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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-ninth Meeting
Montreal, 7–11 December 2026
Items 9(c) and (d) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSALS: GABON

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

Phase-out		
• HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	UNEP and UNIDO	Blanket approval
Phase-down		
• Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I, first tranche)	UNEP and UNIDO	Individual consideration

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/1

Pre-session documents of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol are without prejudice to any decision that the Executive Committee might take following issuance of the document.

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Gabon

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage II)	UNEP (lead), UNIDO	94th	100% phase-out by 2030

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2025	5.94 ODP tonnes

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Firefighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing		
HCFC-22					5.94		5.94

CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	30.20	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	30.20
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	30.20	Remaining:	0.00

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	6.82			6.82
	Funding (US $)	*452,830			452,830
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	2.47			2.47
	Funding (US $)	*161,570			161,570

*Including US $120,000 for UNEP and UNIDO for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6)

PROJECT DATA			2024	2025	2026*	2027/ 2028	2029	2030	Total
Consumption (ODP tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		19.63	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	0.00	n/a
	Maximum allowable		19.63	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	0.00	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US $)	UNEP	Project costs	181,000	0	438,000	0	0	146,000	765,000
		Support costs	22,716	0	53,576	0	0	17,858	94,150
	UNIDO	Project costs	155,000	0	115,000	0	0	0	270,000
		Support costs	10,850	0	8,050	0	0	0	18,900
Funds approved by ExCom (US $)		Project costs	336,000						
		Support costs	33,566						
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US $)		Project costs			553,000				
		Support costs			61,626				

*Funding for 2026 includes US $120,000, plus agency support costs of US $14,678, for UNEP, for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6).

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Gabon, UNEP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US $614,626, consisting of US $438,000, plus agency support costs of US $53,576, for UNEP and US $115,000, plus agency support costs of US $8,050, for UNIDO[2]. The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the first tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2024 to 2025, a request for funding additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector,[3] and the tranche implementation plan for 2027 to 2029.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Gabon reported a consumption of 5.94 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 80 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2021–2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in 2021–2025 in Gabon (Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	195.00	134.00	132.00	121.00	108.00	549.09
ODP tonnes	10.73	7.37	7.26	6.66	5.94	30.2

3. HCFC-22 consumption, exclusively used for refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing and maintenance, has decreased following HPMP implementation and penetration of non-HCFC technologies, with HFC-based technologies serving as the main alternatives. Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP), also being submitted to the present meeting, will address consumption of HFCs.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HCFC consumption data provided by the Government of Gabon in its CP implementation report for 2025 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 HCFC consumption reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2024 and 2025 were correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded that the monitoring system in place in the country was functioning effectively and ensuring adequate control of the allocated quotas. The verification report included several recommendations which are discussed in paragraph 12 below.

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

6. The Government of Gabon has operated a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports since 2013 and for HCFC-based equipment imports since 2015. The Government of Gabon ratified the Kigali Amendment on 28 February 2018. HFC controls were introduced through a licensing system in 2021 and a

[2] As per the letter of 4 September 2026 from the General Directorate for Environment and Nature Conservation of Gabon to the Secretariat.

[3] In line with decision 89/6, low-volume-consuming countries can include in their HPMPs additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low or zero global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector.

quota system in 2024. Gabon has adopted its national coding system, based on the 2022 Harmonized System (HS) codes recommended by the World Customs Organization, with additional national sub-codes. Furthermore, the Government of Gabon implements the subregional regulations of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), which harmonize the management of all substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol across the subregion[4] (Regulation No. 05/19-UEAC-010A-CM-33, adopted in April 2019).

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. During the first tranche, the following activities were implemented:

(a) *Strengthening national capacity to control HCFCs:* Decrees related to the HCFC licensing and quota system and the import of HCFC-based were translated into four local languages; an interministerial order banning imports of new and used HCFC-based equipment has been drafted; 171 customs and enforcement officers (112 men and 59 women) were trained on the control and identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, and 73 key stakeholders (52 men and 21 women), including importers, participated in working sessions on import licensing and quota allocation procedures and the potential risks and hazards associated with refrigerants;

(b) *Strengthening the capacity of RAC technicians on good servicing practices:* Training manual developed and expected to be printed by the end of 2026; a total of 292 (237 men and 55 women) RAC technicians received training on good refrigeration servicing practices, including refrigerant recovery, recycling and reuse techniques, and the safe handling of new refrigerants and equipment; two meetings held with key national stakeholders to support the development of regulatory standards and protocols for the safe use of flammable and toxic refrigerants in RAC equipment; and three awareness-raising sessions had each reached approximately 110 participants by October 2026, with a particular focus on encouraging women to enter the sector, and one additional awareness session planned for 14 November 2026;

(c) *Strengthening centres of excellence:* Training equipment[5] and five[6] refrigerant identifiers have been ordered and are awaiting delivery to the country in March 2027; a feasibility study and business plan for the establishment of a refrigerant reclamation centre are under development, with results expected by January 2027.

Project implementation and monitoring

8. The national ozone unit (NOU) and UNEP have been monitoring activities, reporting on progress, and working with stakeholders to phase out HCFCs. Of the US $15,000 approved for project monitoring activities under the first tranche, US $15,000 was disbursed for project staff and consultants (US $10,000), domestic travel (US $2,000), and meetings (US $3,000).

[4] Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

[5] Brazing kits and hand tools, pressure testing, vacuuming, refrigerant charging, recovery, leak detection, and system flushing; measuring instruments, including multimeters, manifold gauges, thermometers, vacuum gauges and weighing scales; refrigerant recovery cylinders and refrigerant identifiers; nitrogen cylinders and pressure regulators; tools and supplies for working with different refrigerants, including flammable hydrocarbons; and safety equipment, including fire extinguishers, protective gloves and brazing goggles.

[6] The increased cost of refrigerant identifiers and shipping limited procurement to five of the ten units within the available budget.

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of September 2026, of the US $336,000 approved so far (US $181,000 for UNEP and US $155,000 for UNIDO), US $176,662 (53 per cent) had been disbursed (US $156,000 for UNEP and US $20,662 for UNIDO). The balance of US $159,338 will be disbursed in 2027.

Implementation plan for the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

10. The following activities will be implemented between January 2027 and December 2029:

(a) *Strengthening the national capacity to control HCFCs*: Maintain an effective HCFC import licensing and quota system through legislative and regulatory measures; support the adoption and implementation of the inter-ministerial order banning the import of new and used HCFC-based equipment; establish a post-2030 HCFC monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol servicing tail provision;[7] introduce an online tool for import controls; conduct 18 training sessions for approximately 450 customs and enforcement officers on HCFC control and identification, including HCFC-based equipment; and five awareness-raising workshops for 75 importers, including 15 women, on licensing and quota procedures and the risks associated with refrigerant handling; (UNEP) (US $118,000);

(b) *Strengthening the capacity of refrigeration technicians on good practices in refrigeration*: Conduct 20 training sessions for at least 500 RAC technicians on good refrigeration practices, including refrigerant recovery, recycling and reuse, and the safe handling of new refrigerants and equipment; finalize regulatory standards and protocols for the safe use of R-290, R-600a and HFC-32 in RAC equipment; finalize and establish the institutional framework and procedures for the certification scheme, build stakeholder capacity, conduct consultations and awareness-raising activities, and carry out initial certifications; and organize two awareness-raising sessions to approximately 200 participants, including RAC students, with a focus on encouraging women to enter the sector (UNEP) (US $185,000 plus US $25,000 from the previous tranche);

(c) *Strengthening existing and establishing new centres of excellence and a reclamation centre*: Finalize delivery of new tools and equipment to one existing centre of excellence located in Libreville; procure tools and equipment[8] for a new centre of excellence to be established in Port-Gentil; finalize feasibility assessment and business plan for the establishment of a refrigerant reclamation centre[9]; train technicians on the use of the delivered equipment in March 2027; provide intensive training on the use of hydrocarbons for two RAC trainers at the Clean Cooling Hub in Vienna, expected to be completed by May 2027; and provide five refrigerant identifiers to customs authorities (UNIDO) (US $115,000 plus US $134,338 from the previous tranche);

(d) *Activities to maintain energy efficiency*: These activities are described in detail in the following section (UNEP) (US $120,000); and

[7] Decision 94/29(a) approved stage II of the HPMP for Gabon on the understanding that no servicing tail would be needed.

[8] Nitrogen cylinders and pressure regulators; brazing kits and hand tools; electrical and temperature measuring instruments; manifold gauges, vacuum gauges and pumps; weighing scales; electronic leak detectors for conventional refrigerants and hydrocarbons; refrigerant recovery machines and cylinders; pressure-testing and flushing equipment; oil testing instruments; and safety equipment, including CO_2 fire extinguishers, brazing goggles and protective gloves.

[9] Funds to be reallocated to equip a third centre of excellence if the establishment of the reclamation centre is not feasible.

(e) *Project implementation and monitoring (UNEP) (US $15,000):* Activities include personnel and national consultants (US $10,000), meetings and workshops (US $3,000) and domestic travel for project monitoring (US $2,000).

Activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector

11. The project related to energy efficiency, submitted in line with decision 89/6, has been designed to build the institutional and evidence base required to support the future development of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and labelling for RAC equipment, while strengthening the readiness of the technician workforce to install and service energy-efficient and low-global-warming potential (GWP) systems. The project also includes activities to facilitate institutional coordination in support of future energy-efficiency standards for the RAC sector, build the knowledge and evidence base for the establishment of MEPS and labelling schemes incorporating GWP limits, and integrate energy efficiency competencies into RAC technician training and curricula. The description and proposed cost breakdown of the activities to maintain **e**nergy efficiency in the sector are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Additional activities proposed to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector

Activity	Results/Performance indicators	Cost as submitted (US $)
1. Facilitate institutional coordination in support of future energy-efficiency standards for the RAC sector		
1.1 Establish a national coordination mechanism on RAC energy efficiency involving relevant government stakeholders to coordinate energy-efficiency measures for refrigerant-based appliances.	• An interministerial order established a national coordination mechanism, including but not limited to the NOU, the Energy Authority, Ministries of Trade and Industry, the Gabonese Standards Agency, customs, and the private sector representatives • Five coordination meetings held, with 20 participants per meeting, of whom at least 25 per cent are women	12,000
1.2 Build a shared understanding of the best practices recommended by the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of Central African States (CEREEAC) and assess options for implementing MEPS and energy labelling in Gabon.	• An assessment report of the regional MEPS and labelling framework, including its relevance and suitability for adoption in Gabon • A regulatory blueprint for implementing MEPS and energy labelling in Gabon	10,000
1.3 Engage private-sector traders to support future standards and inform the design of realistic implementation pathways.	• A stakeholder consultation process established and implemented through at least two dialogue rounds, each involving 40 participants	8,000
Subtotal component 1		**30,000**
2. Build the knowledge and evidence base for establishing MEPS and labelling integrating GWP limits		
2.1 Compare the draft CEREEAC regional MEPS and labelling standards with the current national regulatory framework to identify the procedural, institutional and legislative steps required for their adoption, including the roles of the Gabonese Standards Agency, relevant ministries and applicable approval processes.	• A regulatory gap analysis comparing the draft CEREEAC regional MEPS and labelling standards with the current national regulatory framework and identifying the steps required for their adoption	12,000
2.2 Develop an energy-efficiency and low-GWP baseline and demand assessment for the RAC sector, covering equipment stock, import volumes, refrigerant use and energy-efficiency profiles.	• A report presenting data collected from existing sources and technical visits to importers and retailers to characterize RAC equipment on the market, including capacity, energy efficiency, refrigerant type and country of origin	23,000

Activity	Results/Performance indicators	Cost as submitted (US $)
	• An energy-efficiency baseline for the RAC sector, including estimates of projected demand, with particular attention to domestic refrigerators and room air conditioners. • An assessment of potential energy savings and avoided emissions from introducing high-efficiency equipment using low-GWP refrigerants, to inform the regulatory roadmap and prioritization of interventions.	
2.3 Design and produce awareness materials on MEPS and energy labelling for consumers and traders, explaining their meaning, purpose and the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficient equipment using low-GWP refrigerants.	• Five French-language awareness products developed for consumers and traders to improve understanding of MEPS and energy savings, and energy labelling, ahead of the introduction of future regulations	10,000
Subtotal component 2		**45,000**
3. Integrate energy efficiency competencies into RAC technician training and curricula		
3.1 Assess RAC technicians' knowledge and skills in energy efficiency to identify training needs and opportunities.	• A needs assessment report identifying energy-efficiency knowledge and skills gaps among RAC technicians • A report identifying opportunities to integrate energy-efficiency modules into existing and ongoing domestic RAC training programmes, based on the findings of the needs assessment	10,000
3.2 Develop national energy-efficiency training modules and materials.	• An energy-efficiency training module developed for RAC training programmes, covering fundamental principles, equipment sizing and selection, installation and commissioning, performance diagnostics, and preventive maintenance • An energy-efficiency training module adapted for technical and vocational education and training pathways, university curricula and HPMP certification, covering the same core competencies	20,000
3.3 Deliver technician training on energy-efficient installation and servicing practices, coordinated with stage II of the HPMP.	• Three pilot training sessions delivered, with 20 technicians per session, on energy-efficient installation and servicing practices, reaching technicians from both the formal and informal sectors, with at least 20 per cent women	15,000
Subtotal component 3		**45,000**
	Total	**120,000**

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HCFC consumption and verification

12. The recommendations from the verification report include strengthening the licensing and quota system by developing specific HS codes for HCFCs and HFCs, equipping customs officers with refrigerant identifiers, and training importers on quota use and the future electronic platform. UNEP explained that the Government agreed with the recommendations and reported that Gabon has adopted the 2022 HS codes for HCFCs and HFCs. Further discussions at the CEMAC[10] regional level, in consultation with the World Customs Organization, are expected in 2027 to clarify the need for further disaggregation of certain tariff codes. In addition, at least five workshops are planned to train importers on import licensing and quota allocation procedures, including the use of the electronic platform once it is fully operational. UNIDO also explained that, due to rising refrigerant identifier prices and shipping costs, only five units could be procured within the available budget, instead of the ten originally planned. The NOU and customs authorities will determine their allocation to strategic points of entry.

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

13. The Government of Gabon has issued HCFC import quotas for 2026 at 5.90 ODP tonnes, which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets. The 2027 HCFC quotas will be allocated in January 2027, following consultation with the National Ozone Committee (NOC) and based on the list of approved importers, customs statistics, and national refrigerant stocks from the previous year.

14. The Secretariat inquired whether the new inter-ministerial order banning the import of new and used HCFC-based equipment would be adopted by December 2026, as initially planned, and requested an update on its approval status. UNEP responded that the draft order had been reviewed by the NOC and submitted to the Minister of Environment for issuance which is expected by 2027.

15. UNEP further explained that, following its adoption, the ban would be enforced through the existing licensing and quota system, under which import authorizations for new and used HCFC-based equipment would no longer be issued. Supporting HPMP activities include consultations with importers and RAC stakeholders, awareness-raising campaigns, dissemination of information materials, capacity-building for customs and enforcement officers, and continued market monitoring and engagement with importers, retailers, and end users, which will be utilized to facilitate compliance with the ban.

16. The Secretariat enquired about compliance with decision 94/29(b)(ii) which requires the country to establish regulatory measures to control intended emission of refrigerants during installation, servicing, and decommissioning of RAC equipment within stage II of the HPMP. UNEP responded that issues faced in recruitment of the consultants caused an initial delay, but that the first draft of the regulatory measures is expected before the end of 2026 and issuing the respective decree is expected early 2027 after endorsement by the NOC.

17. The Secretariat requested an update on the online mechanism for HCFC import controls. UNEP explained that the platform is operational for information exchange between the NOU and the Ministry of Commerce but is not yet integrated into customs operations. Challenges include limited inter-institutional coordination, incompatibility with existing customs systems, insufficient technical capacity, staff turnover

[10] Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo

and lengthy approval processes. The Customs Department plans to train additional staff, upgrade its systems and establish a secure data-exchange interface. The mechanism is expected to become fully operational in 2027, once Customs Department connects its system.

Refrigeration servicing sector

18. The Secretariat requested estimated completion dates for the regulatory standards and protocols on the use of flammable and toxic substances in RAC equipment and for the institutional arrangements and procedures for the certification scheme. UNEP reported that an international consultant had been engaged to finalize the regulatory standards and protocols, which are expected to be available by the end of January 2027. Work on the certification scheme is ongoing, in collaboration with the Italian Association of Refrigeration Technicians. Developing the scheme in French has required additional time, given the limited availability of French-speaking expertise, and finalization is expected by December 2027.

Implementation plan for the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector

19. In line with decision 89/6(d), UNEP has included in the tranche implementation plan specific activities, performance indicators and associated funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the RAC sector. Gabon has no dedicated MEPS or energy-labelling framework for appliances or refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment, while the CEREEAC, which supports the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region of which Gabon is a member, has recently launched a project to support the development of regional MEPS.

20. In response to the Secretariat's enquiry, UNEP confirmed that Gabon has no existing MEPS or energy-labelling framework for RAC equipment and that no other institutions or financing mechanisms are implementing or planning similar activities in the country. Gabon and UNEP recognize that the introduction and enforcement of MEPS and energy-labelling are essential to reducing energy consumption and minimizing the environmental impact of RAC equipment, and the proposed activities would support the adaptation of the regional MEPS and energy labelling framework and best practices developed by CEREEAC to the national context, thereby promoting low-GWP and energy-efficient technologies, strengthening stakeholders' understanding of their climate and environmental benefits, improving inter-institutional coordination, and contributing to Gabon's HCFC phase-out targets and the objectives of the Kigali Amendment.

21. The Secretariat noted that the proposed activities fall within the scope of subparagraphs (b)(ii), (iii) and (v) of decision 89/6. Specifically, the project will strengthen institutional coordination, develop the evidence base for MEPS and energy labelling incorporating GWP limits, and integrate energy efficiency competencies into RAC technician training and curricula. Through structured dialogues and coordination among policymakers and relevant stakeholders, a national regulatory gap analysis and market assessment for the RAC sector, alongside targeted training and awareness-raising activities, the project is expected to strengthen the enabling environment for energy-efficient, low-GWP technologies and support the transition away from HCFCs.

Gender policy implementation

22. In line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), the NOU has initiated the collection of sex-disaggregated data during workshops, meetings, and stakeholder engagements to assess women's participation in project activities. The NOU is committed to implementing the Multilateral Fund's policy to promote equal opportunities for women and men throughout project implementation. To date, women accounted for 35 per cent of participants in customs training, approximately 19 per cent of participants in RAC technician trainings, and 29 per cent of participants in stakeholder consultation sessions. Additionally,

a national expert in this area has been engaged to lead an awareness campaign encouraging young women to pursue studies in RAC fields.

23. In parallel, the Association of Female RAC Technicians of Gabon was established in August 2024 to promote women's participation in the RAC sector and support Montreal Protocol implementation. The Association operates independently and is a member of the NOC. Two of its members have been trained as RAC trainers, and the NOU plans to involve the Association in technician training, the development and implementation of the certification scheme, and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage more women to pursue careers in the sector. These measures are expected to increase representation of women in Gabon's RAC workforce.

Updated Agreement

24. In view of the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector and the accordingly revised funding schedule, the Agreement between the Government of Gabon and the Executive Committee has been updated. Specifically, Appendix 2-A has been revised, and paragraph 17 has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 94th meeting by decision 94/29, as contained in annex I to the present document. The full updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 99th meeting.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

25. The country is making efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of HPMP activities while phasing out the remaining HCFC consumption. To reduce national demand for HCFCs, the country will introduce a ban on import of HCFC-dependent equipment in 2027. HCFC-22 is the only remaining HCFC imported and used in the servicing sector. Equipment importers, distributors, and retailers are already being engaged and sensitized on the upcoming ban. The capacity-building of customs and border enforcement agencies, improved import monitoring, and stronger sub-regional cooperation in information exchange and coordinated enforcement will help prevent illegal HCFC trade and ensure effective enforcement of the ban once it enters into force.

