UNITED
NATIONS

EP

United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/64
14 November 2025

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-seventh Meeting
Montreal, 1–5 December 2025
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSAL: NAMIBIA

This document consists of the comments and recommendation of the Secretariat on the following project proposal:

Phase-out

•	HCFC phase-out management plan (fourth tranche)	Government of Germany	Blanket approval

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Namibia

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan	Germany (lead)	63rd	100% phase-out by 2025

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2024	0.38 ODP tonnes

(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)									Year: 2024
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					0.38				0.38

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	8.40	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	8.40
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	8.40	Remaining:	0.00

(V) ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2025	2026	2027	Total
Germany	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.74
	Funding (US $)	100,329	0	0	100,329

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020-2022	2023*	2024	2025	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits (ODP tonnes)			n/a	n/a	8.4	8.4	7.56	7.56	7.56	7.56	7.56	5.46	5.46	5.46	2.73	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			8.87	8.40	7.22	6.64	5.88	4.20	2.94	1.68	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.21	n/a
Funding agreed in principle (US $)	Germany	Project costs	300,000	0	240,000	0	0	0	270,000	0	0	0	120,000	0	90,000	1,020,000
		Support costs	36,333	0	29,067	0	0	0	32,700	0	0	0	13,771	0	10,329	122,200
Funds approved by ExCom (US $)		Project costs	300,000		240,000				270,000				120,000			930,000
		Support costs	36,333		29,067				32,700				13,771			111,871
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US $)		Project costs													90,000	90,000
		Support costs													10,329	10,329

* Approved at the 93rd meeting for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector (decision 93/36)

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Namibia, the Government of Germany as the designated implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the fourth and final tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), in the amount of US $90,000, plus agency support costs of US $10,329.[2] The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the third tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2017 to 2024, and the tranche implementation plan for 2025 to 2026.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. HCFC-22 is the only HCFC imported in Namibia. The Government of Namibia reported a consumption of 0.38 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2024, which is 95 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2020-2024 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Namibia (2020-2024 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline*
Metric tonnes (mt)	13.50	13.00	6.85	4.77	6.96	149.80
ODP tonnes	0.74	0.72	0.38	0.26	0.38	8.40

* The baseline includes 0.30 ODP tonnes (2.40 mt) of HCFC-141b, of which no consumption has been reported since 2016.

3. HCFC consumption has been fluctuating, with an overall decreasing trend in advance of the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule attributed to the implementation of the HPMP, including regulatory controls and quotas, increased industry awareness, and the availability of alternatives. Namibia has met the control targets set in its Agreement with the Executive Committee, which are lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Country programme implementation report

4. The Government of Namibia reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2024 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government was implementing a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports and that the total consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2020 to 2024 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded that Namibia has met the control targets set in the Agreement with the Executive Committee for the years from 2020 to 2024. The verification recommended that the Government should take bilateral initiative with neighbouring country Angola to improve the import control of HCFCs at Oshikango border post; that quota setting needs to include information to differentiate HCFCs, HFCs and replacement gases to assist the concise monitoring of imports; and that a centralized system needs to be developed so that import balances of ODS and other imported gases are able to be tracked simultaneously by both the national ozone unit (NOU) and customs.

[2] As per the letter of 12 November 2025 from the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy of Namibia to the Secretariat.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

6. Namibia ratified the Kigali Amendment on 16 May 2019 and banned the import of HCFC-containing equipment since 2013. As of 1 January 2025, the import of HCFCs has also been banned. To support the transition to low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives, the country has adopted the ISO 5149 standard for the safe handling of low-GWP alternatives and is currently developing curriculum and certification frameworks for technicians.

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. The following activities were implemented during the third tranche:

(a) Training of 278 customs officers and 156 forwarding officers on refrigerant identification, border monitoring, and enforcement against illegal trade;

(b) Four refrigerant identifiers capable of detecting HCFCs, HFC blends and hydrocarbons along with electronic weigh scales were procured and provided to national institutions to support training and enforcement;

(c) Four trainers attended upskilling courses on good servicing practices and the safe handling of hydrocarbons and low-GWP refrigerants in South Africa and Germany, in addition to more than 20 trainers trained in previous tranches. Two trainers were also trained on CO_2 systems. The refrigeration technology curriculum was revised to ensure that the training content remains up to date. The trainers provided training to 108 technicians and to students in the institutes, conducted in cooperation with the Cooling Programme for Southern Africa (CooPSA), funded through additional German bilateral cooperation funds;

(d) Four training centres received R-600a domestic refrigerators, beverage coolers, R-290 and R-600a refrigerant, and training equipment;[3]

(e) The incentive scheme to establish the supply chain for new air-conditioning (AC) units based on R-290 and HFC-32 was implemented; a subsidy was provided to importers and the first container of 150 units of R-290 air conditioners was imported into Namibia by a local importer to create a supply chain of such equipment and to develop a sustainable market for climate-friendly technologies. All units have been sold; and

(f) A public awareness campaign was implemented to inform stakeholders and the public about the safe use and handling of refrigerants. Three stakeholder workshops were organized to raise awareness and gain support for the HCFC phase-out. Supports were provided to establish a refrigeration technology association to provide a platform for ongoing dialogue, professional development, and advocacy within the sector. Several advertisements have been published to create awareness of early HCFC phase-out.

