



OzonAction

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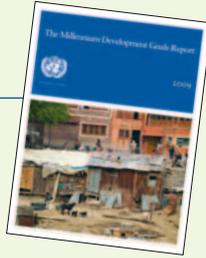
Out of the Maze

Montreal Protocol, Climate Benefits
and the Green Economy

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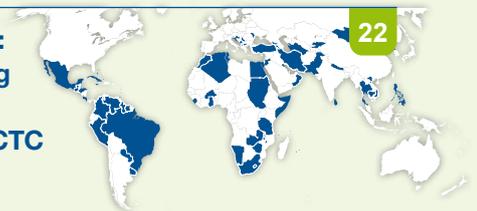


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The Montreal Protocol Can Deliver Fast Action on Climate

Stephen O. Andersen, *Co-Chair Montreal Protocol's TEAP*; **K. Madhava Sarma**, *former Executive Secretary of Ozone Secretariat*; **Durwood Zaelke**, *President of IGSD and Director of INECE*

Humans are rapidly driving Earth towards atmospheric and ecosystem tipping points and putting us at risk from climate change. Many international initiatives aimed at achieving agreement on bold measures to mitigate climate change are stalled. In this situation, the only way forward is to use our best-performing institution – the Montreal Protocol – to take fast action to reduce threats to the climate and buy time for a strong multilateral agreement focused on carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The Montreal Protocol is recognized as the most successful multilateral environmental agreement to date for the following reasons:

- Near complete phase-out of almost 100 targeted ozone-depleting substances in the past 20 years with extraordinary climate co-benefits because the ozone-depleting substances (ODS) are also potent greenhouse gases;
- Every country a member of the treaty, with near perfect compliance over two decades;
- Approximately US\$3 billion of investment fuelling global market transformation with little impact on product price, and no unwanted change in lifestyle; and
- Lean and effective institutions and supporting networks respected by all governments and industry stakeholders.

The Protocol has obligations for both developed and developing countries, financing for the incremental costs of developing countries, compliance assistance backed up with necessary trade controls, and UN institutions that execute their responsibilities in a pragmatic manner in close cooperation with national authorities.

The Montreal Protocol community of diplomatic, technical, and financial experts, who have a long history of working together for the benefit of the atmosphere, can take action to mitigate climate faster and more effectively than any other global network. They have already achieved much but they can do still more, including the following:

At the Montreal Protocol: Phase down production and use of high-global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons (high-GWP HFCs) employed as substitutes during the early days of ODS phase-out. This requires leapfrogging over high-GWP HFCs during the ongoing

hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) phase-out, while also taking out the high-GWP HFCs that replaced CFCs. It is also important to collect and destroy ODS and HFCs in the 'banks' of discarded products and equipment and to shift feedstock and process agent uses not achieving minimal ODS and GHG emissions from global exemption to essential use exemption.

At the Multilateral Fund (MLF): Increase replenishment to enable countries to move faster than mere compliance with mandated controls on ODS.

At UNEP OzonAction Programme, Regional Networks, and National Ozone Offices: Build more capacity for information sharing and technology partnerships.

At UNDP, UNIDO, World Bank, and other implementing agencies of the MLF: Organize carbon funding to bridge the gap between ozone and climate investments to leapfrog high-GWP HFCs while pushing energy efficiency for sustainable development.

In national capitals: Reward climate protection undertaken by business and citizens. Label, tax, or ban non-essential products and services that have high climate footprints. Start with changing government procurement rules. Have 'Top Runner' programmes as pioneered in Japan to require that all products achieve the same or higher energy efficiency as the best product sold three years previously. Shift taxes or charges to force petroleum and coal companies to price their non-renewable and high-risk energy at the real cost to society, including the risk of economic and ecological catastrophe, which after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is more than obvious. Promote low-GWP HFCs and natural refrigerants, while progressively prohibiting the high-GWP HFCs.

In environmental NGOs: Be a bigger part of the solution by advocating technological development that goes beyond (but includes) natural refrigerants and by embracing life-cycle, start-and-strengthen, and fast action as guiding principles.

In companies: Be vocal in support for MLF replenishment to leap-frog high GWP HFCs, to finance energy efficiency gains during the transition, and to collect and destroy banks of ODS and HFCs in discarded products and equipment. Demand fast phase-out of high GWP HFCs – in the same way that companies previously promoted phase-out of CFCs – and share technology among both developing and developed countries, on a fair and equitable basis worldwide.

The Montreal Protocol and its global community are ready and able to do more for future generations. ■