



S.O.S- SAVE OZONE SCIENCE

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Science-based policy making is at the very core of the success of the Montreal Protocol.

The network of ground based ozone monitoring stations in both hemispheres has been one of the basic tools of ozone scientists for measuring the state of the ozone layer.

Ground level ozone monitoring is necessary to cross-reference and to provide full understanding of satellite data. In-situ measurements are essential for validating satellite measurements.

In 1985, the British Antarctic Survey discovered the Antarctic ozone hole through routine ground level ozone monitoring, as satellite imagery had missed the near total depletion of the ozone layer over Antarctica. And in 2011, Canada's ozone-monitoring network verified the first Arctic ozone hole.

These stations are instrumental in helping science better understand the direct links between ozone depletion and climate change.

But alarmingly the number ozone monitoring stations around the world continues to be steadily reduced due to austerity measures by host governments. By 2011, 45% of the Arctic region's monitoring stations were no longer in operation. Stations were closed in Russia, Norway and Canada.

Meanwhile, the fate of the rest of the Canadian monitoring network remains highly uncertain. These stations have provided the longest-running record of ozone levels in the world. They are about one-third of the Arctic ozone measurements.

According to scientists, the quality of ozone loss estimates has already suffered from the decline of the Arctic observational network. The network of stations is currently at the minimum limit which is required to observe Arctic chemical ozone loss. A further reduction in the density of observations will jeopardize science's ability to observe and diagnose future Arctic ozone losses.

Similar concerns are expressed regarding the future of the Lauder station in New Zealand which is the key observation site in the southern mid-latitudes.

Sound ozone policies require sound ozone science. The data these stations collect is essential for the whole world. Therefore, it should not be the prerogative of any one government to close them down. They should be under the purview of the United Nations, and operated on behalf of the UN by host governments.

Greenpeace calls on the Parties to take immediate steps to secure the on-going operations of existing monitoring stations and to enhance the network to meet scientific requirements.

