



## Key achievements of the Montreal Protocol to date

The work of the Montreal Protocol is not done and much remains to be accomplished before the protection of the ozone layer can be assured for this and future generations. Nevertheless, the Parties to the Protocol have accomplished a great deal since the treaty was adopted in 1987.

**Truly global participation:** As noted above the Montreal Protocol is the only treaty ever to achieve universal ratification; it thus demonstrates the world's commitment to ozone protection and, more broadly, global environmental protection.

**Healing the ozone layer:** Results from continuing global observations have confirmed that atmospheric levels of key ozone depleting substances are going down and it is believed that with continued, full implementation of the Protocol's provisions the ozone layer should return to pre-1980 levels by the middle of this century.

**Achieving major reduction goals:** By 2010 virtually all Parties had reported compliance with their phase out obligations in respect of CFCs, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, n-propyl bromide and chlorobromomethane. As a consequence, the Protocol has now led to the phase-out of 98 per cent of the historic levels of production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

**Supporting developing countries:** With the assistance of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol developing countries had, by mid-2011, permanently phased out over 260,000 tonnes of ozone depleting substances that had been used to produce various products;

**High rates of compliance:** Taking into account all parties to the Protocol and all their phase-out commitments, the parties have achieved a compliance rate of over 98 per cent. Further, in the process of phasing-out many countries, both developed and developing, have met their phase-out targets well ahead of schedule;

**Health benefits:** Controls implemented under the Montreal Protocol have enabled the global community to avoid millions of cases of fatal skin cancer and tens of millions of cases of non-fatal skin cancer and eye cataracts. The United States estimates that by the year 2065 more than 6.3 million skin cancer deaths will have been avoided in that country alone and that efforts to protect the ozone layer will have saved it an estimated US\$4.2 trillion in healthcare costs over the period 1990–2065. In addition, in 2011 the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimated that more than 22 million Americans born between 1985 and 2100 would avoid suffering from cataracts thanks to the Montreal Protocol;

**Climate benefits:** The Protocol has also delivered substantial climate benefits. Because most ozone depleting chemicals are also greenhouse gases, the Protocol has already averted greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. These significant reductions make the Montreal Protocol one of the prime contributors to the fight against global warming;

**Global recognition:** In 1995, recognition of the importance of protecting the ozone layer and the contribution of science to doing so came in the form of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, which was awarded to Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina and Paul Crutzen for their pioneering work on ozone depletion. In addition, in 2003, political recognition of the Protocol came in the statement of then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who termed the Montreal Protocol "perhaps the single most successful international environmental agreement to date". More recently, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that "among the considerable number of multilateral agreements agreed between states over the past 40 years, the ... Montreal Protocol stands out. The manner in which this instrument for repairing and recovering the Earth's protective shield has been financed and implemented serves as an inspiring example of what is possible".