8. Additional activities to introduce low-GWP alternatives and maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration sector, approved under decision 89/6 at the 93rd meeting, are now underway. An international consultant has been contracted and will lead the implementation.

[3] Including charging scales, leak detectors, recovery units and cylinders, hydrocarbon charging stations, nitrogen cylinders and regulators, and basic equipment and tools.

Project implementation and monitoring

9. The NOU monitored and coordinated the HPMP implementation. Of the US $36,000 budgeted for the PMU in the third tranche, US $25,812 was disbursed (US $9,457 for monitoring by the NOU and national consultant, and US $16,355 for technical advice).

Level of fund disbursement

10. As of September 2025, of the US $930,000 approved so far, US $755,158 had been disbursed, as shown in table 2. The balance of US $174,842 will be disbursed in 2025 and 2026.

Table 2. Financial report of stage I of the HPMP for Namibia (US $)

Funding tranche	Funds approved	Funds disbursed	Disbursement rate (%)	Fund balance
First	300,000	300,000	100	0
Second	240,000	240,000	100	0
Third	270,000	215,158	80	54,842
EE project (89/6)	120,000	0	0	120,000
Total	**930,000**	**755,158**	**81**	**174,842**

Implementation plan for the fourth and final tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

11. The following activities will be implemented between December 2025 and December 2026:

(a) Develop and implement a technician certification programme (the licensing of technicians) aiming to license at least 100 refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians (US $25,000 from previous tranche);

(b) Train 10 trainers and 40 technicians on the servicing, maintenance and safe handling of refrigerants related to monoblock technology (US $29,500 from previous tranche);

(c) Purchase three R-290 monoblock units for three training institutes (US $12,000);

(d) Install one monoblock unit to showcase the technology; and organize a stakeholder workshop for 25 importers, owners and end users to get them familiar with the technology, focusing on residential school kitchens, hospitals, funeral homes and tourism subsectors (US $15,500);

(e) Based on the results of the demonstration project, scale up monoblock technology by incentivizing 15 owners of small condensing units and cold rooms to replace HCFCs with hydrocarbon technology (US $50,000); and

(f) Project monitoring and management at a cost of US $12,500, including staff and consultants (US $10,000) and travel (US $2,500).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HCFC consumption and verification

12. Namibia is phasing out HCFCs ahead of the Montreal Protocol schedule. Although its quota for HCFC imports was set at the same level as the target in the Agreement, the actual imports from 2022 to

2024 are well below the maximum allowable level set in the Agreement. The country has progressed well on its way to completely phase out HCFCs.

13. The Government of Namibia has started to address the verification recommendations. The setting of quotas is based on individual refrigerants and their GWP to ensure compliance. The development of a centralized electronic system is in process and is expected to be finalized and fully functional by December 2026. Furthermore, training has been planned for customs officers to monitor illegal trade at borders.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

14. The Government of Namibia has issued HCFC import quotas from 2025 onwards at zero ODP tonnes, which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets and the targets set in the Agreement with the Executive Committee.

15. The fourth tranche is the final tranche of the HPMP for Namibia. The Secretariat and the Government of Germany, as the implementing agency, discussed the established regulatory measures to sustain the achieved reduction from 2025 to 2030 and ensure compliance with paragraph 8 ter(e)(i) of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol for the period 2030-2040.

16. The Government of Germany advised that Namibia has been implementing its quota system successfully and has banned the import of HCFC-containing equipment since 2013. As of 1 January 2025, import of HCFCs has been banned. Industries are aware of the restrictions on HCFC use, and customs officers are well-trained to monitor imports. The Government is confident that HCFCs will be successfully phased out according to the Agreement and further stated the country's intention to maintain zero HCFC consumption from 2030 to 2040.

17. The Secretariat noted that, despite Namibia's ban on HCFC imports effective January 2025, the Agreement with the Executive Committee allows for a maximum consumption of 0.21 ODP tonnes for Namibia from 2025 to 2029. The Secretariat discussed with the Government of Germany the sustainability of the achieved reductions and that the maximum allowable limits are not exceeded. It was agreed to verify HCFC consumption for the 2025-2029 period in 2030. A funding request for this verification will be submitted prior to 2030 as part of a tranche submission for future stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan.