Conclusion

26. Gabon reduced its HCFC consumption to 5.94 ODP tonnes in 2025, 80 per cent below the baseline, and the verification report confirmed that the Article 7 data accurately reflect consumption during the implementation period and that the licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports is being enforced, while a ban on the import of HCFC-based equipment awaits approval. The recommendations of the verification report have been addressed, namely through adoption of the 2022 HS codes, the provision of refrigerant identifiers to customs officials, and the trainings for importers on import licensing and quota allocation procedures, including the use of the electronic platform once it is fully operational. Significant progress has been achieved under the first tranche, with 53 per cent of the approved funding disbursed, and activities in the RAC servicing sector, customs training and enforcement, and the development of a technician certification scheme are advancing despite challenges related to inter-institutional coordination and the limited capacity of national experts. The second tranche will build on this progress by strengthening HCFC import monitoring and enforcement capacity, finalizing the technician certification process, upgrading the technical skills of RAC technicians, strengthening local training institutes through the provision of training equipment, and maintaining energy efficiency in the servicing sector, thereby supporting Gabon in sustaining low HCFC consumption levels and achieving complete phase-out by 2030.

RECOMMENDATION

27. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

(a) Note:

(i) The progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Gabon;

(ii) The submission of additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in the amount of US $120,000, plus agency support costs of US $14,678, for UNEP

(iii) That the Fund Secretariat has updated the Agreement between the Government of Gabon and the Executive Committee, as contained in annex I to the present document, specifically Appendix 2-A, based on the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector referred to in subparagraph (a)(ii) above; and paragraph 17 that has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 94th meeting by decision 94/29;

28. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP for Gabon, and the corresponding 2027–2029 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 (stage II, second tranche)	438,000	53,576	UNEP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	115,000	8,050	UNIDO

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Gabon

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY
Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I)	UNEP (lead), UNIDO

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex F)	Year: 2025	386.00 mt	860,591 CO_2-eq tonnes

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (CO_2-eq tonnes) AND ACTIVITIES								Year: 2025	
	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Air-conditioning (AC) and refrigeration				Solvent	Other
				Manufacturing			Servicing		
				Refrigeration	AC	Other			
HFCs							860,591		
Planned activities agreed (Y/N)							Y		

AVERAGE 2020–2022 HFC CONSUMPTION IN SERVICING	716.39 mt	1,536,370 CO_2-eq tonnes

BASELINE DATA (CO_2-eq tonnes)	2020	2021	2022	Average 2020–2022
HFC annual consumption	1,805,193	2,063,886	740,030	1,536,370
HCFC baseline (65%)				645,840
HFC baseline				2,182,210

HFC CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING (CO_2-eq tonnes)	
Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions	n/a
Previously approved HFC phase-down investment projects	No
Aggregate reductions from previously approved projects	n/a

PROJECT DATA AS AGREED			2026*	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Consumption (CO_2-eq tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		2,182,210	2,182,210	2,182,210	1,963,989	1,963,989	n/a
	Maximum allowable		1,397,732	1,397,732	1,397,732	1,188,072	1,188,072	n/a
	Reduction from baseline (%)		0.0	0.0	0.0	45.6	45.6	n/a
Project costs requested in principle (US $)	UNEP	Project costs	131,000	0	96,000	0	0	227,000
		Support costs	17,030	0	12,480	0	0	29,510
	UNIDO	Project costs	54,000	0	79,000	0	0	133,000
		Support costs	7,020	0	10,270	0	0	17,290
Total amounts recommended in principle (US $)		Project costs	185,000	0	175,000	0	0	360,000
		Support costs	24,050	0	22,750	0	0	46,800
		Total funds	209,050	0	197,750	0	0	406,800

* Recommended for approval at the present meeting

Reduction from remaining consumption eligible for funding in stage I (CO_2-eq tonnes)	n/a

Secretariat's recommendation	Individual consideration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

29. The present document contains the following sections:

I. Summary of the proposal as submitted

II. Background: Status of implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan and previous HFC-related activities

III. HFC consumption overview: HFC consumption levels, trends, and consumption by sector

IV. Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, as submitted: Regulatory framework, phase-down strategy, total stage cost, and implementation plan for the first tranche

V. Secretariat's comments, including the agreed cost of activities

VI. Recommendation

I. Summary of the proposal as submitted

30. On behalf of the Government of Gabon, UNEP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP), at a total cost of US $406,800, consisting of US $227,000, plus agency support costs of US $29,510, for UNEP and US $133,000, plus agency support costs of US $17,290, for UNIDO, as originally submitted.[11]

31. The implementation of stage I of the KIP will assist the Government of Gabon in meeting the target of 45.6 per cent reduction from its established HFC baseline consumption by 1 January 2029.

32. The first tranche of stage I of the KIP being requested at this meeting amounts to US $209,050, consisting of US $131,000, plus agency support costs of US $17,030, for UNEP and US $54,000, plus agency support costs of US $7,020, for UNIDO, as originally submitted, for the period of January 2027 to December 2028.

II. Background

Status of implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan

33. Table 3 presents information on the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) in Gabon as of November 2026.

Table 3. HPMP implementation status for Gabon

Particulars	Stage I	Stage II
Meetings when HPMP was approved or updated	62nd/73rd	94th
Reduction from baseline	35% by 2020	100% by 2030
Total stage cost (US $)	540,000	915,000
Date of completion (actual or planned)	31 December 2023	31 December 2031

[11] As per the letter of 13 August 2026 from the General Directorate for the Environment and Nature Conservation of Gabon to the Secretariat

Status of implementation of previous HFC-related activities

34. Table 4 presents an overview of activities implemented in Gabon in the context of the Kigali Amendment that have been funded by the Multilateral Fund.

Table 4. Previously approved HFC-related activities in Gabon

Approval meeting	Project title	Implementing agency	Cost (US $)	Date of completion
75th	Survey of ODS alternatives	UNEP	110,000	August 2017
80th	Enabling activities for HFC phase-down	UNEP	150,000	December 2022

III. HFC consumption overview

HFC consumption levels

35. Gabon only imports (does not produce) HFCs for use in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing sector. The most consumed substances in 2025 were HFC-134a (33.7 per cent of total HFC consumption in CO_2-equivalent (CO_2-eq) tonnes), R-404A (23.3 per cent), R-410A (22.5 per cent), and R-407C (20.5 per cent). Table 5 presents the country's HFC consumption as reported to the Ozone Secretariat under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol, and the country's HFC baseline.

Table 5. 2020–2025 HFC consumption and baseline for Gabon (Article 7 data)

HFC	GWP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Metric tonnes (mt)							
HFC-134a	1,430	300.00	364.40	112.00	110.00	135.00	130.00
R-404A	3,921.6	150.00	175.00	82.00	85.00	95.00	90.00
R-407C	1,773.85	150.00	167.00	55.00	61.00	83.00	79.00
R-410A	2,087.5	250.00	265.00	77.00	79.00	120.00	87.00
R-507A	3,985	0.00	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (mt)		**850.00**	**973.18**	**326.00**	**335.00**	**433.00**	**386.00**
CO_2-eq tonnes							
HFC-134a	1,430	429,000	521,092	160,160	157,300	193,050	185,900
R-404A	3,921.6	588,240	686,280	321,571	333,336	372,552	352,944
R-407C	1,773.85	266,078	296,233	97,562	108,205	147,230	140,134
R-410A	2,087.5	521,875	553,188	160,738	164,913	250,500	181,613
R-507A	3,985	0	7,093	0	0	0	0
Total (CO_2-eq tonnes)		**1,805,193**	**2,063,886**	**740,030**	**763,753**	**963,332**	**860,591**

HFC baseline calculation (CO_2-eq tonnes)	
Average HFC consumption in 2020–2022	1,536,370
HCFC baseline (65%)	645,840
HFC baseline	2,182,210

Country programme implementation report

36. The sectoral HFC consumption data provided by the Government of Gabon in its country programme (CP) implementation report for 2025 is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

HFC consumption trends

37. The consumption figures for the period prior to 2022, before the introduction of the HFC licensing system, were overestimated. The quota system was introduced in 2024, based on the realistic consumption figures. Consumption of HFCs has increased since 2022, by 3.2 per cent (in CO_2-eq tonnes) in 2023 and by 26.1 per cent in 2024. In 2025, consumption decreased by 10.7 per cent (in CO_2-eq tonnes) owing to the lower import quota, the impact of awareness-raising activities, and the gradual introduction of low-global-warming potential (GWP) alternatives to the market.

HFC consumption by sector

38. HFCs are mainly consumed for servicing in industrial refrigeration (27.9 per cent in mt and 20.6 per cent in CO_2-eq tonnes), followed by commercial air-conditioning (AC) (18.5 per cent in mt and 15.8 per cent in CO_2-eq tonnes), fisheries (including stationary onshore storage such as ice plants and shoreside holding blocks, mobile offshore and transit cooling) (21.0 per cent in mt and 34.5 per cent in CO_2-eq tonnes), and other subsectors, as shown in tables 6 and 7.

