PATTERNS OF ACHIEVEMENT

UNEP

AFRICA AND THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Patterns of achievement
Africa and the Montreal Protocol

After two decades of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the national and global level successes of this very important Multilateral Environmental Agreement of our times have been recognised all over the world. The success would not have been possible without the contribution of all the international community. It is in that context that I would like to pay tribute the African continent for its significant contribution to the Montreal Protocol despite having to face numerous other urgent challenges. The ozone layer protection activities of 53 African countries – all of which are Parties to the Montreal Protocol are therefore a testimony to their willingness to promote responsible environmental management and their desire to play a full part in global environmental protection.

Africa's ozone story is special because the 52 nations out of 53 that form the African continent have never produced any ozone-depleting substances (ODS) or much ODS-using equipment. Further, African consumption of these substances has been very low compare to other regions of the world. Yet the use of ODS was critical in several developmental sectors (domestic, commercial and industrial refrigeration and air conditioning, agriculture and health). The livelihoods of most people on this continent depended on those sector.

The challenge African countries were facing was to reduce reliance on ODS without damaging their economies, health or security. Towards the end of a very important phase of the Montreal Protocol that is to completely phase out the most consumed ODS by the 1st January 2010, we are already assured that the African continent have successfully played its part of the game.

The African Montreal Protocol experience is not just One Success Story but several successful cases being highlighted in this publication, each with its specific theme contributing to the wider picture of the success of the Montreal Protocol. We present these achievements here in recognition of Africa's valuable contribution to the Montreal Protocol and in the hope that they will provide inspiration for other regions in their efforts to protect the ozone layer. We also hope that these experiences can be replicated by African Country in the implementation of other International Environmental Agreements.

This brochure also recognizes those international organizations and other nations that have assisted Africa in achieving its success through fruitful international environmental and technological co-operation. The world should acknowledge that in spite of other pressing issues, Africa has joined the global movement to protect the ozone layer and should continue to work closely with African countries until ozone recovery is finally achieved.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director,
United Nations Environment Programme

The story line of the African countries, of their efforts to protect the ozone layer, is as unique as its diversity and as inspiring as its people. This story line has no end and it keeps on building from one event to another.

Like the origin of humanity, Africa was at the origin of the Montreal Protocol- in Nairobi, Kenya. There, UNEP gave the science of ozone depletion the certainty needed to inspire global action. Of the eight original developing country signatories of the Montreal Protocol five were from the African continent.

Today all the 53 countries in Africa are partners to the Montreal Protocol. The entire African continent contributed only very small percent of the global consumption of CFCs and zero percent of production of CFCs. Nevertheless, Africa which harbors one of the poor countries of the world recognized the need for the global cooperation and took the torch in their hand to run the environmental marathon. Clearly, poor economic conditions do not shadow the rich vision.

By phasing down the consumption of ODS as per the Montreal Protocol's time table, these countries have significantly contributed to reducing Climate Change. What's more, Africa now stands to green its economy by future implementation of the Montreal Protocol by:

- **Enhancing their energy Security as well as energy independence by improving the energy efficiency of refrigeration and air-conditioning used in buildings and food preservation;**
- **Generating employment through now green business of recovery and recycling, destruction of unwanted ODS**
- **Pursuing the green business of energy efficient appliances**

The story line of the Montreal Protocol in Africa gets more inspiring if it is read in between the lines.

Rajendra Shende, Head OzonAction.

The Montreal Protocol in a Nutshell

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted in September 1987. Following the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole in late 1985, governments recognized the need for firm measures to reduce the production and consumption of a number of CFC sand several Halons. The Protocol was designed so that the phase-out schedules could be revised on the basis of periodic scientific and technological assessments.

Since the Montreal Protocol came into effect, the atmospheric concentrations of the most important chlorofluorocarbons and related chlorinated hydrocarbons have either leveled off or decreased. Halon concentrations have continued to increase, as the halons presently stored in fire extinguishers are released, but their rate of increase has slowed and their abundances are expected to begin to decline by about 2020. Also, the concentration of the HCFCs increased drastically at least partly because for many uses CFCs (e.g. used as solvents or refrigerating agents) were substituted with HCFCs. As a result, the Montreal Protocol has often been called the most successful international environmental agreement to date.

The Multilateral Fund was the first financial mechanism to be created under an international treaty. It embodies the principle agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 that countries have a common but differentiated responsibility to protect and manage the global commons. The Fund has demonstrated how resolute leadership, clarity of vision and lucidity of purpose can make radical changes to international environmental action. It is dedicated to reversing the course of the deterioration of the Earth's ozone layer.