Refrigeration servicing sector

18. The project to convert commercial refrigeration equipment in a supermarket to CO_2 technology has been cancelled. The supermarket owners were only interested in adopting CO_2 technology for new, much larger centralized systems, which exceeded the available budget. A partial contribution towards a larger equipment procurement was not feasible under the project's procurement rules. Given these constraints, the project funds will be used for technician training and the demonstration of R-290 monoblock technology to assist users of smaller commercial refrigeration systems in their transition to low-GWP alternatives.

19. The fourth tranche includes an R-290 monoblock demonstration project. Based on the results, an end-user incentive programme is planned to encourage the adoption of this technology. The incentive will cover approximately 25-30 per cent of the total equipment cost, with a cap of US $3,000 per conversion. The Secretariat noted that Namibia is implementing an early phase-out of HCFCs and has banned the import of both HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, and has therefore met the conditions for carrying out an end-user incentive and demonstration project under decision 84/84(b). The demonstration of R-290 monoblocks, accompanied by technician training, information dissemination, and end-user support, will

promote the scaling up of this technology and support the country to sustain compliance with its phase-out targets. The Government of Germany will submit a detailed report on the results of the end-user demonstration and incentive projects upon completion to allow the Secretariat to develop fact sheets for future projects.

Gender policy implementation

20. The Namibia Ozone Office has been headed by women for the past 15 years, demonstrating the Government's commitment to gender inclusion in decision-making positions. Furthermore, the NOU actively promotes increased participation of women in all activities under the Montreal Protocol and collects disaggregated data. For instance, training programmes for customs officers have naturally seen higher involvement from women, reflecting their strong representation within the customs department. In the RAC sector, technician trainings are gradually attracting more women who are choosing to develop skills in this field. The NOU gives first preference to female participants to encourage their upskilling. Ongoing efforts will also focus on developing partnerships to further advance these inclusion goals.

Completion of the HCFC phase-out management plan

21. The Government of Germany has confirmed that the HPMP for Namibia will be completed on 31 December 2026 as established in paragraph 14 of the Agreement.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

22. The sustainability of the HCFC phase-out is ensured through a robust regulatory framework, which includes a ban on the import of HCFC equipment and refrigerants. This is complemented by a licensing and quota system that continues to regulate the import of alternative substances and ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The transition to alternative technologies was structured over a sufficient period, providing industry stakeholders with the necessary time and flexibility to adapt. Furthermore, the "training of trainers" approach institutionalizes knowledge transfer, ensuring that skills and know-how are perpetuated through regular RAC courses conducted within the country.

23. Additionally, the certification and licensing system for technicians will ensure the continuous upskilling and standardization of skills across the sector. This institutionalized approach guarantees that both new and existing technicians are well-equipped with safe handling practices. This will ensure the proper servicing of RAC equipment and the safe management of emerging low-GWP alternatives, thereby embedding sustainable and safe practices into the national workforce.

24. Illegal import of HCFCs is considered a major risk, as these substances remain available globally and could be smuggled into the country. This risk will be addressed through the continuous training of enforcement officers, vigilant monitoring of imports, and nationwide awareness campaigns to prevent illegal trade across Namibia's porous borders. The skills gap among technicians is identified as another key risk, particularly when introducing alternative technologies. This is especially relevant for the informal sector, which might otherwise miss out on necessary training and information. The Government will make every effort to ensure this sector receives the required training and support to enable a smooth and successful transition.

Conclusion

25. Namibia has achieved its compliance targets set in the Agreement with the Executive Committee. Significant progress was made during the reporting period, including implementing a ban on HCFC imports effective January 2025, continuing capacity development for customs officers to enhance import controls, training servicing technicians on handling low-GWP technologies, and supporting the establishment of a supply chain to enable their successful adoption. These activities collectively support the country's efforts

to sustain zero consumption and transition to low-GWP technologies. The disbursement rate for the third tranche is at 80 per cent. The activities planned for the final tranche will further strengthen the import control of HCFCs to sustain the reduction achieved and support end users in adopting low-GWP technologies.

RECOMMENDATION

26. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

(a) Note:

(i) The progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Namibia;

(ii) That the annual maximum allowable consumption from 2025 to 2029 will not exceed 0.21 ODP tonnes;

(b) Request:

(i) The Government of Namibia and the Government of Germany to submit a final progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche and the project completion report to the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2027;

(ii) The Government of Germany to submit detailed reports on the results of the end-user projects once they are completed, to allow the Secretariat to develop fact sheets to inform future projects; and

(iii) The Government of Germany to submit a funding request prior to 2030 for the verification of Namibia's HCFC consumption for 2025–2029 to be submitted as part of a tranche submission for future stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan.

27. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fourth and final tranche of the HPMP for Namibia and the corresponding 2026 tranche implementation plan at the funding level shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US $)	Support costs (US $)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (fourth tranche)	90,000	10,329	The Government of Germany