Table 6. 2025 HFC consumption in Gabon in servicing subsectors (mt)

Sector	HFC-134a	R-404A	R-407C	R-410A	Total	Share of total (%)
Refrigeration subsectors						
Domestic	6.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.85	2.2
Commercial	26.99	21.00	0.00	0.00	47.99	15.3
Industrial	12.08	0.00	65.80	10.00	87.88	27.9
Transport	1.13	0.57	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.5
Fisheries	0.00	66.00	0.00	0.00	66.00	21.0
Air-conditioning subsectors						
Residential	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.27	26.27	8.4
Commercial	0.00	0.00	8.00	50.13	58.13	18.5
Mobile	19.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.63	6.2
Total	**66.68**	**87.57**	**73.80**	**86.39**	**314.43**	**100**

Table 7. 2025 HFC consumption in Gabon in the servicing subsectors (CO_2-eq tonnes)

Sector	HFC-134a	R-404A	R-407C	R-410A	Total	Share of total (%)
Refrigeration subsectors						
Domestic	9,796	0	0	0	9,810	1.3
Commercial	38,596	82,354	0	0	120,935	16.1
Industrial	17,274	0	116,719	20,875	154,869	20.6
Transport	1,616	2,235	0	0	3,851	0.5
Fisheries	0	258,826	0	0	258,826	34.5
Air-conditioning subsectors						
Residential	0	0	0	54,839	54,839	7.3
Commercial	0	0	14,191	104,646	118,837	15.8
Mobile	28,071	0	0	0	28,071	3.7
Total	**95,352**	**343,415**	**130,910**	**180,360**	**750,037***	**100**

***** *Difference between estimated servicing needs and imports owing to use of refrigerant for installation of large equipment, in particular HFC-134a*

Refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector

39. During KIP preparation, 418 servicing technicians (including 55 women) and 120 workshops, including those in informal sector, were identified, in addition to those identified when preparing stage II of the HPMP. There are five RAC training centres in the country; three are state-owned and two are private. In 2024, there were 14 graduates (including five women) from RAC vocational training centres in Gabon.

40. The establishment of a certification scheme for RAC technicians was proposed under stage II of the HPMP but has faced delays in sourcing a French-speaking international consultant to lead the process. UNEP's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) has developed an initiative to leverage technical expertise across several countries in the region, which Gabon will join. The certification will not be mandatory, but it will be a requirement to allow technicians to undertake certain types of servicing work.

41. The official certification scheme in Gabon is expected to be operational in the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP, with initial certification expected during the third tranche. Once fully operational, it is expected that it will certify approximately 60 technicians each year.

Domestic, commercial, industrial and transport refrigeration servicing

42. There are approximately 537,000 domestic refrigeration units in Gabon, comprised of domestic fridges, domestic freezers and a small number of water coolers, all using HFC-134a exclusively. Many households rely on older, second-hand appliances that are less efficient than modern units. There is an increasing use of R-600a in domestic refrigeration, with approximately 179,000 units installed in 2025.

43. Commercial refrigeration in Gabon comprises an estimated 9,450 units, including stand-alone units, condensing units, and small and large centralized systems, operating mainly on HFC-134a and R-404A. HFC-134a is the predominant refrigerant in small stand-alone units and large centralized systems, while R-404A is the predominant refrigerant in condensing units and small centralized systems, although both refrigerants are used across all applications. A limited number of R-290-based units are installed, comprising approximately 840 small stand-alone units, 350 condensing units and 230 small centralized systems. Commercial refrigeration serves informal markets and fish storage, as well as healthcare and pharmaceutical needs.

44. Industrial refrigeration includes approximately 880 units, using mainly R-407C and HFC-134a, with a smaller number of units consuming R-410A. The oil and mining industry is the main driver of industrial cooling in Gabon. There are approximately 2,000 units within the transport refrigeration subsector, including vans, trucks, containers, trains and fisheries equipment (ice factories and refrigerated containers). R-404A is the dominant refrigerant across the transport refrigeration sector, followed by HFC-134a.

Residential and commercial air-conditioning servicing

45. The residential AC subsector comprises approximately 350,245 units, all of which are split systems using R-410A. There are a small number of residential AC units operating on HFC-32 which were imported recently and therefore have not yet undergone servicing. There is growing demand for cooling in households in Gabon, and the price of equipment based on low-GWP alternatives on the market is high compared to HFC-based equipment.

46. Commercial AC includes approximately 13,700 units, including multi-split, variable refrigerant flow (VRF) and packaged rooftop systems. The dominant refrigerant is R-410A, with a smaller number of multi-split units using R-407C. Commercial and public administration buildings drive the need for AC in Gabon, along with hotels and restaurants and food and retail applications.

Mobile air-conditioning servicing

47. There are an estimated 218,345 vehicles including cars and small vans, large vehicles and buses in Gabon, using HFC-134a exclusively. There are a smaller number of vehicles (approximately 1,800) using HFO-1234yf in newer vehicles. The vehicle market in Gabon relies mainly on used, imported vehicles using HFC-134a.

IV. Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan as submitted

Institutional, policy and regulatory framework

48. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) is the national office that coordinates the implementation of all ODS phase-out and HFC phase-down activities in Gabon, housed under the General Directorate for the Environment and Nature Conservation, on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Environment, Climate Change and Human-Wildlife Conflict. It is responsible for development, coordination, implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the projects supported by the Multilateral Fund. The NOU receives technical and advisory support from the National Ozone Committee (NOC), which comprises stakeholders from government ministries, public institutions, the private sector and civil society. The NOC supervises all matters relating to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment in Gabon, provides policy inputs and guidance, oversees the implementation of the projects and supports the NOU. The NOC holds responsibility for development of regulatory measures for the control of ODS and HFCs, including import licenses and quotas. The NOU and the NOC cooperate with the National Climate Council, which is the advisory body to the government on climate change strategy.

49. Several other ministries and institutions are involved in the control and management of ODS and HFCs in Gabon including the Ministry of Trade, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Youth Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Economy, Finance, Debt and Investments; the National Agency for Professional Training; the Gabonese Agency for Standardisation; and the National Institute of Statistics. The control of the legal entry of controlled substances and equipment into the country is placed under the responsibility of the General Directorate of Customs and Indirect Duties.

Phase-down strategy for stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

Overarching strategy

50. The Government of Gabon aims to phase down HFCs through a multi-stage process. Stage I of the KIP builds on the foundations established under the HPMP and aims to create the conditions needed for a sustainable HFC phase-down. It will strengthen the regulatory framework and control mechanism, build capacity of customs officers and RAC technicians, improve refrigerant management practices, and facilitate the adoption of low-GWP technologies through demonstration.

Proposed reductions

51. The established HFC baseline is 2,182,210 CO_2-eq tonnes. Noting the largely overestimated consumption prior to 2022 in the absence of an HFC licensing system, the country proposed maximum allowable HFC consumption of 1,397,732 CO_2-eq tonnes for 2026 to 2028 (the average 2022–2023 HFC consumption, plus 65 per cent of the HCFC baseline) and 1,188,072 CO_2-eq tonnes of HFCs for 2029, representing a 45.6 per cent reduction from the established HFC baseline (a 15 per cent reduction from the maximum allowable consumption for 2026-2028), and maintain at the same level for 2030. The Government of Gabon and the implementing agencies have forecasted HFC consumption in a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario as shown in table 8 below.

Table 8. HFC consumption forecast under the unconstrained scenario, Montreal Protocol limits, and proposed HFC reductions under stage I (CO_2-eq tonnes)

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
HFC consumption forecast at an annual growth rate of 2.5 %*	882,105	904,158	926,762	949,931	973,679
Total projected HFC consumption**	968,525	1,076,998	1,186,022	1,295,611	1,319,359
Montreal Protocol HFC consumption limits	2,182,210	2,182,210	2,182,210	1,963,989	1,963,989
HFC consumption levels proposed under the KIP	1,397,732	1,397,732	1,397,732	1,188,072	1,188,072
Proposed reductions from the HFC consumption baseline (%)	36.0	36.0	36.0	45.6	45.6

* Calculated based on an annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent in line with project GDP growth
** Including HFC phase-in from HCFC phase-out

Proposed activities

52. Activities proposed for implementation in the servicing sector under stage I and in the first tranche and their cost breakdown are presented in table 9.

Table 9. Servicing sector activities and their costs in stage I and in the first tranche of stage I of the KIP for Gabon, as submitted

Activity	Agency	Cost (US $)	
		Stage I	First tranche
1. Regulatory framework and control mechanism			
1.1 Conduct legal analysis and develop draft decree on import, use and re-export of HFCs (US $10,000); organize two meetings with stakeholders (one consultative process workshop and one awareness raising workshop after decree adoption) (US $5,000)	UNEP	15,000	12,500
1.2 Introduce and implement bans on import and restrictions on installation of HFC-based equipment; organize two meetings with importers (US $5,000); conduct market assessment study (US $5,000); draft legal acts on import bans and HFC-related regulations (US $4,000); and conduct two awareness raising meetings on import bans and regulations (US $5,000)	UNEP	19,000	10,000
1.3 Develop and disseminate the guide on ODS and HFC legislation	UNEP	10,000	8,000
1.4 Establish and maintain a website providing access to relevant legislation and detailed information for relevant stakeholders	UNEP	15,000	10,000
1.5 Update the system of issuance of import licenses and allocation of quotas for HFCs (US $7,500) and conduct one workshop for importers, customs officials and the government bodies on the HFC licensing and quota system (US $2,500)	UNEP	10,000	10,000
1.6 Establish and maintain a database for controlled substances (US $26,000) and conduct two workshops on the use of the database and data reporting, improving the collection, systematization and reporting of data and strengthening the collaboration among stakeholders (US $5,000)	UNEP	31,000	15,500
1.7 Conduct a targeted awareness-raising campaigns for end-users and industry on low-GWP and high-efficiency alternatives and their economic and environmental benefits	UNEP	10,000	5,000
Subtotal component 1		110,000	71,000

