 30 September 2023, the total funds received from parties for implementation of approved activities were US\$764,062, including financial contributions to the Trust Fund (US\$728,517) 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\$626,122 was disbursed and allocated to activities (completed, ongoing and planned). The total amount of funds currently available for future activities is US\$137,940. However, at the time of the finalization of the present report, two parties pledged to contribute a total of €40,000 which will raise the amount available for future activities to approximately US\$175,000.
- 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 Advisory Committee has considered all project proposals that were submitted in response to the Secretariat's call in December 2020, a call for a new round of project proposal submissions will be sent out to developing countries and countries with economies in transition before the end of 2023.

In anticipation of the costs for the implementation of the expected new proposals, 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 COP decision XII(II)/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 and a final report to OEWG45 in July 2023, as was also requested in the decision.

In [MOP decision XXXIV/5](#), the Protocol's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel was requested to prepare a report 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. The Panel presented its report to OEWG45, as requested in the decision.

At MOP35, to be held from 23 to 27 October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, the parties will continue their discussions on issues related to identification of gaps in the global coverage of atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances and options for enhancing such monitoring, taking into consideration the information provided in response to decisions XXXIII/4 and XXXIV/5. The outcome of those discussions may inform the work of the Advisory Committee in implementing its long-term strategy for the Trust Fund.

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 of 30 September 2023

Contributing party	Year(s) of contribution	Total contribution (US \$)
Andorra	2011	5 573
Australia	2015	28 011
Austria	2017, 2022	38 349
Czechia	2006, 2008	18 000
Estonia	2006	2 000
Finland	2003, 2004, 2008–2011, 2013, 2014, 2016–2020, 2021,2022	86 235
France*	2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022	84 975
Kazakhstan	2004–2010, 2013	11 361
Netherlands**	2022	32 609
Norway	2017–2020	122 825
South Africa	2007, 2008	60 000
Spain	2005, 2006	12 341
Sweden	2018, 2022	60 726
Switzerland	2007, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022	83 600
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2004, 2008	40 987
Subtotal		687 592
Investment revenue		
Interest income		41 305
Exchange gain/(loss)		(380)
Subtotal		40 925
Total income		728 517

* A pledge of EUR10,000 was received on 16 August 2023. Funds from the donor are awaited.

**A pledge of EUR30,000 was received on 25 July 2023. Funds from the donor are awaited.

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Research and Systematic Observations as of 30 September 2023

	US \$
Total income of the Trust Fund (table 1)	728 517
Contribution by Germany to WMO ¹	35 545
Total funds available for activities	764 062
Total funds disbursed to completed and ongoing activities (table 3. A)	(480 922)
Total funds allocated to planned activities (table 3. B)	(145 200)
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (tables 3.A and 3.B)	(626 122)
Total funds available for future activities	137 940
Funds requested on project proposals currently under consideration (table 3. C)	50 000

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).

Table 3

Status of activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations as of 30 September 2023 (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, <i>Russian Federation, April 2015*</i>	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: <i>Jülich Ozone Sonde Intercomparison Experiment 2017 – 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, <i>Issyk-Kul, 22 January 2020–30 November 2022</i> ³	33 900
18	Comoros: Project on the establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros, <i>15 April 2021–30 April 2022</i> ⁴	50 850 ⁵
Subtotal		480 922
B. Planned activities		Funds allocated
1	Brazil: South American Brewer Spectrometer Network	50 000 ⁶
2	Burkina Faso: Acquisition of a ground-based ozone column measurement instrument	22 600
3	Mexico: Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band “B” in Central America and the Caribbean	50 000 ⁷
4	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway, and property of the Norwegian Polar Institute) to Belarus* (On hold) ⁸	22 600
Subtotal		145 200
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (Tables 3.A and 3.B)		626 122

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

¹ Additional financial support (\$20,000) provided by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund.

² Additional financial support (\$10,000) provided by the WMO trust fund.

³ Implementation delays due to the coronavirus pandemic and administrative issues.

⁴ Implementation delays due to technical and administrative issues.

⁵ Additional financial support (\$10,544) provided by the WMO trust fund.

⁶ Additional financial support (to be determined) provided by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund.

⁷ Funds to be dispatched once commitment letters from all countries involved are received.

⁸ Dobson no.8, previously destined for Sri Lanka and then Singapore, is to be deployed as a loan to Belarus to enable implementation of the party's proposal entitled “Preparing for and undertaking intercomparison sessions of three instruments to monitor total ozone and ultraviolet radiation in Belarus”. The project is currently on hold due to transport and travel restrictions.

C. Activities under consideration		Funds requested
1	Ecuador: Implementation of the Research Centre on Solar Energy and Ozone “Mitad del Mundo” ¹	50 000
Total funds requested		50 000

¹ Ecuador has not responded to the Committee’s request for further information (conveyed by the Secretariat on 15 December 2022).

D. Activities not approved #		Funds requested
1	China: International integration and capacity-building for observations of controlled substances in Asian developing countries	50 000
2	China: International and domestic communication on ODS and HFC monitoring technology, data analysis and quality control methods	50 000
3	Ecuador: Expanding ozone sounding operations in Ecuador from the Andes to the Galapagos Islands: the ECHOZ-SHADOZ synergy	36 945
4	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
5	India: Capacity-building and awareness workshop on stratospheric and tropospheric ozone measurements and calibration of ozone measuring equipment	49 920
6	India: Impact of trace gases emissions changes on the stratospheric ozone layer and the present-day and future climate over South Asia	50 000
Total funds requested		286 865

The listed activities were submitted in response to the Secretariat’s call to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in December 2020.