Decisive multilateral action on environmental threats and challenges can bring wide-ranging health, social and economic benefits. The Montreal Protocol, which underpins our efforts to combat depletion of the earth's fragile protective shield, also contributes to climate change, since many of the chemicals controlled under the treaty have also emerged as ones that contribute to global warming. By phasing out CFCs and now deciding to accelerate a freeze and phase-out of HCFCs, the treaty has provided two benefits at once. I hope Governments will look at such results and feel empowered to act across a wide range of environmental challenges, and not only in prosperous times.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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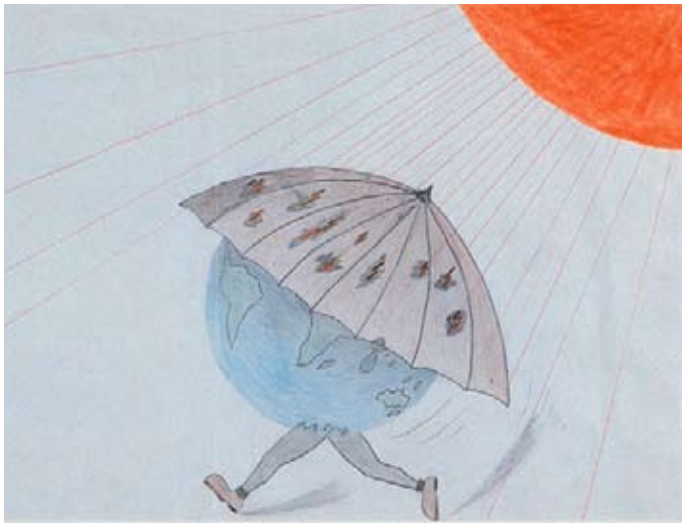

The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer was the first international treaty geared towards protecting global atmosphere and was implemented just over 20 years ago.

A first of many firsts…

- First ever agreement which all 53 countries have ratified and become Parties to pledge that commitment
- First international environmental agreement that unifies all 53 African countries in taking concerted and coherent action to protect the ozone layer
- First agreement that builds on the difference between developed and developing nations through consolidating forces at the same time, recognizing the origins and gravity of the problem and thereafter, distributing responsibility for solutions.

The Montreal Protocol is now considered the most successful international environmental agreement ever largely the result of a commitment of countries and regions throughout the world, including the continent of Africa. This publication recognizes substantial achievements of the people, programmes and organizations that have succeeded in creating an impact with effective follow up measures, in advocating for the protection of the ozone layer.

A Committed Continent

Africa's success story begins with the rapid commitment by its countries in officially joining the global campaign to preserve the ozone layer-namely, signing up to and ratifying the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. The continent's commitment to support began on September 16, 1987-the date when the Montreal Protocol itself was founded. On that date, Africa's first signatory countries included Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Togo.

Since then, African nations have continued to be world leaders in the fight to preserve the ozone layer, in ratifying the Protocol and taking seriously their commitment to comply with its obligations. Beginning in 1988 with Africa's first ratification by Egypt, all African countries have ratified the Protocol as of April 2007.

Africa's world leadership in ratifying the various amendments to the Protocol has been exemplary. By April 2007, African countries represented 54 of the world's 185 countries that had ratified the 1990 London Amendment. With respect to 1992's Copenhagen Amendment, African countries represented 31 percent of the global share. Non-party countries are already on board, through the assistance of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme).

UNEP has seen to it that all African countries become Parties to the Protocol

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer was adopted on 16th September 1987 in Montreal. It came into force on 1st January 1989. The protocol was designed so that the phase out schedules could be revised on the basis of periodic scientific and technological assessments. Following such assessments, the Protocol was adjusted to accelerate the phase out schedules.

The London Amendment was adopted in 1990 in London. The amendment introduced control measures for both production and consumption of CFCs, Carbon Tetrachloride and Methyl Chloroform. Control measures also included restrictions on trade with non-Parties. The financial mechanism was established for providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries to enable their compliance. The London Amendment entered into force on 10th August 1992.

1985 Vienna Convention encourages intergovernmental cooperation on research, systematic observation of the ozone layer, monitoring of CFC production and the exchange of information. The Convention commits its Parties to take general measures to protect human health and the environment against human activities that modify the ozone layer. The Vienna Convention is a framework agreement and does not contain legally binding controls or targets.

The Copenhagen Amendment was adopted in 1992 at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Copenhagen. The Amendment introduced control measures for consumption for HCFCs. It further introduced measures for both production and consumption of HBFCs and Methyl Bromide. The Copenhagen Amendment entered into force on 14th June 1994.

The Montreal Amendment was adopted in 1997 at the Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Montreal. This is the only amendment that did not introduce new substances to the Protocol. Instead, the amendment introduced the requirement for licensing systems to allow control and monitoring of trade in substances controlled under the Protocol. The Montreal Amendment entered into force on 10th November 1999.

The Beijing Amendment was adopted in 1999 at the eleventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Beijing. The amendment introduced control measures for production of HCFCs and imposed restric-

tions on trade with non-Parties for these HCFCs. The amendment further introduced control measures for both production and consumption for one new group of substances, namely Bromochloromethane (BCM).

It is our hope that the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol will be of concern not only to Northern-hemisphere nations but also to those of the South, and that the latter will embrace these measures and act as full participants in the search for solutions to the economic, social and ecological consequences of ozone layer depletion.