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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Item 6(d) of the provisional agenda[1]

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2026 AND THE EVALUATION WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2027

## Introduction

1. As per decision 97/8, the Executive Committee approved the evaluation work programme for 2026 at its 97th meeting.[2] The work programme covered a one-year period instead of the biennial cycle, due to the transition period between the former Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) and the Senior Evaluation Officer (SEO). The SEO joined the Secretariat in May 2026.

2. This document presents the following two sections:

I. Annual report on the status of implementation of the work programme for the year 2026, and related budget expenditures; and

II. Proposed work programme for 2027 and related budget.

## I. Annual report on the status of implementation of the work programme and related budget expenditures in 2026

3. A snapshot of the status of implementation and outputs of the 2026 work programme is provided in annex I to the present document.

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/1
[2] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/91, annex III

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.

Updates on the status of evaluations

4. The carried-forward work programme for 2026 included activities related to the preparation of terms of reference (TORs) and delivery of desk studies.

5. The desk study for the evaluation of recovery, recycling and reclamation projects (RRR), which had initially been planned to commence in 2025, was launched in mid-2026 and is presented in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/11 for consideration by the Executive Committee at the present meeting. In addition, two desk studies for the evaluation of HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) were launched in 2026. The first focuses on the contribution of HPMPs to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies aimed at ensuring compliance with the Montreal Protocol and sustaining the achievements made.[3] The second focuses on training, capacity-building and certification schemes in the refrigeration servicing sector.[4] Both desk studies will continue into 2027 and are expected to be completed for consideration by the Executive Committee at its 100th meeting.

6. In line with decision 95/9(b), the SEO developed updated terms of reference for the second phase of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) evaluation, as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/10, for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee at the present meeting.

Updates on progress made by UNEP OzonAction

7. At the 96th meeting, the Executive Committee took note, with appreciation, of the progress update by UNEP OzonAction in the implementation of the road map contained in the final report of the evaluation of regional networks of national ozone officers (NOOs), contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/10. In line with decision 92/5(f) and taking into consideration the discussions held during the 96th meeting,[5] the SEO reviewed the actions undertaken in response to the key findings of the evaluation and noted that OzonAction has taken practical steps to respond to the findings. Several of the proposed improvements have been incorporated into regular CAP practices, notably in relation to meeting planning and reporting, inter-regional cooperation, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, participation of implementing and bilateral agencies, and continued use of virtual modalities, as outlined below.

(a) *Planning and organizing network meetings:* The SEO notes that OzonAction has introduced a common timeline and standardized milestones for the preparation, organization and follow-up of network meetings, including more timely consultation on meeting agendas. These measures represent significant progress in harmonizing meeting preparation across the networks, while retaining flexibility to accommodate regional circumstances;

(b) *Outcomes of the meetings and follow-up on recommendations:* The SEO notes that OzonAction has introduced a common reporting template covering meeting outcomes, sex-disaggregated participation and recommendation follow-ups. These measures provide a more systematic basis for monitoring meeting outcomes, while continued attention is needed to ensure consistent application and follow-up across regions;

(c) *Cross-fertilization among regions:* The SEO notes considerable progress in promoting inter-regional exchanges through joint network and thematic meetings, the translation of regional resources, and the participation of CAP staff and NOOs across regions. These

[3] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/7/Rev.1
[4] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/8/Rev.1
[5] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66, paras. 54-57

activities have strengthened opportunities for learning and experience-sharing, although further efforts could help institutionalize the exchange of lessons and technical expertise across the networks;

(d) *Broadening the group of participants in network meetings:* The SEO notes that OzonAction has expanded participation in network and thematic meetings beyond NOOs, within available resources. Participants have included refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump associations, customs authorities, industry representatives, environmental inspectors, energy-efficiency policymakers and financial mechanism representatives. Progress is encouraging, although continued implementation depends on national priorities, relevant stakeholder identification and available resources;

