

**Montreal Protocol
on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**

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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties
to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Forty-eighth meeting
Bangkok, 13–17 July 2026**

**Decision taken by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral
Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol at its
ninety-eighth meeting on matters relating to pilot projects to
enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of controlled
substances****Note by the Secretariat**

1. At the ninety-sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund, held in May 2025, the Executive Committee adopted decision 96/56 on matters relating to pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. In that decision, the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund was requested to prepare a document to support the Executive Committee's consideration of establishing a funding window for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol.
2. In November 2025, the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer adopted decision XXXVII/1, on enhancing regional atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances. In paragraph 5 of that decision, the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund was requested to take into consideration the information provided by the Ozone Secretariat and the Advisory Committee of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, including on the phased approach and the estimated costs, related to establishing and operating atmospheric monitoring stations as outlined in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/2/Add.1, which cross-references document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/INF/6, when developing guidelines and considering a funding window to support pilot projects, and to provide an update to the parties on the progress made ahead of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties.
3. In accordance with decision XXXVII/1, the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund prepared a paper on matters relating to pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, set out in document UNEP/OzLPro/ExCom/98/61.* Consideration of that paper at the ninety-eighth meeting of the Executive Committee in June 2026, resulted in decision 98/62, reproduced in the annex to the present note for the information of the parties.

* Available at: <https://www.multilateralfund.org/meetings/98/pre-session>.

Annex

Matters relating to pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

The Executive Committee decided:

- (a) To note document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61 on matters relating to pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol (decision 96/56);
- (b) To approve:
 - (i) The guidelines for the preparation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, contained in annex LXX to the present report;
 - (ii) The guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, contained in annex LXXI to the present report;
 - (iii) The template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned for pilot projects to establish and operate a regional atmospheric monitoring station, contained in annex LXXII to the present report;
- (c) To establish a funding window of US \$9,250,000 for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including the preparation, implementation and capacity-building activities as specified in table 1 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61;
- (d) To request that project preparation proposals under the funding window be submitted to the 102nd meeting, and to request the Secretariat to seek the scientific guidance of the Advisory Committee of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer during project review;
- (e) To add to the funding window the amount of US \$1,800,000 for the continuation of operation of three atmospheric monitoring stations to be established with the support of the General Trust Fund, on the understanding that project proposals to access the funding would be submitted to the Executive Committee;
- (f) To encourage Article 5 countries to make use of the expertise of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) by selecting it as the lead or cooperating implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol;
- (g) To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with WMO, to develop draft agency agreements with the Executive Committee and with the Treasurer, in line with the Agreements between the Committee and the implementing agencies, and the Agreements between the implementing agencies and the Treasurer, for the Committee's consideration and endorsement at its 99th meeting;
- (h) To note:
 - (i) That bilateral and implementing agencies of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would seek the guidance of the Advisory Committee on preparing and implementing such pilot projects, and would submit a report on implementation of the respective pilot project to the 107th meeting;

- (ii) That the Secretariat would share relevant information from the preparation and implementation of the pilot projects referred to in subparagraph (h)(i) above with the Advisory Committee;
- (i) To request the Secretariat to prepare, for the 107th meeting, a paper providing an update on the status of implementation, lessons learned and recommendations, if any, from the implementation of project preparation proposals;
- (j) To request the Secretariat to prepare, for the 107th meeting, a paper outlining options for the duration and provision of incremental recurring costs, taking into account the information contained in the reports submitted in line with subparagraph (h)(i) above and other relevant information; and
- (k) To request bilateral and implementing agencies to include in their relevant business plans requests for funding for the projects specified in subparagraph (c) above for Article 5 countries that wished to undertake such projects.

