ATUL BAGAI

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE FOR TEAP SENIOR EXPERT

A highly distinguished environmental policy leader with over 40 years of experience, including 24 years of leadership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and 17 years in the elite Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Demonstrates comprehensive expertise in the Montreal Protocol framework, specializing in the intersection of international policy, industrial technology conversion, and multilateral funding mechanisms. A proven consensus-builder who has directly governed Montreal Protocol bodies, serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Multilateral Fund (MLF) and chief spokesperson for Article 5 countries. Uniquely positioned to serve as a Senior Expert on the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) by bridging high-level multilateral policy with practical, country-level technology implementation.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Montreal Protocol & Treaty Governance:** Deep institutional mastery of Montreal Protocol obligations, Kigali Amendment mandates, and the operational guidelines of the Multilateral Fund (MLF).
- **Technical & Economic Assessment:** Expert in evaluating incremental capital costs (ICC), incremental operating costs (IOC), and technical feasibility parameters for industrial conversions in Article 5 countries.
- **Technology Transfer & Cooling Sector Strategy:** Proven track record in guiding refrigeration, air-conditioning (RAC), and foam sector conversions to low-GWP, energy-efficient alternative technologies.
- **Multilateral Negotiations & Diplomacy:** Decades of experience leading international negotiations, building consensus, and coordinating with the Ozone Secretariat, TEAP, and its Technical Options Committees (TOCs).
- **High-Level Programmatic Leadership:** Successfully managed environmental portfolios up to USD 75 million, driving public–private partnerships, inter-ministerial coordination, and capacity building.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIDO, Vienna | Senior *Expert – Environmental Policy Specialist on Montreal Protocol* *2024 – Present*

- Provide high-level policy and technical counsel to governments in Southeast Asia and South Asia to facilitate compliance with Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment targets.
- Assess the technical and economic viability of transitioning to low-GWP (Global Warming Potential) alternative refrigerants, assisting National Ozone Units (NOUs) in establishing import/export licensing and HFC quota systems.
- Lead the formulation of comprehensive project proposals for MLF replenishment funding, focusing on commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning sector conversions.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) *2000 – 2024*

Country Head, India Office *2017 – 2024*

- Established UNEP's presence in India, growing the environmental portfolio to USD 75 million with a strong focus on climate, sustainable cooling, and chemicals management.
- Spearheaded the integration of Kigali Amendment objectives with the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), mobilizing USD 10 million in technical assistance and investment funding.
- Facilitated strategic public–private partnerships with refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) manufacturers and industry bodies to accelerate the adoption of zero-ODP, low-GWP, and energy-efficient cooling solutions.
- Managed inter-ministerial coordination (including MoEFCC and DPIIT) to build national capacities, upgrade Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for technician training, and implement safety standards for flammable refrigerants.

Senior Regional Coordinator, Asia and Pacific (Paris and Bangkok) *2002 – 2017*

- Directed the compliance assistance program for 47 Article 5 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, ensuring successful ODS phase-out under national schedules.
- Designed and executed the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) model, providing customized policy, technical, and economic guidance to National Ozone Officers.
- Evaluated technical audits, incremental conversion costs, and technology transfer barriers for hundreds of industrial enterprises transitioning away from CFCs and HCFCs.
- Developed and secured ExCom approval for innovative multi-sector projects, including the Maldives HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP)—the first global plan linking ODS phase-out directly with energy-efficiency and climate benefits.
- Founded and scaled the "Green Customs" global initiative in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Interpol to prevent the illegal trade of controlled substances and chemical refrigerants.

Training Officer (Paris) *2000 – 2002*

- Designed and coordinated global capacity-building programs, technical toolkits, and training frameworks to support Article 5 countries in implementing national phase-out strategies.

Government of India *1983 – 2000*

Director, Ozone Cell (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) *1998 – 2000*

- Served as the National Focal Point for Montreal Protocol implementation, overseeing national policy, regulatory enforcement, and technology transition projects.
- Represented Article 5 countries and served as Vice-Chair and subsequent Chair of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Multilateral Fund (MLF). Led the review, technical evaluation, and approval of multi-million-dollar country programs and industrial conversion investments.
- Collaborated closely with TEAP Co-Chairs, Technical Options Committees (TOCs), and implementing partners (including UNDP, UNIDO, and GIZ) to translate technical assessments into practical operational and funding guidelines.
- Acted as the chief negotiator and spokesperson for the G–77 and China during crucial Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) and Meeting of the Parties (MOP) sessions, advocating for equitable funding and technically viable transition timelines.

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) *1983 – 2000*

- Held senior administrative, financial, and policy roles in the Government of India and state governments, including serving as Chief of Staff to the federal Ministers of Finance and External Affairs. Established a deep foundation in economic policy, national planning, and public administration.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Post Graduate Master of Arts in History (Gold Medalist) | St. *Stephen's College, University of Delhi* *Delhi, India*

2-year Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Law | UNITAR *Geneva, Switzerland*

Bachelor of Arts in History | St. *Stephen's College, University of Delhi* *Delhi, India*

Diploma and Post-Diploma in French | University *of Delhi* *Delhi, India*

Diploma in Management and Labour Laws | University *of Calcutta* *Kolkata, India*

HONOURS & AWARDS

- National Order of Merit (Gold) – Conferred by His Majesty the King of Bhutan, 2024 (for outstanding regional environmental leadership)

- Stratospheric Ozone Award – US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 2005 and 2007 (for outstanding technical and policy leadership)
- Policy and Implementation Leadership Award – Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, 2007
- Achievement Award – Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, 2007
- University Gold Medal – University of Delhi, 1981

KEY PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

- *"National Security and Environment: Guidelines for Defense Forces"*, UNEP, TEAP Co-Chair and Ministry of Defense, Government of India, 2009.
- *"Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances"*, UNEP, 2009.
- *"The Montreal Protocol: Partnership changing the World through technology transfer mechanisms"*, 2007.
- *"Interface of Montreal Protocol and Kyoto Protocol: Perspectives of Ministry of Environment, India"*, 1999.