(e) *Inclusion of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the agenda:* The SEO notes that OzonAction continues to highlight linkages between Montreal Protocol implementation and the SDGs. Specific discussion of the SDGs in network meetings remains dependent on NOOs' priorities, which is consistent with the evaluation finding that SDGs should be addressed where relevant to country needs within the mandate of the Montreal Protocol. There is still the opportunity to further demonstrate how Montreal Protocol activities contribute to broader national sustainable development objectives;

(f) *Gender mainstreaming:* The SEO notes significant efforts to strengthen attention to equality between women and men in regional network activities. While these actions show progress, further developments and lessons learned need to be monitored and shared within the networks to promote equal participation and opportunities for women and men;

(g) *Participation of implementing and bilateral agencies:* The SEO notes that implementing and bilateral agencies continue to be invited to network meetings and contribute to substantive discussions. The use of breakout sessions, panels, practical exercises, working groups, bilateral discussions and site visits also reflect progress toward more interactive formats. Continued attention could focus on ensuring that these sessions lead to concrete problem-solving, lessons exchange and improvements in project implementation; and

(h) *Continued development of virtual modalities:* The SEO notes that virtual modalities introduced and expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic have been retained as a permanent complement to in-person meetings. OzonAction now uses physical, virtual and hybrid formats according to the objectives of the activity, country preferences, connectivity and technological considerations. The continued availability of these modalities provides additional flexibility and potential cost efficiencies.

Updates on the integration of project completion reports in the knowledge management system

8. The Executive Committee approved the response to the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund (decision 96/4), inter alia indicating that the SEO is responsible solely for the evaluation component of the project completion report (PCR) while the monitoring component of the PCR-related work is under the responsibility of the Secretariat.[6][7]Accordingly, at the 98th meeting, the consolidated PCR was structured into two sections. The first section addressed monitoring-related aspects and was presented by the Secretariat; the second section addressed evaluation-related aspects, particularly the reasons for delays and lessons learned, and was presented by the SEO.

[6] Recommendation 1 in annex III of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66, para. 5.

9. During the second half of 2026, the evaluation unit worked closely with the Knowledge Management System (KMS) team and the developer on the design of the PCR module using the approved universal format in the KMS. The work has progressed, and it is expected that the PCR module will be fully operationalized on the KMS by early 2027. Pilot testing will take place during the first half of 2027 to enable implementing and bilateral agencies to submit their PCRs through the KMS in time for the 100th meeting.

Outreach and communication

10. It is noted that the evaluation policy, as well as the job posting for the SEO,[8] refers to the preparation of an annual evaluation newsletter. This has not been possible for the year 2026. In 2027, the SEO will coordinate with the Secretariat on the best possible format for the evaluation newsletter in line with the annual newsletter of the Secretariat.

Budget expenditures in 2026

11. During the second half of 2026, the evaluation unit recruited consultants for three evaluation activities, each within the allocated budget of US $20,000. The RRR desk study was completed between July and October 2026, while the evaluations of HPMP contributions to policies and regulations and of training, capacity-building and certification schemes in the refrigeration servicing sector were initiated and are expected to be completed in early 2027, with findings to be presented to the Executive Committee at its 100th meeting. A total budget of US $7,724 has been allocated to cover the SEO's participation in the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

12. Table 1 presents a summary of aggregated expenditures and balances for the year 2026 as per decision 97/8(b).

**Table 1. Summary of expenditures and balances versus approved budget for 2026 (in US $)***

| Description | Approved | Consumed | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Consultancy services for 2026 thematic evaluations** | | | |
| − Evaluation of the recovery, recycling, and reclamation (RRR) projects | 50,000 | 20,000 | 30,000 |
| − Evaluation of the contribution of HPMPs to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the sustainability of achievements | 25,000 | 20,000 | 5,000 |
| − Evaluation of training, capacity-building, and certification schemes in refrigeration servicing under the HPMPs | 25,000 | 20,000 | 5,000 |
| **Subtotal consultancy services** | **100,000** | **60,000** | **40,000** |
| **Other** | | | |
| − Evaluation staff travel | 20,000 | 7,724 | 12,276 |
| − Operational costs | 11,759 | 1,508 | 10,251 |
| **Subtotal other** | **31,759** | **9,232** | **22,527** |
| **Total** | **131,759** | **69,232** | **62,527** |

* Final figures (rounded) in the present document are to be considered provisional until the closure of financial statements for the year 2026.