Activity	Agency	Cost (US $)	
		Stage I	First tranche
2. Capacity-building of customs officers			
2.1 Prepare and disseminate posters and other information materials outlining the main rules and regulations on the imports of ODS and HFCs and customs codes	UNEP	3,000	3,000
2.2 Conduct two study tours for three customs officers (to a total of six officers) to exchange information and experience with other member countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo)	UNEP	15,000	7,500
Subtotal component 3		18,000	10,500
3. Capacity-building of RAC technicians			
3.1 Conduct eight trainings of 30 technicians (to a total of 240 technicians) on mobile air-conditioning (MAC) and domestic refrigeration good servicing practices	UNEP	48,000	24,000
3.2 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for informal RAC technicians on flammable or toxic refrigerants	UNEP	10,000	5,000
3.3 Update the curricula of vocational schools to include recycling and recovery, safety procedures for handling flammable refrigerants, and maintaining the performance of equipment using low-GWP alternative technology	UNEP	6,000	3,000
Subtotal component 2		64,000	32,000
4. Facilitating the introduction of low-GWP technologies			
4.1 Conduct a demonstration project in the commercial refrigeration sub-sector including preparation of the project and comparative analysis of performance and energy use (US $5,000); procure, deliver and install two R-290-based units (US $25,000); collect replaced units and deliver to collection location for proper disposal (US $4,000); and conduct training on installation and servicing of R-290-based units (US $6,000)	UNIDO	40,000	5,000
Subtotal component 4		40,000	5,000
5. Strengthening technical capacities for refrigerant management			
5.1 Develop and update the MAC servicing curriculum and training manual (US $6,000); procure and deliver MAC simulator unit (configured to work with both HFC-134a and HFO-1234yf) (US $9,000); and procure and deliver MAC servicing tools and equipment[12] (US $28,000)	UNIDO	43,000	43,000
5.2 Upgrading two centres of excellence for the safe use of flammable refrigerants including recruitment of one consultant for facility assessment, safety inspections and modifications plan for two centres; procure and deliver equipment for two centres[13]	UNIDO	38,000	0
5.3 Provide technical assistance to RAC end users through recruitment of consultants to support "Zero Leaks" pilot project and development of a leakage control guide and conduct two workshops on this pilot project	UNIDO	12,000	6,000
Subtotal component 5		93,000	49,000

[12] Including refrigerant recovery machines, manifold gauge sets, vacuum pumps, refrigerant charging scales, HFO-compatible leak detectors, hoses, adapters and valves, safety equipment and one automotive AC service station

[13] Including smoke detectors, alarms, flame control systems, hoses, fire extinguishers, ventilation ducts (with installation), fire resistant glass, emergency doors, and other installations

Activity	Agency	Cost (US $)	
		Stage I	First tranche
6. Project coordination and management			
6.1 Project coordination and management activities (see paragraph 53)	UNEP	35,000	17,500
Subtotal component 6		35,000	17,500
Subtotal for UNEP		**227,000**	**131,000**
Subtotal for UNIDO		**133,000**	**54,000**
Total		**360,000**	**185,000**

Project implementation, coordination and monitoring

53. The institutional arrangements and other infrastructure established under the HPMP will form the basis for the implementation and monitoring of KIP activities. Project monitoring and coordination of implementation will be undertaken by the NOU. A budget of US $35,000 is proposed, which includes consultants (US $20,000), travel (US $6,000), meetings (US $6,000) and other costs (US $3,000).

Total cost of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

54. The budget for stage I has been proposed at US $360,000. The costs of activities in the refrigeration servicing sector have been proposed in line with decision 92/37.

Implementation plan for the first tranche

55. The first funding tranche of stage I of the KIP was submitted in the total amount of US $185,000, as shown in table 9 above, to be implemented between January 2027 and December 2028. Detailed information on the activities to be implemented under the first tranche, including adjustments and level of funds as agreed, are presented in paragraphs 73–74 below.

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

V. Comments

Overarching strategy

56. Gabon proposes to reduce HFC consumption by 45.6 per cent of its baseline by 2029. The targets were derived from the average 2022-2023 HFC consumption, plus 65 per cent of the HCFC baseline, resulting in 1,397,732 CO_2-eq tonnes, frozen at that level in 2026–2028 and reduced by 15 per cent in 2029 (1,188,072 CO_2-eq tonnes). The Government of Gabon has demonstrated strong commitment to support reductions in HFC consumption in advance of the Montreal Protocol targets.[14] In response to the Secretariat's query, UNEP explained that, although consumption in 2020 and 2021 was overestimated, the Government will not request a revision of its Article 7 data, as it cannot gather the documentation required under decision XV/19; it is instead voluntarily committing to a maximum allowable consumption for HFC targets based on 2022–2023 consumption.

57. The Secretariat noted that the 2025 consumption (860,591 CO_2-eq tonnes) is already below all proposed targets. UNEP explained that the remaining 108 mt of HCFC-22 must be phased out by 1 January 2030 without a servicing tail (decision 94/29); assuming a shift to R-404A and R-410A (345,678 CO_2-eq tonnes) plus 2.5 per cent annual growth, consumption would reach

[14] As per the letter of 13 August 2026 from the General Directorate for the Environment and Nature Conservation of Gabon to the Secretariat

1,295,611 CO_2-eq tonnes in 2029. The 2029 target therefore represents a reduction of 107,539 CO_2-eq tonnes from projected levels. On the assumption of a full shift to high-GWP HFCs, UNEP indicated that low-GWP alternatives for the large equipment in the main sub-sectors (including chillers and fisheries) are not expected to be viable before 2030. The Secretariat notes that the freeze level would still exceed projected consumption by 429,207 to 211,710 CO_2-eq tonnes in 2026–2028, so the commitment becomes binding only in 2029, and that the annual quota (813,748 CO_2-eq tonnes in 2026) will be the effective control instrument in the early years. The strong commitment of the Government of Gabon to support reductions in HFC consumption in advance of the Montreal Protocol targets.

HFC consumption

58. CP and Article 7 data are consistent. UNEP attributed the 26.1 per cent increase in 2024 to stockpiling in the first year of the quota system (quota of 444.40 mt or 983,382 CO_2-eq tonnes), followed by a lower 2025 quota (404.46 mt or 913,342 CO_2-eq tonnes). R-507A, reported only in 2021, is no longer used.

59. At the Secretariat's request, information about the leakage rates was updated by UNEP estimating the 2025 servicing demand of 314.43 mt and attributing the difference with imported quantities to requirements of new installation of large equipment. Fisheries sector was also reported separately from transport refrigeration and the sector's details are included in table 10.

Table 10. Fisheries sector details

Sub-sector segment	Metric tonnes	Estimated fleet / unit population %	Primary equipment profile
Stationary fisheries onshore	42.9 mt (approx. 65%)	Approx. 40% of total units	Fixed block/flake ice factories, cold storage warehouses, blast freezers
Mobile transport refrigeration	23.1 mt (approx. 35%)	Approx. 60% of total units	Refrigerated containers, artisanal insulated boats, distribution trucks
Total fisheries	66.0 mt	100%	

60. UNEP explained that the fisheries sector, which relies mainly on R-404A, is the largest sub-sector in CO_2-eq terms (about 30 per cent of 2025 consumption), split between onshore ice plants and cold stores (65 per cent of use) and mobile equipment; 20 to 25 per cent of the installed capacities still uses HCFC-22. In addition to Gabon's domestic commercial fleet, there is a massive influx of foreign-flagged industrial vessels operating in Gabon's Exclusive Economic Zone.

61. Chillers rely mainly on R-407C as a close-match replacement for HCFC-22. As stage I addresses these sub-sectors only through awareness-raising (activity 1.7) and "Zero Leaks" assistance (activity 5.3), the Secretariat suggested dedicated interventions which UNEP will consult with the country and report back in the submission of the second tranche and/or stage II, as feasible.

Institutional, policy and regulatory framework

62. In line with decision 87/50(g), UNEP confirmed that Gabon has an enforceable HFC licensing since 2021 and quota system since 2024, operated under the ODS decrees. The 2026 quota is established at 368.22 mt (813,748 CO_2-eq tonnes, and 37.3 per cent of the baseline). Compliance is verified by triangulating importer, customs and trade ministry data; no contraventions have been recorded. A dedicated HFC decree, providing for quotas in CO_2-eq tonnes, is expected by the end of 2027.

63. Regarding bans on HFC-based equipment, UNEP indicated that their scope and timing will be decided following the market assessment under activity 1.2, with HFC-134a domestic refrigerators and R-404A commercial equipment as likely candidates. Noting that some 178,750 R-600a-based domestic

units are already in use, the Secretariat suggested that the second tranche request include a report on the proposed bans and their implementation timeline.

64. In response to the Secretariat's enquiries regarding the overlap between some of the policy-related activities and the roles of the NOU, UNEP explained that Gabon has no legislation specifically dedicated to HFCs, and that stage I of the KIP will therefore focus, at the outset, on adopting an HFC-focused decree and establishing the broader regulatory framework, including consideration of import bans and restrictions on the installation of HFC-based equipment. The licensing and quota system will be expanded to cover HFCs, with quotas expressed in CO_2-eq tonnes to ensure fair distribution among importers and compliance with the phase-down schedule, supported by a workshop for importers, customs and the ministry in charge of trade on the revised procedures, and by an awareness-raising campaign targeted at end-users and industry stakeholders on low-GWP and energy-efficient alternatives.

65. UNEP further explained that experience gained from the survey taken for stage I of the KIP preparation, verification reports and stakeholder consultations identified improved data collection, systematization and reporting as the country's most pressing need, with past methods having lacked a systemic approach and facing insufficient connectivity among stakeholders. A national database accessible to all relevant authorities will therefore be established, consolidating information from ministries, customs, importers, public institutions, RAC technicians and workshops in both the formal and informal sectors, end users and training centres. These activities represent a one-time investment that will be sustained through the institutional strengthening project and will serve both the HFC phase-down and the HCFC phase-out; as stage II of the HPMP, running in parallel with approximately three times the funding, focuses on training and equipment, stage I of the KIP I deliberately designed to address the legal, regulatory and data management gaps instead.

