Ozone Secretariat

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21 November 2025

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 provide a brief update on the status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the work of the Advisory Committee overseeing the activities and the implementation of the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for this Fund. The briefing is consistent with the requests of the parties for progress reports set out in decisions XI/2 and XIII/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention on the General Trust Fund and decision XXXVI/1 of the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on enhancing regional atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances.

Pursuant to decisions XIII/2 and XXXVI/1, the purpose of the General Trust Fund has been broadened to support not only activities on monitoring of ozone and ultraviolet (UV) radiation but also activities related to the atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee has been expanded to include experts in such monitoring. A report on the Committee's new structure and terms of reference was provided by the Ozone Secretariat to the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at its forty-seventh meeting in July 2025 (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/47/2).

The status of financial contributions to the General Trust Fund since its inception in 2003, the availability of funds to support future activities on ozone and UV radiation and the status of such activities as at 31 October 2025 are outlined in the annex to this letter. The status of all approved activities to date is also graphically presented on the Secretariat's website, along with summaries of all completed projects.

Key information on the status of the General Trust Fund and the work of its Advisory Committee is summarized in the following paragraphs:

- Since its establishment in 2015, the Advisory Committee has met 19 times, with the two most recent meetings held in its expanded form, and has also undertaken intersessional consultations, as necessary. To date, the Committee has reviewed 44 activities related to ozone and UV radiation monitoring requesting financial support and, as at 31 October 2025, it had approved 28 of those, taking into consideration the availability of funds.

- In response to the Secretariat's call to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in November 2023 for submission of project proposals on ozone and UV radiation monitoring, in 2024 and 2025 the Advisory Committee received and considered 19 proposals, out of which it approved six, listed in table 3B of the annex to this letter. The Secretariat is liaising with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to implement those projects while keeping the Committee informed.

- As at 31 October 2025, the total funds received from parties for implementation of approved activities related to ozone and UV radiation were US$1,106,726 including financial contributions to the General Trust Fund (US$1,071,181) and contributions made directly to WMO to be used for such activities (US$35,545). Out of this amount, a total of US$961,680 was disbursed and allocated to activities (completed, ongoing and planned). The total amount of funds currently available for future activities is US$145,046.

- In-kind contributions have also been provided by at least 10 parties to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement activities supported by the General Trust Fund.

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- In addition to matters related to ozone and UV radiation, at its eighteenth and nineteenth meetings, held in June and October 2025, respectively, the Advisory Committee considered the suitability of potential sites for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances. At the latter meeting, the Committee recommended the use of a phased monitoring approach and identified 10 possible locations around the globe for the establishment of such monitoring stations. Those considerations were informed by prior informal discussions held by Committee members with expertise in such monitoring. Furthermore, Committee members provided valuable input to the Secretariat's work on updating cost estimates for the establishment and operation of stations for atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances, as requested in decision XXXVI/1. A summary of the Committee's and Secretariat's work on this matter was presented to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties, held from 3 to 7 November 2025 (documents UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/2/Add.1 and UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/INF/6, and the presentation by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat).

- In accordance with decision XXXVII/1, set out in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/9/Add.1, the Committee will continue to advise the Secretariat on the evaluation of the suitability of potential sites for monitoring emissions of controlled substances situated within the regions and locations it has identified in the information provided to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties, taking also into consideration the voluntary participation of and consultations with the concerned parties.

- In accordance with paragraph 1 of decision XXXVI/1, in 2025 an amount of US$60,000 was used from the 2025 cash balance of the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol, on an exceptional basis, to support activities under the General Trust Fund related to evaluating the suitability of potential sites for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances, out of the US$400,000 allocated. In decision XXXVII/1 the Secretariat was requested to carry out such activities with a 2026 budget line item of US$100,000 from the same cash balance, on an exceptional basis. Any such activities will be carried out in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

As the Advisory Committee has considered all project proposals that were submitted in response to the Secretariat's call in November 2023, a call for a new round of submissions will be sent out to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the first quarter of 2026.

In anticipation of the new proposals to be considered for funding, the Secretariat wishes to encourage parties to make contributions to the General Trust Fund for the purpose of improving the global ozone observing system and for enhancing the global and regional monitoring of controlled substances, in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision XIII/2 of the Conference of the Parties.

I look forward to our 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

Status of funds related to activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention

Table 1

Financial contributions to the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 October 2025

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, 2023, 2024	96 873
France	2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025	118 054
Ireland	2024	31 646
Kazakhstan	2004–2010, 2013	11 361
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025	130 403
Norway	2017–2020, 2023, 2024	166 669
South Africa	2007, 2008	60 000
Spain	2005, 2006	12 341
Sweden	2018, 2022, 2023, 2024	98 621
Switzerland	2007, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025	136 320
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2004, 2008	40 987
Subtotal		**995 208**
Investment revenue		
Interest income		74 640
Exchange gain/(loss)		1 333
Subtotal		**75 973**
Total income		**1 071 181**

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 October 2025

	US $
Total income of the Trust Fund (table 1)	1 071 181
Contribution by Germany to WMO[1]	35 545
Total funds available for activities	**1 106 726**
Total funds disbursed to completed and ongoing activities (table 3. A)	(622 398)
Total funds allocated to planned activities (table 3. B)	(339 282)
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (tables 3.A and 3.B)	**(961 680)**
Total funds available for future activities[2]	**145 046**

[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] Unspent funds, from the German contribution, of US$18,524, included in this amount, is held at WMO accounts.