13. Considering the unspent balance of US $62,527 in 2026, it is proposed to rephase US $40,000 for the second phase of the RRR and the continuation of the HPMP desk studies, and to return the remaining balance of US $22,527 to the Multilateral Fund.

[8] Job opening 261576 posted in Inspira during the period 6 August – 19 September 2025.

## II. Proposed work programme for 2027 and related budget

14. The proposed work programme for 2027 will complete the biennial cycle 2026–2027 and comprises four main components:

(a) Component 1: Carried-forward activities approved from 2025 and 2026;

(b) Component 2: Regular evaluation work;

(c) Component 3: Activities related to the implementation of decision 96/4 relating to the management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function; and

(d) Component 4: New thematic evaluation for 2027.

Component 1: Carried-forward activities approved from 2025 and 2026

15. Section I of the present document includes the information on the carried-forward evaluations that are expected to be finalized in 2027 and will be presented to the Executive Committee during the year. Two of these evaluations have started in 2026 and are planned to be presented to the 100th meeting. The remaining two will start in 2027 and are planned to be submitted to the 101st meeting. Details of these evaluations are presented in annex II to the present document.

Component 2: Regular evaluation work

16. The operationalization of the approved universal PCR format on the KMS in 2027 will enable implementing agencies to report reasons for delays and lessons learned in a structured and consistent manner. The evaluation unit has developed draft guidelines aligned with the newly approved PCR format, which will be further refined and finalized as part of the 2027 work programme. The improved reporting framework on the KMS and related guidelines are expected to support the SEO in assessing the quality of the information provided, identifying recurring issues and possible follow-up actions, and strengthening the analytical assessment of reasons for delays and lessons learned.

17. The evaluation unit will also develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the use of the new PCR format, covering the different sections of the report, following the full operationalization of the online PCR system in early 2027. In finalizing the SOPs, the SEO will work closely with the implementing agencies and seek their feedback to ensure that the SOPs are practical and clear and facilitate the reporting process.

Component 3: Activities related to the implementation of decision 96/4 relating to the management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function

18. Decision 96/4 approved the management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund and requested the SMEO at that time to implement the actions for which the Executive Committee had expressed support in paragraphs 5 to 11[9] and to report to the Executive Committee in the annual report on the implementation of the actions.

19. Annex III to the present document presents the action plan developed by the evaluation unit to implement the approved management response. In 2027, the focus will be on preparing a concept note for the development of a system to follow up on the status of implementation of evaluations' recommendations; developing a framework for evaluating non-investment activities that clearly defines the expected outputs,

[9] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/6

outcomes and ultimate results of these evaluations; preparing a first set of guidelines and tools for evaluation experts and implementing agencies to enhance awareness raising on the evaluation function; designing and developing a handbook/manual as a Quality Management System for the internal operation of the evaluation unit including the relevant procedures, workflows, forms; and conducting four awareness sessions on the evaluation policy to ensure main stakeholder (national ozone units, implementing agencies, etc.) engagement.

Component 4: New thematic evaluation topics for 2027

20. In preparation for the evaluation work programme for 2027, the SEO undertook a needs assessment of the work of the evaluation function during the period 2011–2026. The assessment reviewed previous work programmes and budgets, evaluation activities, TORs, reports of meetings of the Executive Committee and related decisions. In parallel, the SEO reviewed the evolution of policy papers on discussions under the Multilateral Fund, with particular attention to recent issues and priorities arising from the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, including technology transition, energy efficiency, the refrigeration servicing sector, funding modalities and institutional arrangements.