66. In response to the enquiry about the need for study tours for customs officers, UNEP explained that this activity is support to the capacity building of customs officers in Gabon. As CEMAC is a customs union, all commodities entering its member states, including controlled substances and equipment based on them, are subject to common customs laws and unified monitoring standards. Given the considerable experience of Chad and Cameroon in implementing legislation on HFC and HCFC imports, two missions would be organized, one to each country, for a total of six Gabonese customs officers. The visits would cover legislation and regulations and include on-site visits to customs points to share hands-on experience on the use of HS codes, identification of shipments, reporting and intelligence on the prevention of illegal trade. Participating officers would be required to transmit the knowledge gained during the customs training sessions organized under stage II of the HPMP, which covers all HCFC- and HFC-related trainings, thereby increasing the impact of the exchanges and ensuring the sustainability of good practices. UNEP also clarified that no comparable exchange is organized under the UNEP CAP Francophone Countries Network and that the activity would benefit the customs administrations of both Gabon and the host countries.

Technical and cost-related issues

67. UNEP clarified that the KIP survey identified 120 workshops and 418 technicians (87 in MAC, mostly informal), which are in addition to the 860 identified under stage II of the HPMP; the database under activity 1.6 will establish the exact number. The absence of graduates in 2024 at three training centres was due to a strike, which has since been resolved. The certification scheme under stage II of the HPMP will be developed with the Italian Association of Refrigeration Technicians and is expected to be completed by December 2027.

68. On absorptive capacity, with 52.6 per cent of the first tranche of stage II of the HPMP disbursed, UNEP indicated that most UNIDO funds are obligated for equipment pending delivery and that additional consultants will be recruited under the KIP. To avoid duplication with the HPMP, UNEP clarified that the upgrade of two centres of excellence (activity 5.2, US $38,000) covers safety infrastructure (detection,

ventilation, fire protection), not the tools procured under the HPMP; and the KIP database (activity 1.6, US $31,000) extends the HPMP online customs-NOU tool to importers and workshops.

69. In response to the Secretariat's enquiry regarding the overlap of some activities with the HPMP, UNEP clarified that technician training under the KIP (activity 3.1, 240 technicians) is limited to the MAC and domestic refrigeration subsectors, which are not covered by the HPMP. No customs training is included as the HPMP covers 800 officers; two CEMAC study tours (activity 2.2) are proposed instead.

70. The Secretariat requested additional details about the targeted sub-sectors and types and size of proposed applications for the commercial refrigeration demonstration component, UNIDO explained that the demonstration will target factory-sealed hermetic monoblock commercial refrigeration units or modular multi-circuit plug-in display systems with a capacity of up to 15 kW. By focusing on self-contained configurations, the demonstration will avoid the safety hazards associated with field-engineered R-290 piping while drawing on the high energy efficiency of propane for cold storage rooms and large-scale retail displays in Gabon's food preservation sub-sector. The initial expert study will target medium-sized supermarkets in Libreville and Port-Gentil, which rely heavily on R-404A for meat, dairy and frozen food displays and offer the highest replication potential given the direct impact of energy costs on their margins; agro-food processing and cold-chain logistics hubs requiring reliable rapid cooling for perishable goods prior to distribution. UNIDO will submit a final report on the implementation of this project, in line with decision 92/36(g).

71. Based on discussion with the Secretariat regarding the equipment and tools required under activity 5.1 to support the MAC sector, UNEP, in consultation with the country, agreed to adjust the list to include two professional-grade automotive AC service stations instead of one. The revised budget includes three manifold gauge sets, three vacuum pumps, three refrigerant charging scales, three HFO-compatible leak detectors, in addition to sets of hoses, adapters, and safety gear. The overall cost remained, as originally requested, of US $28,000 including freight and clearance.

Total project cost

72. Although Gabon's 2020–2022 average servicing consumption (716.39 mt) is above the low-volume-consuming (LVC) countries' threshold, the Government opted to be treated as an LVC country under decision 92/37(c). Noting the average 2022–2023 consumption of 330 mt, at a total cost of US $360,000, stage I of the KIP for Gabon will reduce 994,138 CO_2-eq tonnes from the HFC baseline.

73. Stage I of the KIP will be implemented in two tranches.

Implementation plan for the first tranche of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

74. The agreed plan of action at a total cost of US $185,000 will include the following activities:

(a) *Regulatory framework and control mechanism:* Adopt the HFC decree; conduct preparatory work for bans on HFC-based equipment; develop a legislation guide and a website; update the quota system to CO_2-eq tonnes and the national database and conduct one end-user awareness campaign (UNEP) (US $71,000);

(b) *Capacity-building of customs and enforcement officers:* Develop and disseminate customs information materials and conduct one CEMAC study tour (UNEP) (US $10,500);

(c) *Capacity-building of RAC and MAC technicians:* Conduct training of 120 MAC and domestic refrigeration technicians, awareness-raising activities for informal technicians and curriculum update (UNEP) (US $32,000);

(d) *Introduction of low-GWP technologies:* Conduct one study for the R-290 demonstration including preparation of the project and comparative analysis of performance and energy use (UNIDO) (US $5,000);

(e) *Technical capacities for refrigeration management*: Update the MAC curriculum, procure and deliver simulator and servicing tools, and prepare the "Zero Leaks" leakage control guide (UNIDO) (US $49,000); and

(f) *Project monitoring and coordination*: Activities including consultants, travel, meetings, and other costs (UNEP) (US $17,500).

Co-financing

75. The contribution of the Government of Gabon under the HPMP to support monitoring and evaluation will be extended to stage I of the KIP. The country will provide in-kind contributions, covering the renting of office space, assignment of local temporary staff and transport organization for meeting and workshop participants. In relation to the demonstration project, the end users will cover the cost of the necessary infrastructure and civil engineering works.

2026–2028 business plan of the Multilateral Fund

76. UNEP and UNIDO are requesting US $360,000, plus agency support costs, for the implementation of stage I of the KIP for Gabon. The total value of US $406,800, including agency support costs, requested for the period of 2026-2028 is US $232,038 above the amount in the business plan.

Gender policy implementation

77. In line with decisions 84/92, 90/48 and 92/40, the Government of Gabon has incorporated the policy in the preparation and formulation of stage I of the KIP. Women represent 13.1 per cent of surveyed technicians in Gabon. During stage I of the KIP, the NOU will encourage women to join the RAC sector and participate in training sessions and consultations; and continue tracking the number of women and men engaged in project implementation. It is worth noting that the Association of Female RAC Technicians of Gabon was established in August 2024 to promote women's participation in the RAC sector and support Montreal Protocol implementation.

Sustainability of the HFC phase-down and assessment of risks

78. The sustainability of Gabon's KIP is underpinned by a comprehensive approach that integrates regulatory enforcement, capacity building, and continuous stakeholder engagement. Strengthening the HFC licensing and quota system by adopting the HFC decree, implementing the quotas in CO_2-eq tonnes and supporting the HPMP reclamation centre ensures that phase-down is strictly monitored and controlled, preventing any backsliding in progress. By focusing on strengthening the technical capacities of RAC technicians through extensive training, and through demonstration, the KIP ensures that the transition to low-GWP refrigerants is maintained over the long term. These efforts, combined with ongoing monitoring and the flexibility to adapt regulatory measures as needed, provide a strong foundation for the long-term sustainability of HFC reductions in Gabon. Potential risks include customs-related constraints as noted above.

Impact on the climate

79. The activities proposed, including efforts to promote alternatives with low GWP, improved capacities of technicians and customs officers, and provision of equipment indicate that the implementation of stage I of the KIP will reduce refrigerant emissions in the atmosphere, resulting in climate benefits. A

calculation of the impact on the climate of the activities in the KIP indicates that by 2029, Gabon will have reduced its HFC emissions by approximately 994,138 CO_2-eq tonnes, calculated as the difference between the HFC baseline for compliance and the 2029 target, assuming that all consumed HFCs would have eventually been emitted.

Draft Agreement

80. A draft Agreement between the Government of Gabon and the Executive Committee for stage I of the KIP is contained in annex II to the present document.

Coordination of activities in the servicing sector under HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down plans

81. The implementation of activities under the KIP and stage II of the HPMP will be coordinated to ensure continuity and efficiency. Annex III summarizes the simultaneous implementation of activities under the HPMP and the KIP.

VI. Recommendation

82. The Executive Committee may wish to consider:

(a) Approving, in principle, stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP) for Gabon for the period 2026–2030 to reduce HFC consumption by 45.6 per cent of the country's baseline by 2029, in the amount of US $406,800, consisting of US $227,000, plus agency support costs of US $29,510, for UNEP and US $133,000, plus agency support costs of US $17,290, for UNIDO;

(b) Noting

(i) The strong commitment of the Government of Gabon to support reductions in HFC consumption in advance of the Montreal Protocol targets;

(ii) That, upon completion of the end-user projects included in stage I of the KIP, UNIDO will submit a final report on the implementation of this project, including the HFC phase-out and energy-efficiency gains achieved, in line with decision 92/36(g);

(c) Approving:

(i) The draft Agreement between the Government of Gabon and the Executive Committee for the reduction in consumption of HFCs in accordance with stage I of the KIP, contained in annex II to the present document; and

(ii) The first tranche of stage I of the KIP for Gabon and the corresponding tranche implementation plan, in the amount of US $209,050, consisting of US $131,000, plus agency support costs of US $17,030, for UNEP and US $54,000, plus agency support costs of US $7,020, for UNIDO.

Annex I

TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAGE II OF THE HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Relevant changes are in bold font for ease of reference)

17. This updated Agreement supersedes the Agreement reached between the Government of Gabon and the Executive Committee at the 94th meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

Row	Particulars	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	19.63	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	0.00	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	19.63	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81	0.00	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US $)	181,000	0	**438,000**	0	0	0	146,000	**765,000**
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US $)	22,716	0	**53,576**	0	0	0	**17,858**	**94,150**
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US $)	155,000	0	115,000	0	0	0	0	270,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US $)	10,850	0	8,050	0	0	0	0	18,900
3.1	Total agreed funding (US $)	336,000	0	**553,000**	0	0	0	146,000	**1,035,000**
3.2	Total support costs (US $)	33,566	0	**61,626**	0	0	0	**17,858**	**113,050**
3.3	Total agreed costs (US $)	369,566	0	**614,626**	0	0	0	**163,858**	**1,148,050**
4.1.1	Total phase-out of HCFC-22 agreed to be achieved under this Agreement (ODP tonnes)								19.63
4.1.2	Phase-out of HCFC-22 to be achieved in the previous stage (ODP tonnes)								10.57
4.1.3	Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)								0.00

*Date of completion of stage I in accordance with the date of extension: 31 December 2022

Annex II

DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROFLUOROCARBONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAGE I OF THE KIGALI HFC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(Period: 2026–2030)

Purpose

1. This Agreement represents the understanding of the Government of Gabon ("the Country") and the Executive Committee with respect to the reduction of controlled use of Annex F substances set out in Appendix 1-A ("The Substances") to a sustained level of 1,188,072 CO_2-equivalent (CO_2-eq) tonnes by 1 January 2029 in compliance with the Montreal Protocol schedule and the terms of this Agreement.