(Decision 98/62)

Annex LXX

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PILOT PROJECTS TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

1. Requests for funding for the preparation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would:
 - (a) Consider countries in priority regions identified by the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund that would provide a benefit through the establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station;
 - (b) Follow the process for assessing the suitability of the proposed monitoring station site described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61, including undertaking observing system simulation experiments (OSSEs), if necessary, an initial site preliminary observations test (SPOT), and developmental observations test (DOT);
 - (c) Include a letter from the Government concerned committing to ensure that the proposed atmospheric monitoring station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62;
 - (d) Include a description of the proposed site where the atmospheric monitoring station will be established, including local topography, surrounding land types (agricultural, forest, urban, etc.) and neighborhood environs, and existing infrastructure;
 - (e) Include a description of the scientific and technical capacity of local institutions and personnel who could maintain and operate the station, and analyze the resultant data; and
 - (f) Include a description of potential co-financing available from local institutions or the government for short and long-term viability of the station.
2. The maximum amount of funding available for the preparation of pilot projects to establish three regional atmospheric monitoring stations is US \$1,730,440 plus agency support costs.
3. Bilateral and implementing agencies are requested, when submitting a request for the preparation of pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station, to provide an indication of the activities that need to be undertaken for pilot project preparation, with specific costs clearly identified.

Annex LXXI

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT PROJECTS
TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF SUBSTANCES
CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

1. Bilateral and implementing agencies are requested to ensure that the following information is included in proposals for pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station:
 - (a) A thorough description of the proposed site where the atmospheric monitoring station will be established, including local topography, surrounding land types (agricultural, forest, urban, etc.) and neighborhood environs, and existing infrastructure;
 - (b) A detailed description of the scientific and technical capacity of local personnel who will maintain and operate the station, and analyze the resultant data;
 - (c) An assessment of the results of the flask sampling undertaken as part of the pilot project preparation demonstrating the suitability of the site and specifying the nature of monitoring to be undertaken;
 - (d) A description of the costs to establish, maintain and operate the monitoring station, including related to the procurement of required equipment and instrumentation; improvements to or establishment of new infrastructure; compressed gases and calibration scale standards, and if relevant; maintenance; and personnel and other related costs;
 - (e) A description of how the sustainability of the station, and the accessibility and quality of the measurements, including in relation to the use of stable, well-characterized calibration scales, and regular technical review will be ensured;
 - (f) A commitment from the Government concerned that the station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62; and
 - (g) A description of co-financing available from local institutions or the government for short and long-term viability of the station.
2. The establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station at sites with existing infrastructure and access to appropriate scientific and technical capacity to maintain and operate the station will be prioritized. However, proposals for sites lacking infrastructure may be considered if there is a strong scientific justification.
3. Pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would only be considered that inter alia are:
 - (a) In a region identified by the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund that would provide a benefit through the establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station; and
 - (b) In an Article 5 country that committed to ensuring that the atmospheric monitoring station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62, including the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship² and open data availability and accessibility.
4. Atmospheric monitoring stations would be provided incremental recurring costs (IRCs) for up to five years on a pilot basis and without prejudice to any subsequent decision the Executive Committee may take on the provision of IRCs, noting that the Executive Committee will review options for the duration and provision of IRCs at the 107th meeting of the Executive Committee. Atmospheric monitoring stations established in Article 5 countries with the support of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund could be

² Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. et al. The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* 3, 160018 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

eligible for IRCs on the same basis as monitoring stations established under the Multilateral Fund on the understanding that the maximum number of years for which support for their operation was provided was irrespective of whether that support was provided by the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund or the Multilateral Fund.

5. The Secretariat will assess the costs to establish an atmospheric monitoring station in light of the financial model prepared by the Ozone Secretariat for the Thirty Eighth Meeting of the Parties, advice from the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund, and other relevant information.

Annex LXXII**TEMPLATE**

**DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF [COUNTRY] AND THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND TO ENHANCE REGIONAL
ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PILOT PROJECT TO
ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A STATION TO MONITOR THE ATMOSPHERIC ABUNDANCES
OF SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

Purpose

1. This Agreement represents the understanding of the Government of [country] (“the Country”) and the Executive Committee with respect to the establishment and operation of a station to monitor the atmospheric abundance of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. The Country agrees to ensure that the atmospheric monitoring station will follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62, including an open data policy and the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship.
2. Subject to compliance by the Country with its obligations set out in this Agreement, the Executive Committee agrees, in principle, to provide the funding set out in row 2.1 of Appendix 1-A (“Funding”) to the Country. The Executive Committee will, in principle, provide this funding at the Executive Committee meetings specified in Appendix 2-A (“Funding Approval Schedule”). The Country agrees to implement this Agreement in accordance with the pilot project to establish and operate a station to monitor the atmospheric abundance of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol (“the Plan”) as approved.