21. The preliminary findings and possible orientation of future evaluation work in the medium and longer term were discussed at two meetings with the Secretariat staff and at the Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting (IACM).[10] The SEO also held various informal bilateral discussions and exchanges with Executive Committee members during the 98th meeting. As a result, the SEO reflected on the work of the evaluation unit and identified four broad initial clusters to serve as a compass for the identification of evaluation topics. The clusters are not intended to constitute a fixed framework and may be adjusted as new developments and evaluation needs emerge:

(a) Technology transition and sustainability;

(b) Beneficiaries and stakeholders;

(c) Funding modalities supporting compliance; and

(d) National capacities and institutional arrangements

22. For the 2027 work programme, and following the above-mentioned discussions and consultations, three pertinent evaluation topics are proposed for consideration by the Executive Committee as presented in annex IV to the present document, and summarized below, with a view to selecting one for implementation.

*Proposal 1: Evaluation of the sustainability of enterprise conversions after project completion and the influence of beneficiary selection, project design and market conditions on the continuity and progression of the funded technologies*

23. The evaluation would assess whether enterprises funded to convert to specified low-global-warming-potential (GWP) technologies have continued to use those technologies after project completion or subsequently moved to other alternatives, and examine the economic, regulatory and market conditions influencing such choices. The proposed evaluation would be carried out in two phases (desk study and site visits) and would cover a sample of completed conversion projects in the refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sectors. The evaluation would build on the previous study on the sustainability of Montreal Protocol achievements[11] and earlier sectoral evaluations, while focusing on sustainability at the enterprise and technology levels. The findings would provide information on the factors

[10] Held in Montreal, 9-10 September 2026

[11] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/86/10

supporting continued technology uptake and on the influence of the provided support relative to market conditions.

*Proposal 2: Evaluation of the impact of pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down financed under decision 91/65, together with the related servicing-sector activities under decision 89/6*

24. The evaluation would assess the results of pilot projects financed under the US $20 million funding window established by decision 91/65 and the related servicing-sector activities financed under decision 89/6. The proposed evaluation would be carried out in two phases (desk study and site visits) and would examine implementation experience, reported energy-efficiency gains, the application of the approval criteria, and evidence of replication and scaling up, with a view to identifying lessons relevant to possible energy-efficiency activities in future Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP) stages.

*Proposal 3: Evaluation of the complementarity and added value of institutional arrangements and support in assisting countries implementing multiple ongoing technical interventions*

25. The evaluation would assess how national institutional arrangements and national capacities interact with and facilitate Fund-supported interventions implemented concurrently at the country level, including HPMPs, KIPs and energy-efficiency activities. The proposed evaluation would be carried out as a desk study and it would examine coordination and delivery arrangements, and the extent to which overlap and duplication is avoided. The proposed evaluation would complement earlier work on enabling activities for HFC phase-down and HPMP preparation activities and could provide information relevant to the future design of countries' programmatic approaches under future KIP stages.

Budget proposal

26. For 2027, the amount of US $40,000 rephased from 2026, as shown in table 1 above, will be used for the second phase of the evaluation of the RRR projects (US $30,000) and to complete the evaluation of the contribution of HPMPs to policies, regulations and national strategies (US $5,000) and the evaluation of training, capacity-building and certification schemes in refrigeration servicing (US$ 5,000). In addition, a new budget is proposed for 2027 covering the in-depth evaluation of the compliance assistance programme (US $30,000), one new thematic evaluation, and travel and operational costs for the evaluation unit (US $35,000).

27. The proposed budget relates to the one-year work programme for 2027 to complete the biennial cycle 2026-2027. The budget will be based on the Executive Committee's decision regarding the proposed evaluation options. If proposal 1 or proposal 2 is selected, the total proposed budget for 2027 would amount to US $115,000. If proposal 3, which is limited to a desk study, is selected, the total proposed budget for 2027 would be reduced to US $95,000.

