Ozone Secretariat

Ref: Oz-Sec/VCGTF Monitoring

20 November 2026

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,

In accordance with paragraph 6 of decision VII/2, adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and relevant subsequent decisions, I have the honour to invite your Government to make voluntary contributions to the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention, and to report on the status of the General Trust Fund and its activities. The report also includes a summary of the work of the Advisory Committee for the General Trust Fund overseeing those activities and the implementation of the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Fund, as requested in decision XI/2 of the Conference of the Parties.

In decision XIII/2, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2024, the purpose of the General Trust Fund was confirmed to include support for activities relating not only to monitoring of ozone and ultraviolet (UV) radiation, but also to atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. In line with the same decision, the Advisory Committee has been enlarged to include experts in atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances. The current composition of the Advisory Committee and its terms of reference are set out on the Secretariat's website.

The annex to this letter contains the report on the financial contributions received to date from parties for activities relating to ozone and UV radiation, and the status of its activities as at 31 October 2026. An overview of the approved activities, managed by the Ozone Secretariat, along with summaries of completed activities and the respective reports is available on the Secretariat's website.

Key information on the status of contributions, activities and the work of the Advisory Committee is summarized in the following paragraphs:

- As at 31 October 2026, the total funds received from parties for the implementation of activities related to ozone and UV radiation, net of foreign exchange gain and loss and interest earned, amounted to US$1,179,454. In addition, financial contributions amounting to US$35,545 were made directly to WMO.

- As at 31 October 2026, a total of US$887,610 has been disbursed or allocated to completed, ongoing or planned activities. The total amount of funds currently available for future activities is US$327,389 of which US$3,375 is held by WMO.

- 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.

- Since the inception of the General Trust Fund in 2003, pursuant to decision VI/2 of the Conference of the Parties, support has been provided for the implementation of 28 activities managed by the Ozone Secretariat and one managed by WMO. Since 2015, activities have been overseen by the Advisory Committee of the General Trust Fund, established by decision X/3 of the Conference of the Parties. To date, the Committee has evaluated 60 activities submitted by developing countries and countries with economies in transition for support under the General Trust Fund, taking into account the availability of funds.

- In response to the Secretariat's November 2023 call inviting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit project proposals on ozone and UV monitoring, in 2024 and 2025 the Advisory Committee received and considered 19 proposals, out of which it approved six (activities 20–22 in table 3.A and activities 1–3 in table 3.B).

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- In June 2026 the Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, invited developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit new project proposals on ozone and UV monitoring for support under the General Trust Fund. In response, 16 proposals were submitted by 15 parties, amounting to a total funding request of US$835,856. The proposals were forwarded to the Advisory Committee for initial consideration at its 21st meeting, held online on 19 October 2026. The Committee is expected to conclude its review at its next meeting in early 2027.

- In accordance with its mandate to develop a long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the General Trust Fund, set out in decision X/3, the Advisory Committee has also been reporting to the Conference of the Parties on progress in implementing the strategy and plan of action, as well as on emerging considerations. The Committee will present an update on these matters to the Ozone Research Managers at their thirteenth meeting, to be held from 21 to 23 April 2027 in Geneva, ahead of submitting its final report to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2027.

- In addition to matters related to ozone and UV radiation, since its eighteenth meeting in June 2025, the Advisory Committee has been considering issues related to atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances, including the suitability of potential sites around the globe for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances, the potential for partnering with relevant scientific institutions, available infrastructure at possible sites and potential cost savings, calibration of equipment, data validation, data sharing and consultations with concerned parties to clarify technical issues. In 2026, summaries of the Committee's and Secretariat's work on these matters were presented to the forty-eighth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in July 2026 and the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties in early November 2026 (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/48/2/Add.1 and presentation; UNEP/OzL.Pro.38/2/Add.1 and presentation).

- Advisory Committee members have also been providing 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, adopted by the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The first version of an online interactive tool to estimate such costs, developed by the Secretariat, is available on the Secretariat's website for use by interested parties and other stakeholders.

- In decision XXXVII/1, the Secretariat was requested by the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to carry out activities under the General Trust Fund related to evaluating the suitability of potential sites for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances. For this purpose, an amount of US$100,000 was allocated from the 2026 cash balance of the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol, on an exceptional basis. By the time of the current correspondence, US$50,000 of this allocation had been used to support such activities.

As the total amount of funds currently available for future activities (US$327,389) is far less than that requested in the new proposals recently received from parties (US$835,856), the Secretariat wishes to encourage parties to make contributions to the General Trust Fund for the purpose of improving the global 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 ozone and UV radiation activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations relevant to the Vienna Convention (the "General Trust Fund")

Table 1

Financial contributions to the General Trust Fund as at 31 October 2026

Contributing party	Year(s) of contributions	Total contributions (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, 2026	106 285
France	2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026	129 655
Ireland	2024	31 646
Kazakhstan	2004–2010, 2013	11 361
Lithuania	2026	602
Netherlands	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026	166 075
Norway	2017–2020, 2023, 2024, 2025	193 109
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	2004, 2008	40 987
Subtotal		**1 078 935**
Interest income		98 562
Exchange gain/(loss)		1 957
Subtotal		**100 519**
Total income		**1 179 454**

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the General Trust Fund as at 31 October 2026

Description	Amount (US$)
Total income of the General Trust Fund (table 1)	**1 179 454**
Less: Total funds approved for completed and ongoing activities (table 3.A)[1]	(686 619)
Less: Total funds approved for planned activities (table 3.B)	(168 821)
Total funds available in the General Trust Fund	**324 014**
Contribution by Germany to WMO [2]	35 545
Less: Funds disbursed for approved activity 13 part 2 (table 3.A)	(17 021)
Less: Funds disbursed for an activity managed by WMO [3]	(15 149)
Total funds held by WMO	**3 375**
Total funds available for future activities	**327 389**
Total funds requested for new project proposals (table 3.D)	**835 856**

[1] Excludes the German contribution spent by WMO on activity 13, part 2, and an activity managed by WMO.