Conditions for funding release

3. The Executive Committee will provide the Funding, in accordance with the Funding Approval Schedule, when the Country demonstrates, at least 10 weeks in advance of the applicable Executive Committee meeting set out in the Funding Approval Schedule, that the atmospheric monitoring station followed the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraph 1 above for all relevant years; and that the rate of disbursement of funding available from the previously approved tranche was more than 20 per cent.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting

4. The Country agrees to assume overall responsibility for the management and implementation of this Agreement and of all activities undertaken by it or on its behalf to fulfil the obligations under this Agreement. [IA] has agreed to be the implementing agency (the “IA”) in respect of the Country’s activities under this Agreement. The Country agrees to evaluations, which might be carried out under the evaluation work programmes of the Multilateral Fund or under the evaluation programme of the IA. The Country and IA will take into consideration relevant decisions of the Executive Committee that take effect during the implementation of the Plan.
5. The Country will ensure that it conducts accurate monitoring of its activities under this Agreement. The institutions set out in Appendix 3-A (“Monitoring Institutions and Roles”) will monitor and report on the implementation of the activities in the previous Tranche Implementation Plans in accordance with their roles and responsibilities set out in the same appendix.
6. The IA will be responsible for ensuring coordinated planning, implementation and reporting of all activities under this Agreement. The Executive Committee agrees, in principle, to provide the IA with the fees set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 1-A.
7. The submission of each tranche request will consist of three parts: a brief executive summary, a Tranche Implementation Report, and a Tranche Implementation Plan. The Tranche Implementation Report will provide data, separated by tranche, describing the progress achieved since the previous report, including the status of the monitoring station, the availability and accessibility of data, whether scientific articles had been published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature based on data from the station, any capacity-building activities completed by personnel at the station, quantitative information on the activities implemented, successes and challenges, and information on changes, delays, or the use of flexibility for the reallocation of

funds described in paragraph 9. The Tranche Implementation Plan will provide a description of the activities to be undertaken during the period covered by the requested tranche, including quantitative information, implementation milestones, the date of completion, and the interdependence of the activities, as well as scientific advice received from the Advisory Committee and how this advice was taken up in project implementation.

8. The Country will comply with any reasonable request of the Executive Committee and the IA to facilitate implementation of this Agreement. In the case of non-compliance, the Executive Committee will discuss each specific case in which the Country did not comply with this Agreement and take related decisions.

Flexibility in the reallocation of funds

9. The Executive Committee agrees that the Country may have the flexibility to reallocate up to 30 per cent of the last approved tranche, according to the evolving circumstances, to achieve the smoothest operation of the atmospheric monitoring station and address specific needs that might arise during project implementation. Reallocations categorized as major changes will be documented at least 10 weeks prior to any meeting of the Executive Committee for its approval. Any remaining funds held by the IA or the Country under the Plan will be returned to the Multilateral Fund upon completion of the last tranche foreseen under this Agreement or upon cancellation of the project. Limited-time no-cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis if a strong justification is provided by the Country (see paragraph 10 below).

Date of completion

10. The completion of the Plan and the associated Agreement will take place at the end of the year following the last year specified in Appendix 1-A. Should at that time there still be activities that are outstanding, and which had been reported in the last tranche request or documented in accordance with paragraph 7 above, the completion of the Plan will be delayed until the end of the year following the implementation of the remaining activities. The reporting requirements of this Agreement will continue until the time of the completion of the Plan unless otherwise specified by the Executive Committee.

Disposition of equipment

11. The Country agrees to return all equipment procured by the Multilateral Fund in case a monitoring station ceases to operate, ceases to make data available, or if so-requested by the Executive Committee.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1-A: FUNDING**

Row	Particulars	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
1.1	IA ([IA]) agreed funding (US \$)						
1.2	Support costs for IA (US \$)						
1.3	Total agreed costs (US \$)						

APPENDIX 2-A: FUNDING APPROVAL SCHEDULE

1. Funding for the future tranches will be considered for approval at the first/second meeting of the year specified in Appendix 1-A.

APPENDIX 3-A: MONITORING INSTITUTIONS AND ROLES

1. This section must be completed by the Country and the IA. It must provide a detailed and credible indication of how progress is to be monitored, and which organizations will be responsible for the activities and the sustainability of the operation of the atmospheric monitoring station.