**Table 2. Proposed budget for 2027 (including funds rephased from 2026)**

| Description | Amount (US $) |
|---|---|
| **Rephased from 2026** | |
| This amount relates to the second phase of the evaluation of the RRR projects and to the evaluation of the contribution of HPMPs to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the sustainability of achievements and to the evaluation of the training, capacity-building, and certification schemes in refrigeration servicing of the HPMPs | 40,000 |
| **Total 2026 rephased budget** | **40,000** |

| Description | Amount (US $) |
|---|---|
| **2027 proposed evaluation work programme budget** | |
| **Consultancy services, thematic evaluations 2027** | |
| In-depth comprehensive evaluation of the CAP | 30,000 |
| *New thematic evaluations (one to be selected by the Executive Committee)* | |
| Proposal 1: Evaluation of the sustainability of enterprise conversions after project completion and the influence of beneficiary selection, project design and market conditions on the continuity and progression of the funded technologies (US $50,000)<br>Proposal 2: Evaluation of the impact of pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down financed under decision 91/65, together with the related servicing-sector activities under decision 89/6 (US $50,000)<br>Proposal 3: Evaluation of the complementarity and added value of institutional arrangements and support in assisting countries implementing multiple ongoing technical interventions (30,000)[12] | 50,000 or 30,000 |
| **Subtotal consultancy services** | **80,000 or 60,000** |
| **Other** | |
| Evaluation staff travel | 20,000 |
| Operational costs | 15,000 |
| **Subtotal other** | **35,000** |
| **Total 2027 proposed budget** | **115,000 or 95,000** |
| **Grand total (including rephase from 2026)** | **155,000 or 135,000** |

## Action expected from the Executive Committee

28. The Executive Committee may wish:

(a) To note the annual report on the implementation of the evaluation work programme for 2026, and the evaluation work programme for 2027, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/12;

(b) To select one thematic evaluation for the year 2027 from among the three proposed in paragraphs 22 to 25 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/12 for inclusion in the evaluation work programme for 2027, as set out in annex IV to the present document, and to request the Senior Evaluation Officer to prepare the corresponding terms of reference to be considered by the Executive Committee at the 100th meeting;

(c) To reallocate the amount of US $40,000, from the provisional unspent balance of US $62,527 from the year 2026, to the 2027 budget, and to return of the remaining balance of US $22,527 to the Multilateral Fund;

(d) To approve the evaluation work programme for 2027 contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/12, and the related budget of [US $155,000/US $135,000] for the year 2027, which includes the reallocated amount referred to in subparagraph (c) above from the year 2026.

[12] Subject to the Executive Committee's selection, should proposal 3 be selected, the proposed budget presented in table 2 will be adjusted accordingly.

**Annex I**

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTPUTS OF EVALUATION WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2026**
**(Based on annex III of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/91)**

| # | Type of Activity | 98th meeting | 99th meeting |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Component 1: Carried forward approved evaluation activities from 2026 work programme** | | | |
| 1. | Evaluation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) | N/A | Reporting on the progress of implementation of recommendations from the evaluation of regional networks as per decision 92/5(f), and presenting updated terms of reference for the second phase of the CAP evaluation, as per decision 95/9(b)<br>**Completed UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/10** |
| 2. | Desk study for the evaluation of the evaluation of the recovery, recycling and reclamation projects | N/A | Final desk study for the evaluation of the recovery, recycling and reclamation projects and TOR for stage II<br>**Completed UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/11** |
| 3. | Desk study for the evaluation of the contribution of HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the sustainability of achievements | N/A | Desk study has been initiated in 2026, and findings will be presented at the 100th meeting |
| 4. | Desk study for the evaluation of training, capacity-building and certification schemes in the refrigeration servicing sector under the HPMPs | N/A | Desk study has been initiated in 2026, and findings will be presented at the 100th meeting |
| **Component 2: Regular evaluation activities** | | | |
| 5. | Annual report on the implementation of the evaluation work programme for 2026 and biannual evaluation work programme and budget for 2027 and 2028 | N/A | Annual report on the implementation of the evaluation work programme for 2026 and evaluation work programme for 2027<br>**Completed UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/12** |
| 6. | Prepare the annual evaluation newsletter | N/A | N/A- to be implemented in 2027 |
| 7. | Consolidated analysis of lessons learned and reasons for delays in project implementation from project completion reports | **Completed UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/7** | N/A- to be implemented in 2027 |
| **Component 3: Implementing actions derived from decision 96/4 on the management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function** | | | |
| 8. | To prepare a proposal for a system to follow up on recommendations, which could include the consideration of digital tools for an online follow-up system and possible | N/A | N/A - to be implemented in 2027 |