Table 3

Status of activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 October 2025
(in US dollars, including administrative costs)

A. Completed and ongoing activities		Funds disbursed (US$)
1	Dobson intercomparison – *Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004*	16 950
2	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 116 – *Bandung, Indonesia, 5–9 September 2006*	18 193
3	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 176 – *Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006*	
4	Dobson intercomparison – *Irene, South Africa, 12–30 October and 15–26 November 2009*	25 083
5	Workshop on data quality in the total ozone network – *Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 14–18 February 2011*	38 227
6	Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, *Russian Federation, April 2015** and Dobson training course in *Hradec Králové, Czechia, 7–14 April 2015*	13 593
7	Dobson training course in *Amberd, Armenia, 28 September–4 October 2015*	
8	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia – *Tsukuba, Japan, 7–25 March 2016**	27 445
9	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania – *Melbourne, Australia, 13–24 February 2017**	20 204
10	Dobson intercomparison campaign for North Africa – *El Arenosillo, Spain, 4–15 September 2017**	32 654
11	Training workshop for Brewer operators – *Sydney, Australia, 4–9 September 2017**	20 000[1]
12	Joint project proposal by WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch and Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes: Jülich Ozone Sonde Intercomparison Experiment 2017 – *Jülich, Germany, 9–20 October and 23 October–3 November 2017*	20 000
13a	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 1 – *Hradec Králové, Czechia, and Payerne, Zürich and Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18 June–6 July 2018*	25 015
13b	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 2 – *Kenya, 18–27 March 2019*	17 021
14	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean – *Buenos Aires, 4–22 March 2019**	40 000[2]
15	Ecuador: The Ecuadorian Highlands Ozonesondes project – *Cumbayá, Ecuador, 1 March 2019–30 April 2020*	56 274
16	Dobson intercomparison campaign for southern Africa – *Irene, South Africa, 7–18 October 2019**	25 513
17	Kyrgyzstan: Technical support, information exchange for atmospheric monitoring at the shore of the high mountain lake, *Issyk-Kul, 22 January 2020- 30 November 2022*[3]	33 900
18	Comoros: Project on the establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros, *15 April 2021 - 30 April 2022*[4]	50 850[5]
19	Brazil: South American Brewer Spectrometer Network *Santa Maria, Brazil, 23 February – 8 March 2024*	52 804[6]
20	WMO (Part 1) on behalf of Africa, Regional Association I (RA-I) and Europe (RA-VI): A joint intercomparison campaign of Brewers and Dobson Spectrophotometer of regions RA-I and RA-VI–	33 900[7]

* 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 amount of $20,000.
[2] The activity was also supported by WMO trust fund with an additional amount of $10,000.
[3] The activity was completed on 12 July 2023 owing to project delays caused by the corona virus pandemic.
[4] The activity was completed on 30 May 2024 owing to implementation delays caused by technical and administrative issues.
[5] The activity was also supported by WMO with an additional amount of $10,544.
[6] The activity was also supported by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund with an additional amount of $35,480.
[7] The activity was also supported by Spain's National Institute for Aerospace Technology and the State Meteorological Agency, as well as the German Meteorological Service with an additional amount of $131,685.

	El Arenosillo, Spain, 15 to 28 June 2025	
	WMO (Part 2) on behalf of Africa (RA-I) and Europe (RA-VI): Training course for the RA-I participants of the joint intercomparison campaign – *El Arenosillo, Spain, 15 - 28 June 2025*	54 772[8]
	Subtotal funds	**622 398**
B. Planned activities		**Funds allocated (US$)**
1	Argentina: Recalibration campaign of Dobson Spectrophotometer Network in the Latin America region *Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 2026*	58 343
2	Japan: Regional Intercomparison of Dobson Spectrophotometers for Asia *Tsukuba, Japan, 2026*	57 461
3	Chile: Renovation and maintenance of stations of the ultraviolet radiation network in Chile *Santiago, Chile, 2025*	56 819
4	Indonesia: Monitoring of the dynamics of ozone and UV radiation in Indonesia *Bandung, Indonesia, 2025*	53 659
5	Mexico: Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band "B" in Central America and the Caribbean *Mexico City, Mexico, 2025*	56 500
6	Morrocco: Ground-based total column observation in Africa using PANDORA spectrometer *Ben Guerir, Morocco, 2025*	56 500
	Subtotal funds	**339 282**
	Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (Tables 3.A and 3.B)	**961 680**

C. Activities on hold[1]		**Funds allocated (US$)**
1	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway, and property of the Norwegian Polar Institute) to *Belarus**	-
2	Burkina Faso: Acquisition of a ground-based ozone column measurement instrument	-

[1] Due to political instability in the relevant country/region. The funds allocated to each activity (US$ 22 600) have been repurposed.

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

[8] The activity was also supported by Spain's State Meteorological Agency and WMO with an additional amount of $10,205.