2. The Country agrees to meet the annual consumption limits of Annex F substances as set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A ("The Targets, and Funding") in this Agreement as well as in the Montreal Protocol reduction schedule for Annex F substances mentioned in Appendix 1-A. The Country accepts that, by its acceptance of this Agreement and performance by the Executive Committee of its funding obligations described in paragraph 3, it is precluded from applying for or receiving further funding from the Multilateral Fund in respect to any consumption of Annex F substances that exceeds the level defined in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A as the final reduction step under this Agreement for Annex F substances specified in Appendix 1-A.

3. 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 3.1 of Appendix 2-A to the Country. The Executive Committee will, in principle, provide this funding at the Executive Committee meetings specified in Appendix 3-A ("Funding Approval Schedule").

4. The Country agrees to implement this Agreement in accordance with stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan ("the Plan") as approved. In accordance with subparagraph 5(b) of this Agreement, the Country will accept independent verification of the achievement of the annual consumption limits of Annex F substances set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A of this Agreement. The aforementioned verification will be commissioned by the relevant bilateral or implementing agency.

Conditions for funding release

5. The Executive Committee will only provide the Funding, in accordance with the Funding Approval Schedule, when the Country satisfies the following conditions at least 10 weeks in advance of the applicable Executive Committee meeting set out in the Funding Approval Schedule:

(a) That the Country has met the Targets set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A for all relevant years. Relevant years are all years since the year in which this Agreement was approved. Years for which there are no due country programme implementation reports at the date of the Executive Committee meeting at which the funding request is being presented are exempted;

(b) That the meeting of these Targets has been independently verified for all relevant years, unless the Executive Committee decided that such verification would not be required;

(c) That the Country had submitted a Tranche Implementation Report in accordance with Appendix 4-A ("Format of Tranche Implementation Reports and Plans") covering each previous calendar year; that it had achieved a significant level of implementation of

activities initiated with previously approved tranches; and that the rate of disbursement of funding available from the previously approved tranche was more than 20 per cent; and

(d) That the Country has submitted a Tranche Implementation Plan in accordance with Appendix 4-A covering each calendar year until and including the year for which the Funding Approval Schedule foresees the submission of the next tranche or, in case of the final tranche, until completion of all activities foreseen.

Monitoring

6. The Country will ensure that it conducts accurate monitoring of its activities under this Agreement. The institutions set out in Appendix 5-A ("Monitoring Institutions and Roles") will monitor and report on implementation of the activities in the previous Tranche Implementation Plans in accordance with their roles and responsibilities set out in the same appendix.

Flexibility in the reallocation of funds

7. The Executive Committee agrees that the Country may have the flexibility to reallocate part or all approved funds, according to the evolving circumstances, to achieve the smoothest reduction of consumption and phase-down of Annex F substances specified in Appendix 1-A, in accordance with the following considerations:

(a) Reallocations categorized as major changes must be documented in advance, either in a Tranche Implementation Plan as foreseen in subparagraph 5(d) above, or as a revision to an existing Tranche Implementation Plan to be submitted 10 weeks prior to any meeting of the Executive Committee, for its approval. Major changes would relate to:

(i) Issues potentially concerning the rules and policies of the Multilateral Fund;

(ii) Changes that would modify any clause of this Agreement;

(iii) Changes in the annual levels of funding allocated to the individual bilateral or implementing agencies for the different tranches;

(iv) Provision of funding for activities not included in the current endorsed Tranche Implementation Plan, or removal of an activity in the Tranche Implementation Plan, with a cost greater than 30 per cent of the total cost of the last approved tranche;

(v) Changes in alternative technologies, on the understanding that any submission for such a request would identify the associated incremental costs, the potential impact on the climate, and any differences in CO_2-eq tonnes to be phased down if applicable, as well as confirm that the Country agrees that potential savings related to the change of technology would accordingly decrease the overall funding level under this Agreement;

(b) Reallocations not categorized as major changes may be incorporated into the approved Tranche Implementation Plan, under implementation at the time, and reported to the Executive Committee in the subsequent Tranche Implementation Report; and

(c) Any remaining funds held by the bilateral or implementing agencies or the Country under the Plan will be returned to the Multilateral Fund upon completion of the last tranche foreseen under this Agreement.

8. Specific attention will be paid to the execution of activities in the refrigeration servicing sector included in the Plan, in particular that the Country may use the flexibility available under this Agreement to address specific needs that might arise during project implementation.

Bilateral and implementing agencies

9. 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. UNEP has agreed to be the lead implementing agency (the "Lead IA") and UNIDO has agreed to be the cooperating implementing agency (the "Cooperating IA") under the lead of the Lead 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 programme of the Multilateral Fund or under the evaluation programme of the Lead IA and/or Cooperating IA taking part in this Agreement.

10. The Lead IA will be responsible for ensuring coordinated planning, implementation and reporting of all activities under this Agreement, including but not limited to the independent verification as per subparagraph 5(b). The Cooperating IA will support the Lead IA by implementing the Plan under the overall coordination of the Lead IA. The roles of the Lead IA and Cooperating IA are contained in Appendix 6-A and Appendix 6-B, respectively. The Executive Committee agrees, in principle, to provide the Lead IA and the Cooperating IA with the fees set out in rows 2.2 and 2.4 of Appendix 2-A.

Non-compliance with the Targets in the Agreement

11. Should the Country, for any reason, not meet the Targets for the elimination of Annex F substances set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A or otherwise does not comply with this Agreement, then the Country agrees that it will not be entitled to the Funding in accordance with the Funding Approval Schedule. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, funding will be reinstated according to a revised Funding Approval Schedule determined by the Executive Committee after the Country has demonstrated that it has satisfied all its obligations that were due to be met prior to receipt of the next tranche of funding under the Funding Approval Schedule. The Country acknowledges that the Executive Committee may reduce the amount of the Funding by the amount set out in Appendix 7-A ("Reductions in Funding for Failure to Comply") in respect of each CO_2-eq kg of reductions in consumption not achieved in any one year. The Executive Committee will discuss each specific case in which the Country did not comply with this Agreement and take related decisions. Once decisions are taken, the specific case of non-compliance with this Agreement will not be an impediment for the provision of funding for future tranches as per paragraph 5 above.

12. The Funding of this Agreement will not be modified on the basis of any future Executive Committee decisions that may affect the funding of any other consumption sector projects or any other related activities in the Country.

13. The Country will comply with any reasonable request of the Executive Committee, the Lead IA and the Cooperating IA to facilitate implementation of this Agreement. In particular, it will provide the Lead IA and the Cooperating IA with access to the information necessary to verify compliance with this Agreement.

Date of completion

14. The completion of the Plan and the associated Agreement will take place at the end of the year following the last year for which a maximum allowable total consumption level has been specified in Appendix 2-A. Should at that time there still be activities that are outstanding, and which were foreseen in the last Tranche Implementation Plan and its subsequent revisions as per subparagraph 5(d) and paragraph 7, the completion of the Plan will be delayed until the end of the year following the implementation of the remaining activities. The reporting requirements as per subparagraphs 1(a), 1(b), and 1(d) of Appendix 4-A will continue until the time of the completion of the Plan unless otherwise specified by the Executive Committee.

Validity

15. All conditions set out in this Agreement are undertaken solely within the context of the Montreal Protocol and as specified in this Agreement. All terms used in this Agreement have the meaning ascribed to them in the Montreal Protocol unless otherwise defined herein.

16. This Agreement may be modified or terminated only by mutual written agreement of the Country and the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1-A: THE SUBSTANCES

Substances	Starting point for aggregate reductions in consumption (CO_2-eq tonnes)
HFCs	n/a

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

Row	Particulars		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex F substances	%	freeze	freeze	freeze	10	10	n/a
		CO_2-eq tonnes	2,182,210	2,182,210	2,182,210	1,963,989	1,963,989	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex F substances	Reduction in %	35.9	35.9	35.9	45.6	45.6	n/a
		CO_2-eq tonnes	1,397,732	1,397,732	1,397,732	1,188,072	1,188,072	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US $)		131,000	0	96,000	0	0	227,000
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US $)		17,030	0	12,480	0	0	29,510
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US $)		54,000	0	79,000	0	0	133,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US $)		7,020	0	10,270	0	0	17,290
3.1	Total agreed funding (US $)		185,000	0	175,000	0	0	360,000
3.2	Total support costs (US $)		24,050	0	22,750	0	0	46,800
3.3	Total agreed costs (US $)		209,050	0	197,750	0	0	406,800

APPENDIX 3-A: FUNDING APPROVAL SCHEDULE

1. Funding for the future tranches will be considered for approval at the second meeting of the year specified in Appendix 2-A.