| # | Type of Activity | 98th meeting | 99th meeting |
|---|---|---|---|
| | integration with the knowledge management system of the Multilateral Fund | | |
| 9. | To develop a framework for evaluating non-investment activities that clearly define expected outputs, outcomes and ultimate results of these evaluations | N/A | N/A- to be implemented in 2027 |
| 10. | To prepare guidelines and tools for awareness raising on the evaluation function | N/A | N/A- to be implemented in 2027 |

## Annex II

## PROPOSED EVALUATION WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2027

| | Type of Activity | For presentation to Executive Committee meeting # |
|---|---|---|
| **Component 1: Carried-forward approved evaluation activities from 2026 work programme** | | |
| 1. | Desk study for the evaluation of the contribution of HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the sustainability of achievements | **100th meeting** |
| 2. | Desk study for the evaluation of training, capacity-building and certification schemes in the refrigeration servicing sector under the HPMPs | **100th meeting** |
| 3. | Second phase (field mission) of the desk study for the evaluation of the recovery, recycling and reclamation (RRR) projects | **101st meeting** |
| 4. | In-depth comprehensive evaluation of the compliance assistance programme (CAP) | **101st meeting** |
| **Component 2: Regular evaluation activities** | | |
| 5. | Annual report on the implementation of the evaluation work programme for 2027 and biannual evaluation work programme and budget for 2028 and 2029 | **101st meeting** |
| 6. | Consolidated analysis of evaluation components in project implementation from project completion reports. | **100th meeting** |
| **Component 3: Implementing actions derived from decision 96/4 on the management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function** | | |
| 7. | Prepare a concept note for a digital system to follow up on recommendations, which could include the consideration of digital tools for an online follow-up system and possible integration with the knowledge management system of the Multilateral Fund | **100th meeting** |
| 8. | Develop a framework for evaluating non-investment activities that clearly defines the expected outputs, outcomes and ultimate results of these evaluations | **101st meeting (as an annex to the 2027 annual progress report)** |
| 9. | Design and develop a handbook/manual as a quality management system for the operation of the evaluation unit including procedures, workflows, forms, checklists, templates and standard formats of evaluation reports | **101st meeting (as an annex to the 2027 annual progress report)** |
| 10. | Prepare guidelines and tools for awareness raising on the evaluation function | **101st meeting (as an annex to the 2027 annual progress report)** |
| 11. | Conduct four awareness sessions on the evaluation policy for main stakeholders | **One session per quarter** |
| **Component 4: New thematic evaluation for 2027** | | |
| 12. | One selected new thematic evaluation in 2027 | **TOR to be presented to 100th meeting** |

## Annex III

## ACTION PLAN RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

| | Recommendation | Activities covering the management response in the 2027 Work Plan | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Finalize a Multilateral Fund evaluation policy using a participatory process | N/A | Evaluation policy approved |
| 2. | Use evaluation guidelines as a tool for raising awareness | Develop a first set of guidelines and tools for evaluation experts and implementing agencies to enhance awareness raising on the evaluation function | First set in 2027 then further guidelines in future work programmes |
| 3. | Upgrade and standardize the formats of evaluation reports and introduce a follow-up system to track evaluation recommendations | Develop a concept note for a digital system to follow up on recommendations, which could include the consideration of digital tools for an online follow-up system and possible integration with the knowledge management system of the Multilateral Fund | 100th meeting |
| 4. | Engage key stakeholders in the work process of evaluation | Conduct four awareness sessions on the Evaluation policy to main stakeholders | One session per quarter |
| 5. | Reappraise the evaluation framework used at Multilateral Fund | Develop a framework for evaluating non-investment activities that clearly defines the expected outputs, outcomes and ultimate results of these evaluations | 101st meeting (as an annex to the 2027 annual progress report) |
| 6. | Introduce enhanced quality-assurance mechanisms for evaluation reports | Design and develop a handbook/manual as a quality management system for the internal operation of the evaluation unit, including a first set of procedures, workflows, forms, checklists, templates and standard formats of evaluation reports | 101st meeting (as an annex to the 2027 annual progress report) |
| 7. | Supplement evaluation expertise in the short to medium term | | 2028–2029 evaluation work programme |