[2] Germany contributed €30,000 to WMO in 2017 in support of activities under the General Trust Fund. This amount is converted to US dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 December 2017 (US $1 = €0.844).

[3] Fourteenth intercomparison campaign of the regional Brewer Calibration Centre Europe, El Arenosillo, Spain, 19–29 June 2019.

Table 3

Status of activities under the General Trust Fund as at 31 October 2026
(in US dollars)

A. Completed and ongoing activities		Funds approved*
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*	
3	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 176 – *Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006*	18 193
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
13	Kenya (part 1): Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: *Hradec Králové, Czechia, and Payerne, Zürich and Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18 June–6 July 2018*	42 036
	Kenya (part 2): Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: *Nairobi, Kenya, 18–27 March 2019*	
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 RA-I (Africa) and RA-VI (Europe): A joint intercomparison campaign of Brewers and Dobsons of regions RA-I and RA-VI, *El Arenosillo, Spain, 15–28 June 2025*	36 066[7]
	WMO (Part 2) on behalf of RA-I (Africa) and RA-VI (Europe): Training course for the RA-I participants of the joint intercomparison campaign *El Arenosillo, Spain, 15–28 June 2025*	38 401[8]
21	Japan: Regional Intercomparison of Dobson Spectrophotometers for Asia 2025 *Tsukuba, Japan, 5–25 March 2026*	38 947
22	Morrocco: Ground-based total column observation in Africa using pandora spectrometer *Ben Guerir, Morocco, 2026*	56 500
Total		**703 640**

* Including administrative costs.
** 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 coronavirus 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 National Institute for Aerospace Technology (INTA, Spain), the State Meteorological Agency (AEMET, Spain) and the German Meteorological Service (DWD, Germany) with an additional amount of $131,685.
[8] The activity was also supported by Canadian Brewer Trust Fund (ECCC, Canada), AEMET and WMO with an additional amount of $24,695.

B. Planned activities		Funds approved
1	Argentina: Recalibration campaign of Dobson Spectrophotometer Network in the Latin America region, *Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1–19 March 2027*	58 343
2	Chile: Renovation and maintenance of stations of the ultraviolet radiation network in Chile *Santiago, Chile, 2026*	56 819
3	Indonesia: Monitoring of the dynamics of ozone and UV radiation in Indonesia *Bandung, Indonesia, 2026*	53 659
Subtotal funds		**168 821**

C. Activities approved that are on hold or cancelled	
1	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway, and property of the Norwegian Polar Institute) to Belarus[1]
2	Burkina Faso: Acquisition of a ground-based ozone column measurement instrument[2]
3	Mexico: Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band "B" in Central America and the Caribbean *Mexico City, Mexico, 2025*[3]

[1] Activity listed for priority funding by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting in May 2014. It has been put on hold due to political instability in the region and the allocated funds (US$ 22 600) have been repurposed.
[2] The activity has been put on hold due to political instability in the country and the allocated funds (US$ 22 600) have been repurposed.
[3] The activity has been cancelled upon Mexico's request, and the allocated funds (US$56 500) have been repurposed.

D. New project proposals received		Funds requested
1	Afghanistan: Establishment of a Pandora Total Column Ozone and UV Monitoring Station at the General Environmental Protection Authority, *Kabul, Afghanistan*	48 700
2	Argentina: Renovation and calibration of stations of the ultraviolet radiation network in Argentina.	49 656
3	Brazil: II Ibero-American Campaign for the Calibration and Intercomparison of Brewer Spectrophotometers – Part I	50 000
	Brazil: II Ibero-American Campaign for the Calibration and Intercomparison of Brewer Spectrophotometers – Part II – Training Course.	47 300
4	Burundi: Systematic observations of total ozone and solar UV radiation over Bujumbura	49 650
5	China: Calibration of a newly deployed ozonesonde type at the WMO World Calibration Centre for Ozone Sondes and quantification of its measurement uncertainty	49 000
6	China: Capacity building for the total column ozone primary calibration site at the GAW regional observatory Xiang Ge Ri-La (XGRL)	49 000
7	Comoros: Strengthening total ozone and UV index monitoring in the Comoros and the Indian Ocean through regional and international cooperation	49 550
8	Cuba: Strengthening UV Index Monitoring and Assessment of Biological Effects of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation in Havana	44 000[1]
9	Haiti: Ayiti ap veye (Haiti is keeping watch)	50 000
10	Kenya: Operational evaluation of a BTS-Solar array spectroradiometer for sustainable total column ozone monitoring at the Nairobi GAW station	50 000
11	Kyrgyzstan: Restoration of Brewer IV spectrophotometer for continuous monitoring of atmospheric ozone at the Issyk-Kul OMD scientific station	50 000
12	Mexico: Integration and strengthening of UVA and UVB radiation monitoring in the Mexican Solarimetric Service Network.	50 000
13	State of Palestine: Establishment of a National Stratospheric Ozone and Surface Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring Capability in the State of Palestine	49 000
14	Peru: Strengthening technical-operational capacity for UV radiation monitoring and forecasting in the southern region of Peru	50 000
15	South Africa: Calibration of South African Weather Service UV-Biometer Network	50 000
16	Uganda: Strengthening Uganda's Ground-Based Stratospheric Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring Capacity to Address Observational Gaps in the African Equatorial Belt	50 000
Total funds requested		**835 856**

[1] Cuba provided a range of estimated costs (US$ 41 800–44 000). The highest amount was used to calculate the total funds requested.