APPENDIX 4-A: FORMAT OF THE TRANCHE IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS AND PLANS

1. The submission of the Tranche Implementation Report and Plans for each tranche request will consist of four parts:

(a) A narrative report, with data provided by tranche, describing the progress achieved since the previous report, reflecting the situation of the Country in regard to phase-down of Annex F substances, how the different activities contribute to it, and how they relate to each other, including, where applicable, activities related to energy efficiency approved in the context of HFC phase-down pursuant to decision 91/65. The report should include the amount of Annex F substances consumption reduced as a direct result of the implementation of activities, by substance, the alternative technology used and the related phase in of alternatives, to allow the Secretariat to inform the Executive Committee on the resulting change in climate relevant emissions. The report should also include quantitative information on the activities implemented and further highlight the successes, experiences, and challenges related to the different activities included in the Plan, reflecting any changes in the circumstances in the Country, and providing other relevant information. The report should also include information on and justification for any changes vis-à-vis the previously submitted Tranche Implementation Plan(s), such as delays, use of flexibility for the reallocation of funds during implementation of a tranche as provided for in paragraph 7 of this Agreement, or other changes;

(b) An independent verification report on the Plan's results and the consumption of Annex F substances, as per subparagraph 5(b) of the Agreement. If not decided otherwise by the Executive Committee, such a verification of consumption data must be provided with each tranche request, covering all relevant years for which a verification report has not yet been acknowledged by the Committee, as specified in subparagraph 5(a) of the Agreement;

(c) A written description of the activities to be undertaken during the period covered by the requested tranche including quantitative information, highlighting implementation milestones, the time of completion and the interdependence of the activities, and taking into account experiences made and progress achieved in the implementation of earlier tranches; the data in the Plan will be provided by calendar year. The description should include a reference to the overall Plan and progress achieved, as well as any possible changes to the overall Plan that are foreseen. The description should also specify and explain in detail such changes to the overall Plan. This description of future activities can be submitted as a part of the same document as the narrative report under subparagraph 1(a) above; and

(d) An Executive Summary of about five paragraphs, summarizing the information contained in subparagraphs 1(a) to 1(c) above.

APPENDIX 5-A: MONITORING INSTITUTIONS AND ROLES

1. The national ozone unit (NOU), under the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Environment, Climate Change, and Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Government of Gabon is responsible for monitoring the progress of implementation of activities in the Plan.

2. The monitoring will be conducted during the implementation of the Plan to ensure efficient and effective implementation; overall project coordination; stakeholder engagement and coordination; smooth implementation of activities planned under various tranches; delivery of trainings and other expected outcomes; and facilitation of the HFC consumption verification undertaken by the Lead IA.

3. The Ministry of Water and Forests, the Environment, Climate Change, and Human-Wildlife Conflict is the institution responsible for the sustainability of consumption reduction targets achieved through the Agreement.

APPENDIX 6-A: ROLE OF THE LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

1. The Lead IA will be responsible for a range of activities, including at least the following:

(a) Ensuring performance and financial verification in accordance with this Agreement and with its specific internal procedures and requirements as set out in the Country's Plan;

(b) Assisting the Country in the preparation of the Tranche Implementation Reports and Plans as per Appendix 4-A;

(c) Providing independent verification to the Executive Committee that the Targets have been met and associated tranche activities have been completed as indicated in the Tranche Implementation Plan, consistent with Appendix 4-A;

(d) Ensuring that the experiences and progress are reflected in the updates to the overall Plan and in the future Tranche Implementation Plans, consistent with subparagraph 1(c) of Appendix 4-A;

(e) Fulfilling the reporting requirements of the Tranche Implementation Reports and Plans and of the overall Plan as specified in Appendix 4-A for submission to the Executive Committee including the activities implemented by the Cooperating IA;

(f) In the event that the last funding tranche is requested one or more years prior to the last year for which a consumption target had been established, annual Tranche Implementation Reports and, where applicable, verification reports on the current stage of the Plan should be submitted until all activities foreseen had been completed and HFC consumption targets had been met;

(g) Ensuring that appropriate independent technical experts carry out the technical reviews;

(h) Carrying out the required supervision missions;

(i) Ensuring the presence of an operating mechanism to allow for an effective and transparent implementation of the Tranche Implementation Plan and accurate data reporting;

(j) Coordinating the activities of the Cooperating IA and ensuring the appropriate sequence of activities;

(k) In case of reductions in funding for failure to comply in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Agreement, to determine, in consultation with the Country and the Cooperating IA, the allocation of the reductions to the different budget items and to the funding of the Lead IA and each Cooperating IA;

(l) Ensuring that disbursements made to the Country are based on the use of the indicators;

(m) Providing assistance with the policy, management and technical support when required;

(n) Reaching consensus with the Cooperating IA on any planning, coordination and reporting arrangements required to facilitate the implementation of the Plan; and

(o) Timely releasing funds to the Country/participating enterprises for completing the activities related to the project.

2. After consultation with the Country and taking into account any views expressed, the Lead IA will select and mandate an independent entity to carry out the verification of the Plan's results and of the consumption of Annex F substances mentioned in Appendix 1-A, as per subparagraph 5(b) of the Agreement and subparagraph 1(b) of Appendix 4-A.

APPENDIX 6-B: ROLE OF THE COOPERATING IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

1. The Cooperating IA will be responsible for a range of activities. These activities are specified in the Plan, including at least the following:

(a) Providing assistance for policy development when required;

(b) Assisting the Country in the implementation and assessment of the activities funded by the Cooperating IA, and referring to the Lead IA to ensure a coordinated sequence of activities;

(c) Providing reports to the Lead IA on these activities, for inclusion in the consolidated reports as per Appendix 4-A; and

(d) Reaching consensus with the Lead IA on any planning, coordination and reporting arrangements required to facilitate the implementation of the Plan.

APPENDIX 7-A: REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TARGETS IN THE AGREEMENT

1. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the Agreement, the amount of funding provided may be reduced by US $7.00 per CO_2-eq tonne of consumption beyond the level defined in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A for each year in which the Target specified in row 1.2 of Appendix 2-A has not been met, on the understanding that the maximum funding reduction would not exceed the funding level of the tranche being requested. Additional measures might be considered in cases where non-compliance extends for two consecutive years. Where the Country has failed to comply with the Agreement due to illegal trade, the reduction in funding would not be applied if the illegally traded controlled substances are seized and subsequently confiscated, destroyed, exported, or returned to the country of origin.

Annex III

SIMULTANEOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE KIGALI HFC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN GABON

	HPMP – stage II		KIP – stage I		HPMP+KIP combined cost (US $)
Category of activity	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	
Legal and regulatory framework	Implement a functional and enforceable system of licensing and quotas for HCFC imports through legislative and regulatory measures	5,000	Expand and improve the licensing and quota system	10,000	15,000
	Activities to increase efficiency of HCFC import controls through introduction of an online tool	30,000	Improve the collection, systematization and reporting of data and strengthening the collaboration among stakeholders	31,000	61,000
			Adopt the decree on HFCs	15,000	15,000
			Introduce and implement bans on import and restrictions on installation of HFC-based equipment, as well as further regulatory framework for the HFC phase-down	19,000	19,000
			Prepare and disseminate the guide on ODS and HFC legislation	10,000	10,000
			Establish and maintain a website with relevant legislation and explanations for each group of stakeholders	15,000	15,000
			Conduct targeted awareness-raising campaigns for end-users	10,000	10,000
Subtotal		**35,000**		**110,000**	**145,000**
Capacity building of RAC technicians	Conduct training of, and information and awareness-raising campaigns for, refrigeration technicians on good practices in refrigeration, including techniques for the recovery, recycling and reuse of refrigerants, safety and handling of new refrigerants and equipment	200,000	Conduct training of technicians specialized in MAC and domestic refrigeration on good servicing practices	48,000	248,000
	Develop regulatory standards and protocols on the use of flammable	50,000			50,000

	HPMP – stage II		KIP – stage I		HPMP+KIP combined cost (US $)
Category of activity	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	
	and toxic substances in RAC equipment				
	Establish a certification scheme for refrigeration technicians and implementation of national certification in the RAC sector	85,000			85,000
	Conduct targeted campaigns for students to study in RAC field and gender-based campaign for female students to enter the RAC field	20,000			20,000
			Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for informal RAC technicians on flammable or toxic refrigerant	10,000	10,000
			Update the curricula of vocational schools	6,000	6,000
Subtotal		**355,000**		**64,000**	**419,000**
Capacity building for customs and enforcement officers and importers	Conduct trainings on control and identification of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment as well as pertinent laws and regulations on their import for customs and enforcement officers	150,000			150,000
	Conduct information and awareness-raising workshops for importing traders on the procedures for issuing import licenses and granting annual quotas	25,000			25,000
	Organize translation into the local languages of the country of laws, regulations and legal texts relating to the import, distribution, export and re-export of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment	5,000			5,000
	Conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns and workshops for importers and distributors on the potential risks and dangers of certain refrigerant substances	25,000	Prepare and disseminate posters and other information material with the main rules and regulations on the imports of ODS and HFCs and clear indication of customs codes	3,000	28,000

	HPMP – stage II		KIP – stage I		HPMP+KIP combined cost (US $)
Category of activity	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	**Activity**	**Cost (US $)**	
			Conduct study tours for customs officers to exchange information and experience with other member countries of the CEMAC (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo)	15,000	15,000
Subtotal		**205,000**		**18,000**	**223,000**
Facilitating the introduction of low-GWP technologies		0	Conduct demonstration project in the commercial refrigeration sub-sector	40,000	40,000
Subtotal		**0**		**40,000**	**40,000**
Strengthening the technical capacities for refrigeration management	Procure and deliver new tools and equipment and of spare parts for the existing equipment to centres of excellence, including training	100,000			100,000
	Establish a reclaim centre	105,000			105,000
	Procure and supply refrigerant identifiers	30,000			30,000
	Conduct intensive training on hydrocarbons	35,000			35,000
			Strengthen the technical capacity for servicing MAC equipment	43,000	43,000
			Upgrade two centres of excellence for the safe use of flammable refrigerants	38,000	38,000
			Provide technical assistance to RAC end-users	12,000	12,000
Subtotal		**270,000**		**93,000**	**363,000**
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities	50,000	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities	35,000	85,000
Subtotal		**50,000**		**35,000**	**85,000**
Total		**915,000**		**360,000**	**1,275,000**
Percentage of total (%)		**72**		**28**	**100**