# Annex IV

## THEMATIC EVALUATION CLUSTERS AND TOPICS

**Three thematic options proposed for the 2027 work programme for consideration by the Executive Committee**

| **Option 1. Evaluation of the sustainability of enterprise conversions after project completion and the influence of beneficiary selection, project design, and market conditions on the continuity and progression of the funded technologies** | |
|---|---|
| **Objectives** | ▪ To determine whether enterprises funded to convert to a specified low-GWP technology have continued to use that technology after project completion or have moved to another alternative or to high-GWP technologies.<br>▪ To identify the economic, regulatory and market conditions that supported technology uptake.<br>▪ To assess the extent to which Multilateral Fund support influences enterprise technology choices, relative to market forces and to national or regional regulatory frameworks and market operations. |
| **Scope** | ▪ A sample of completed conversion projects in the refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturing sectors, examined two or more years after completion.<br>▪ Covers the technology in use at the time of the evaluation, the reasons for any change, the product mix placed on the market and the associated regulatory environment and market uptake.<br>▪ Combines desk analysis of the enterprise inventory with enterprise-level visits in a selected number of countries. |
| **Expected outcome** | ▪ Evidence of the extent to which the technology transitions financed by the Fund have proved sustainable and profitable.<br>▪ Recommendations on enterprise selection, design features, regulatory conditions, and other factors that support the sustainability of the funded technology/ies.<br>▪ A better understanding of the influence of the Fund relative to market forces for informed decision-making related to future funding modalities. |
| **Linkage to previous evaluations** | ▪ Extends the desk study on the sustainability of the achievements of the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/84/12, 2019) to examine it at the enterprise and technology level.<br>▪ Complements and possibly uses the enterprise samples of the air-conditioning manufacturing evaluation (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/77/9, 2016) as a baseline. |
| **Linkage to strategic priorities** | ▪ Decision 98/61(b)(ii) and (b)(iv).<br>▪ Strategic opportunity area for accelerating the adoption of low-GWP and energy-efficient technologies in manufacturing, identified in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/60. |
| **Possible limitations** | ▪ Enterprises have no reporting obligation after project completion; participation would be voluntary and access may be limited.<br>▪ Information on product mix and sales is commercially sensitive and may not be disclosed.<br>▪ The sample must be large enough to support conclusions.<br>▪ Requires multi-disciplinary expertise in case multiple sectors are selected. |
| **Mitigation measures** | ▪ Two-stage evaluation including desk study and site visits to enterprises can facilitate access to information.<br>▪ Scoping exercise to identify subsectors of relevance to focus on during the second phase.<br>▪ Confidentiality arrangements to be discussed with enterprises. |
| **Methods and requested budget** | ▪ Desk study plus site visit for a budget of US $50,000. |
| **Option 2. Evaluation of the impact of pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down financed under decision 91/65, together with the related servicing-sector activities under decision 89/6** | |
| **Objectives** | ▪ To assess the results of the pilot projects financed under the US $20 million funding window established by decision 91/65, and of the additional servicing-sector activities financed under decision 89/6, against the objectives for which they were approved.<br>▪ To determine whether the criteria set out in decision 91/65(b) proved workable in practice and influenced results. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ▪ To establish the extent to which the pilot projects have demonstrated replicability and scalability within the country, region or sector.<br>▪ To draw lessons on the feasibility of integrating non-manufacturing energy-efficiency activities into future stages of the Kigali HFC implementation plans (KIPs). |
| **Scope** | ▪ Projects approved under decision 91/65 from the 93rd meeting onwards, across all categories of eligible funding together with the activities financed under decision 89/6(b).<br>▪ Covers design, implementation experience, energy-efficiency gains, coordination arrangements and evidence of replication. |
