



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/50
23 October 2025

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-seventh Meeting
Montreal, 1–5 December 2025
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: EL SALVADOR

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

Energy efficiency

- | | | |
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| • Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b) | UNEP | Blanket approval |
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¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

1. Stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for El Salvador was approved at the 87th meeting,² to completely phase out HCFC consumption by 2030, at a total cost of US \$650,000, plus agency support costs. As per the Agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Executive Committee, the third tranche of the HPMP is scheduled to be submitted to the second meeting of 2026 by UNDP, as the lead implementing agency, and UNEP as the cooperating agency.

2. On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, UNEP, as the cooperating implementing agency, has submitted a request for funding additional activities to strengthen energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing sector and promote the use of energy-efficient, low-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22,³ in the amount of US \$120,000, plus agency support costs of US \$15,600.⁴ The submission includes a description of specific activities, targets, and an implementation plan from January 2026 to December 2027.

Energy efficiency-related activities funded by the Multilateral Fund

3. At the 94th meeting, a pilot project to enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (non-investment activities) was approved in the amount of US \$125,000, plus agency support costs of US \$11,250 for UNDP.⁵ The project included technical assistance to 10 public hospitals on the selection of energy-efficient technologies with R-290; the acquisition of 12 cold rooms with R-290 and devices for measuring electrical energy consumption, to be installed in the blood banks of 10 hospitals and 2 vocational schools; development and implementation of a training programme for key stakeholders on energy efficiency, the reduction of refrigerant consumption, and the safe operation of R-290-based equipment in health facilities; training for 10 trainers at vocational schools and for 70 RAC servicing technicians in the health sector on R-290-based technology; stakeholder coordination for initial discussions on developing minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for cold rooms, development of standard operating procedure for the installation of commercial equipment and cold rooms; the establishment of public procurement criteria for the health sector based on energy efficiency parameters; and awareness-raising for decision makers, including technical visits, seminars, and printed materials.

Report on HCFC consumption

4. The Government of El Salvador reported a consumption of 2.08 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2024, which is 82 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2020-2024 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in El Salvador (2020–2024 Article 7 data)

HCFC*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)						
HCFC-22	49.75	72.00	58.56	84.68	37.76	148.13
HCFC-123	0.14	0.32	0.23	0.00	0.00	2.65

² Decision 87/38

³ Decision 92/22 allows for the submission of requests for activities referred to in decision 89/6(b) separately from HCFC phase-out management plan tranche requests, including a revised Agreement between the Government of the Article 5 country concerned and the Executive Committee, on the understanding that those activities were integrated into the ongoing tranche implementation plans.

⁴ As per the letter of 13 August 2025 from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador to UNEP.

⁵ Decision 94/55

HCFC*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline
Total (mt)	49.89	72.32	58.79	84.68	37.76	*186.51
ODP tonnes						
HCFC-22	2.74	3.96	3.22	4.66	2.08	8.15
HCFC-123	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05
Total (ODP tonnes)	2.74	3.97	3.23	4.66	2.08	*11.68

* The baseline total also includes HCFC-124, HCFC-141b and HCFC-142b (fully phased out in the previous stage of the HPMP)

5. As reported at the 96th meeting, consumption of HCFC-22 in recent years has been irregular, with an overall downward trend.

Country programme implementation report

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

Project description

7. The Government of El Salvador is implementing MEPS and labelling system that is supported by regulations and enforcement by the Ministry of Energy. Since 2022, the General Directorate of Energy, Hydrocarbons and Mines has assumed responsibility for the formulation of the energy policy. El Salvador has adopted five energy efficiency standards linked to the RAC sector; these were promoted by the National Energy Council in conjunction with the Salvadoran Standardization Agency and the Salvadoran Technical Regulation Agency.⁶ These MEPS are reassessed periodically and enforced through resolutions that request any importer and manufacturer to reassess their equipment's energy performance. These regulations, however, do not currently include a restriction on the use of HFCs in RAC equipment. As the current MEPS cover domestic and self-contained commercial refrigeration and air conditioners there is an interest in establishing MEPS for additional RAC systems. El Salvador is a member of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which aims to develop regional MEPS. To date, two regional MEPS are in force, related to the energy efficiency of ductless split-type and inverter split-type air conditioners.

