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**Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention
for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
Eighth meeting**

Doha, 16–20 November 2008

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of Vienna Convention and combined Vienna
Convention and Montreal Protocol issues: status of the General
Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic
Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention**

**Report by the Ozone Secretariat on the General Trust Fund for
Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations
relevant to the Vienna Convention and institutional
arrangements in accordance with decision VI/2 of the Conference
of the Parties to the Vienna Convention**

Introduction

1. The present document reports on the status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention. As requested by the Parties in paragraph 8 of decision VII/2, the report includes information on the operation of, contributions to and expenditures from the Trust Fund since its inception.

2. At the preparatory segment of the meeting, the Parties may wish to review the present report. The Parties may wish to note the situation with regard to contributions and the progress made in the implementation of activities under the Trust Fund and, if they so wish, make proposals for an appropriate decision to be taken at the high-level segment of the meeting.

A. Establishment and institutional arrangements

3. By decision VI/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested, in consultation with the World Meteorological

* UNEP/OzL.Conv.8/1-UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/1.

Organization (WMO), to establish an extrabudgetary fund for receiving voluntary contributions from the Parties and international organizations for the purpose of funding certain research and observation activities related to the Convention in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. By that same decision, the Secretariat was requested, among other things, to inform the Parties of the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of related funds, with a specific proposal to meet the requirements identified in the decision. The decision also called on the Parties to review the institutional arrangements for the operation of the fund, taking into account the developments and requirements within other conventions, to avoid duplication of efforts.

4. The Trust Fund was initially established in February 2003 with a five-year term ending on 31 December 2007. By paragraph 2 of decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Director of UNEP, through the Ozone Secretariat, to extend the life of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2015. The UNEP Governing Council in 2007 approved the extension to continue supporting monitoring and research activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

5. The terms of reference for the administration of the Trust Fund were circulated to all Parties in March 2003, together with an invitation to make voluntary contributions. Regarding the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of funds, the Ozone Secretariat and WMO agreed on a memorandum of understanding thereon, which was presented to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The Parties requested UNEP and WMO to continue their cooperation with respect to the Trust Fund pursuant to the terms in that memorandum, on the understanding that that agreement could be changed as necessary to meet evolving needs and conditions.

B. Contributions

6. Several Parties have contributed to the Trust Fund since 2003. Annual contributions are shown in the table below.

Report on the status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 August 2008 (in United States dollars)

<i>Parties</i>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	<i>Total</i>
Czech Republic				8 000			8 000
Estonia				2 000			2 000
Finland	5 700	6 138	–			7 776	19 614
Kazakhstan		1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	7 500
South Africa					30 000	30 000	60 000
Spain			6 306	6 035			12 341
Switzerland					20 677		20 677
United Kingdom		17 538				23 449	40 987
Subtotal	5 700	25 176	7 806	17 535	52 177	62 725	171 119
Interest income	16		1 000	3 000	4 000		8 016
Total							179 135
Less expenditures to date							31 100
Balance available							148 035

C. Activities and expenditures

7. The Ozone Secretariat and WMO have continued to cooperate with respect to the Trust Fund and its activities. Cooperation has been excellent and, thanks to the contributions that several Parties have made to the Trust Fund, the following activities have been carried out to date:

1. Activity 1: Dobson intercomparison, Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004

8. Nine Dobson spectrophotometers from Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles and South Africa were sent to Dahab, Egypt, for intercomparison under the leadership of the Egyptian Meteorological Agency. External experts from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the German Weather Service and the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute participated. Eight of the nine instruments were calibrated and made capable of measuring total ozone with better than 1 per cent accuracy, while one instrument was sent to Germany for repair and calibration before being returned to service.

2. Activity 2: Calibration of Brewer instrument No. 176 in Kathmandu, 20-26 September 2006

9. The calibration was completed at the Kirtipur campus of Tribhuvan University near Kathmandu by an expert from International Ozone Services Inc. with support from the Vienna Convention Trust Fund through WMO. The instrument was installed in early 2001 and operated for two years, but had then been out of service until the expert visit in September 2006. The instrument required a new main power supply and reprogramming of its new electronics.

3. Activity 3: Calibration of Brewer instrument No. 116 in Bandung, Indonesia, 5-9 September 2006

10. The calibration was completed at the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space facilities in Bandung by an expert from International Ozone Services Inc. with support from the Vienna Convention Trust Fund through WMO. The instrument was installed in early 1995 and last visited in 2001, but had been out of service for the past four–five years. The instrument required a new power supply, microboard and ultraviolet filter in front of the photomultiplier tube to return it to service. The Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space supported the work.

11. The funds used from the Trust Fund amounted to \$15,000 for activity 1 and \$16,100 for activities 2 and 3.

12. A comprehensive report on those activities was prepared by WMO and sent to the Parties in 2008, together with a letter from the Secretariat inviting Parties and international organizations to contribute towards the Trust Fund. The letter contained an additional enclosure, a brochure on capacity-building for ozone monitoring in developing countries, prepared jointly by WMO and the Ozone Secretariat to bring to Parties' attention the priority ozone-monitoring activities that required financing and to give an idea of the magnitude of the funds required therefor. The letter also encouraged developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit project ideas to WMO and the Secretariat. In response, Azerbaijan sent a project proposal to the Ozone Secretariat in August 2008, which is being considered by WMO and the Ozone Secretariat.

13. Further activities currently being planned under the Trust Fund are outlined below:

(a) An intercomparison exercise for all the African Dobson instruments will take place in Irene, South Africa, in November 2008. The cost of this exercise, which will also involve experts from Europe and the United States of America, is estimated at around \$86,000 and the Trust Fund will cover the full cost. The in-kind contribution of WMO towards this activity is estimated to be an additional \$5,000;

(b) An intercomparison exercise involving all the Dobson instruments in South and Central America is planned in Buenos Aires towards the end of 2009 or early 2010. This is part of the activities of the WMO Regional Dobson Calibration Centre hosted by the National Meteorological Service of Argentina. The cost of this exercise is estimated at around \$50,000. WMO is currently exploring the possibility of covering a substantial part of this cost from other sources of funding;

(c) Brewer calibration and associated training is being planned in Brazil. The total cost is estimated at \$12,000.

D. Seventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention

14. The seventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers was held in Geneva from 18 to 21 May 2008. Participants were informed of the progress and activities under the Trust Fund. Under the topic of capacity-building, the Ozone Research Managers made recommendations relevant to the Trust Fund as follows:¹

(a) All Parties are urged to make continued contributions to the Trust Fund for observation and research (extended by decision VII/2) which is critical to enabling the capacity-building activities that have been highlighted above. Presently, this fund is far short of satisfying these needs. There is a need for both monetary and in-kind contributions. In the reports on the Trust Fund to the Parties, specific in-kind contributions that are directly targeted at the ozone and UV activities should also be quantified. Past experience and foreseeable needs require a minimum expenditure of \$100,000 per year in addition to various types of in-kind support;

(b) All Parties are urged to submit proposals that seek funding from the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for research and systematic observations or other relevant in-kind support. Proposals can be submitted throughout the year and advice of the WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch Science Advisory Group will also be sought in the evaluation of the project proposals.

¹ WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project, report No. 51, WMO/TD-No. 1437, page 33. The report can be found online at http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/research-mgrs/7orm/7orm-report.pdf.