| **Expected outcome** | ▪ On account of the results of the pilot projects, prepared expressly to feed the documents that the Secretariat has been requested to prepare on activities to guide the preparation of future KIPs.<br>▪ Evidence on whether the approval criteria for decision 91/65 should be retained, adjusted or replaced in any successor framework for non-manufacturing energy-efficiency activities. |
| **Linkage to previous evaluations** | ▪ No evaluation has been undertaken of the activities financed under decisions 89/6 and 91/65.<br>▪ The desk study on energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/88/10, 2020) examined opportunities and measures for maintaining energy efficiency in servicing.<br>▪ The desk study on demonstration projects for low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/6, 2022) addressed demonstration projects in the HCFC context and does not extend to the energy-efficiency pilot projects under the HFC phase-down. |
| **Linkage to strategic priorities** | ▪ Decision 91/65, establishing the criteria and the US $20 million funding window, and decision 89/6 on additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector.<br>▪ Decision 95/87(d), extending the window for the proposal of projects under decision 91/65, for servicing activities only, to the 100th meeting.<br>▪ In line with the observation by ExCom members during the 98th meeting noting that the closure of the window would leave Article 5 countries without a permanent framework to support non-manufacturing energy-efficiency activities under stage II of the KIPs. |
| **Possible limitations** | ▪ Lack of reported results or data: projects under decision 91/65 are to be completed within 36 months of approval, with detailed reports due six months thereafter; the earlier projects will be reported on during 2027.<br>▪ Extensions granted will reduce the number of completed projects available for assessment.<br>▪ Expected that at this stage the measurement of energy efficiency gains will be estimated rather than measured. |
| **Mitigation measures** | ▪ Desk study complemented by a selected sample of site visits to gather on-site information and lessons learned and to integrate findings in the final report. |
| **Methods and requested budget** | ▪ Desk study plus site visit for a budget of US $50,000. |
| **Option 3. Evaluation of the complementarity and added value of institutional arrangements in assisting countries implementing multiple ongoing technical interventions** | |
| **Objectives** | ▪ To assess how national institutional arrangements and national capacities support multiple ongoing components at the country level.<br>▪ To determine the added value and the extent to which overlap and duplication is avoided, including the measures taken and lessons learned.<br>▪ Determine any design recommendations to accommodate emerging technical needs in future stages of KIPs. |
| **Scope** | ▪ A sample of countries in which interventions (HPMP, KIP, energy efficiency, etc.) have operated concurrently, covering low-volume-consuming countries and countries with manufacturing sectors.<br>▪ Covers design, funding levels, indicators, delivery arrangements, coordination among national institutions as well as implementing agencies, and reporting. |
| **Expected outcome** | ▪ Options for the project design and national coordination mechanisms under future stages.<br>▪ Input to the ExCom's consideration of a cross-cutting or country programme approach for future KIP stages. |

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| **Linkage to previous evaluations** | ▪ Complements the desk study for the evaluation of enabling activities for HFC phase-down (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/7, 2023), the desk study on HPMP preparation activities to assist implementation of the Kigali Amendment (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/82/12, 2018; revised UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/83/8, 2019). |
| **Linkage to strategic priorities** | ▪ The capacity of national ozone units and national arrangements, recurrent in the informal half-day sessions held in the margins of the 94th and 95th meetings, and at the inter-agency coordination meeting of March 2026.<br>▪ Decision 98/61(b)(iii) on elements for future KIP stages under a cross-cutting or country programme approach. |
| **Possible limitations** | ▪ National arrangements vary among countries, and a proper sample selection will require in-depth analysis.<br>▪ Requires close cooperation with the bilateral and implementing agencies for access to country-level information on design and reporting. |
| **Mitigation measures** | ▪ Consultations with implementing agencies during the development of the TOR as well as during the identification of the sample. |
| **Methods and requested budget** | ▪ Desk study for a budget of US $30,000. |