8. This project proposal has been designed to strengthen the regulatory framework, build technical capacities, increase national awareness to promote the adoption of energy-efficient and low-GWP RAC technologies, strengthen coordination among stakeholders, and identify priority areas for updating, developing, and implementing MEPS. The proposed activities are in alignment with the activities approved under stage II of the HPMP and with the project to enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down. The description and proposed cost breakdown of activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector, and their expected outputs are presented in table 2.

⁶ RTS 23.01.02:15 Energy efficiency. room type air conditioners. limits, test methods and labeling; S 23.01.01:15 Energy efficiency. central, package or split type air conditioners. limits, test methods and labeling.; RTS 23.01.03:15 Energy efficiency. split type air conditioners, free discharge, and air ductless. limits, test methods and labeling; RTS 97.02.01:15 Energy efficiency. self-contained commercial refrigeration equipment. limits, test methods and labeling; RTS 97.01.01:15 Energy efficiency. household electric refrigerators and freezers. limits, test methods and labeling.

Table 2. Activities, expected outputs and requested funding for the project proposed to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector in El Salvador

Activity	Expected outputs/Performance indicators	Cost (US \$)
1. Strengthening the energy efficiency regulatory framework and market surveillance for RAC equipment		
1.1 Review and evaluate the energy efficiency labelling, MEPS, monitoring system for RAC equipment, and technician certification scheme to compare them with regional and international benchmarks; and to identify regulatory, technical, and institutional gaps	A report on the results of the evaluation, including recommendations	10,000
1.2 Hold coordination meetings among energy efficiency policymakers to promote low-GWP energy-efficient-technologies, identify the needs for updating MEPS and labelling for the RAC equipment; and formulate and validate a national roadmap defining strategic actions to strengthen the energy efficiency regulatory framework for RAC equipment	- At least two stakeholder consultations meetings - A validated strategy to strengthen the energy efficiency regulatory framework for RAC equipment, including to improve and develop MEPS and energy efficiency labelling in the RAC sector	15,000
Subtotal		25,000
2. Strengthening and developing capacities to maintain/improve the energy efficiency of existing RAC equipment		
2.1 Analyse the teaching-learning approach on energy efficiency in the RAC sector within vocational institutes and education centres, identify gaps, and propose curriculum improvements	- A report on the findings with recommendations - Updates to the training curriculum to include energy efficiency topics	10,000
2.2 Develop a practical guide for technicians and end users to assess RAC system performance and to apply efficiency improvement strategies	A guide for technicians and end users to assess RAC system performance	10,000
2.3 Provide four training kits ⁷ to support performance and energy efficiency assessments of RAC equipment in vocational institutes and education centres	Four kits delivered to selected vocational training institutes and education centres	45,000
2.4 Carry out training workshops on performance and energy efficiency assessments of RAC equipment for RAC trainers and technicians	At least five training workshops for 20 participants each, including 10 per cent of female participation, for RAC trainers and technicians	15,000
Subtotal		80,000
3. Strengthening awareness and outreach on energy-efficient equipment using alternative refrigerants		
3.1 Develop and disseminate awareness materials—such as posters, brochures, quick guides, and factsheets—focused on energy efficiency, MEPS, and labelling	Awareness-raising materials produced and disseminated	15,000
Subtotal		15,000
Total		120,000

⁷ Including comprehensive digital monitoring equipment for refrigeration circuits; power quality analysers; power meter clamps; pipe-clamp thermometers operated via smartphone; infrared thermometers with laser; refrigeration system analyzers with two clamp thermometers; anemometers for measuring air velocity, temperature, and humidity measure; handheld thermal imaging cameras with leak detection; and intelligent wireless pipeline pressure measuring instruments.

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

9. The Secretariat reviewed the project proposal in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and sought additional information from UNEP on different activities including relevant activities under the HPMP and the project to enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down.

10. The Secretariat enquired about the activities that will follow the finalisation of the report to be prepared on the results of the evaluation of the MEPS and labelling programme, monitoring system for RAC equipment, and technician certification scheme. UNEP indicated that the report would include specific recommendations to strengthen the regulatory and technical framework. These recommendations will be presented and discussed with the responsible authorities to jointly develop a work plan aimed at improving energy efficiency in the RAC sector and promoting the adoption of low-GWP refrigerants. Coordination meetings among the nation's energy-efficiency policymakers will then be conducted with the objective of formulating relevant and practical recommendations that respond to both the technical assessment and the institutional priorities, to promote the adoption of low-GWP refrigerants and to identify specific needs for updating MEPS and labelling for RAC equipment.

11. The Secretariat asked how the practical guide for technicians and end users to assess RAC system performance and apply efficiency improvement strategies would support activities planned under the HPMP and the KIP. UNEP indicated that the development of the practical guide is conceived not as an isolated product, but as a complementary tool that strengthens the activities planned under the HPMP and creates direct linkages with the KIP. Specifically, the guide would serve as a reference document for technicians participating in the training activities under the HPMP and KIP, ensuring that the methodologies for performance assessment and efficiency improvement are applied across different RAC equipment; provide end users, including commercial and institutional facility managers, with practical instructions for managing the energy consumption of RAC equipment; and complement the capacity-building efforts under the KIP by supporting the transition to sustainable technologies while reinforcing efficiency criteria.

12. The Secretariat requested details on the dissemination of the awareness materials to be produced. UNEP indicated that it is planned to hold a specialized seminar, directed at technicians and end users, on energy efficiency to ensure that the results and recommendations obtained during the implementation of the project under the HPMP or the KIP are effectively shared. It was also clarified that wider awareness-raising activities will target importers, retailers, and end users, to ensure that they are informed of the benefits of energy-efficient RAC equipment using low-GWP refrigerants. To the relevant suggestion made by the Secretariat, UNEP responded that the scope of the materials will be broadened to include not only energy efficiency, MEPS and labelling, but also the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low- or zero-GWP refrigerants.

Gender policy implementation

13. The energy efficiency activities will be integrated into the implementation of stage II of the HPMP in El Salvador. The national ozone unit (NOU) has undertaken an initial assessment related to women's participation in the refrigeration sector and the findings are being addressed in the implementation of stage II activities. Activities included in this proposal also include specific targets for women participation.

Updated Agreement

14. 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 El Salvador 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 87th meeting by decision 87/38, as contained in annex I to the present document. The updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 97th meeting.

Conclusion

15. The project has been submitted in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22, and activities fall within the scope of decision 89/6. The activities will promote collaboration and develop synergies among the government authorities including the NOU, the General Directorate of Energy, Hydrocarbons and Mines, the Ministry of Energy, the Salvadoran Standardization Agency, and the Salvadoran Technical Regulation Agency, and will foster a better understanding of the linkage between the phasing out of HCFCs, the phasing down of HFCs and energy efficiency. The project will strengthen the cooperation between the authorities involved in the assessment, planning, updating, development, implementation and enforcement of MEPS, labelling and future related regulations. Consumers will have a better understanding of available technology options that are low-GWP and energy efficient, their impact on climate and the environment, and be enabled to make informed purchasing decisions, which is critical to promote market transformation.

16. The project will promote improvements in the energy performance of RAC equipment, the findings of the assessment and consultations with national authorities will support the identification of priority areas for updating and developing technical standards and MEPS, encourage the adoption of energy-efficient technologies using low-GWP refrigerants, and help strengthen the technical capacity of different stakeholders. The activities planned will also contribute to a framework for considering energy-efficiency-related actions in the remaining tranches of the HPMP and in the KIP.

RECOMMENDATION

17. The Fund Secretariat recommends blanket approval of the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low-global-warming-potential (GWP) for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in El Salvador, and the corresponding 2026-2027 implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below, on the understanding that the Fund Secretariat has updated the Agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Executive Committee, as contained in annex I to the present document, specifically Appendix 2-A, to reflect the revised funding level owing to the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector; and paragraph 17, which has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 87th meeting by decision 87/38.

Project title		Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	Additional activities for the introduction of low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector	120,000	15,600	UNEP

Annex I

TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR 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 El Salvador and the Executive Committee at the 87th meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

Row	Particulars	2021	2022-2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	7.59	7.59	7.59	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	0	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	5.42	3.44	3.44	2.88	2.32	2.32	0.29	0.29	0	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNDP) agreed funding (US \$)	169,000	0	244,255	0	124,745	0	0	65,000	0	603,000
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US \$)	11,830	0	17,098	0	8,732	0	0	4,550	0	42,210
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US \$)	26,000	0	17,000	120,000	4,000	0	0	0	0	167,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US \$)	3,380	0	2,210	15,600	520	0	0	0	0	21,710
3.1	Total agreed funding (US \$)	195,000	0	261,255	120,000	128,745	0	0	65,000	0	770,000
3.2	Total support costs (US \$)	15,210	0	19,308	15,600	9,252	0	0	4,550	0	63,920
3.3	Total agreed costs (US \$)	210,210	0	280,563	135,600	137,997	0	0	69,550	0	833,920