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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
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSAL: BARBADOS

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

Phase-out

• HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	UNEP and UNDP	Blanket approval

[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

Barbados

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage II)	UNEP (lead), UNDP	91st	100% phase-out by 2030

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2025	0.21 ODP tonnes

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Firefighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing		
HCFC-22					0.21		0.21

CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	3.69	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	3.69
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	3.69	Remaining:	0.00

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.20	0.52	0.00	0.72
	Funding (US $)	59,325	151,420	0	210,745
UNDP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.38
	Funding (US $)	102,559	0	0	102,559

PROJECT DATA			2022	2023-2024	2025*	2026	2027	2028-2029	2030	Total
Consumption (ODP tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		2.40	2.40	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.00	n/a
	Maximum allowable		2.40	2.40	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.00	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US $)	UNEP	Project costs	36,000	0	0	52,500	134,000	0	75,500	298,000
		Support costs	4,680	0	0	6,825	17,420	0	9,815	38,740
	UNDP	Project costs	125,000	0	100,000	97,000	0	0	0	322,000
		Support costs	11,250	0	5,731	5,559	0	0	0	22,540
Funds approved by ExCom (US $)		Project costs	161,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	261,000
		Support costs	15,930	0	5,731	0	0	0	0	21,661
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US $)		Project costs				149,500				
		Support costs				12,384				

*Funding for 2025 includes US $100,000, plus agency support costs of US $5,731, for UNDP, for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6).

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Barbados, 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 $161,884, consisting of US $52,500, plus agency support costs of US $6,825, for UNEP and US $97,000, plus agency support costs of US $5,559, for UNDP.[2] The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the first tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2022 to 2025 and the tranche implementation plan for 2027 to 2028.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Barbados reported a consumption of 0.21 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 94.3 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 Barbados, 2021–2025 (Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	8.95	19.87	8.54	12.46	3.81	66.74
ODP tonnes	0.49	1.09	0.47	0.69	0.21	3.69

3. The consumption of HCFCs declined between 2021 and 2025, apart from increases in 2022 and 2024 reflecting a recurring import cycle. Importers purchase larger quantities when refrigerant stocks require replenishment, to reduce the effect of import tariffs and to obtain lower per-unit supplier rates. The overall downward trend has been supported by enforcement of the licensing and quota system, increased availability of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives, technician training, and awareness activities targeting key stakeholders and the public.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HCFC consumption data provided by the Government of Barbados 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 consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2022 to 2025 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification recommended further strengthening of transit procedures and data collection on controlled substances, including through customs training or providing National Ozone Unit (NOU) access to the Automated Systems for Customs Data, for enhancing its data collection and reporting process. These recommendations will be prioritized during the second tranche, as confirmed by UNEP. The NOU will work with the Customs and Excise Department, and the Department of Commerce and Customs Affairs, to explore and advance improvements as suggested, and to implement these during the second tranche, subject to feasibility and the necessary approvals.

[2] As per the letter of 7 September 2026 from the Ministry of Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries of Barbados to the Secretariat.

Status of implementation of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

6. Stage I of the HPMP was completed on 31 December 2023, in line with the extension approved by the Executive Committee by decision 91/41. The project completion report was submitted on 20 June 2024.

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

Legal framework

7. Four sensitization meetings were conducted for 42 stakeholders (including 12 women) across importers, executives of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) Association, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and customs brokers. Issues covered included the HCFC import process and quota system, HCFC phase-out and related matters, policy updates, and the transition to alternative technologies.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. During the implementation period, the following activities were implemented:

(a) *Strengthening control and monitoring of imports of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment:* Procurement process for two refrigerant identifiers was initiated, with expected delivery by January 2027;

(b) *Capacity building for vocational schools for training technicians:* List of equipment and tools[3] for two training centres (Barbados Vocational Training Board (BVTB) and Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI)) developed, finalized and procurement process initiated, with expected delivery by January 2027; one technical seminar was conducted for 49 technicians and end users (including 10 women) on R-290 air-conditioning systems and sustainable cooling; and

(c) *Public and stakeholder awareness:* Awareness banner, technical brochure and promotional material related to HCFC phase-out were developed and distributed to stakeholders and end-users; four training videos were developed to promote import/export measures under the HCFC licensing and quota system and to highlight best practices in the RAC sector; one technical seminar on managing refrigerant reductions and equipment procurement was held for 34 participants (including 18 women) across management and procurement officers of hotels, construction firms, and government agencies.

Project implementation and monitoring

9. The national ozone unit (NOU) has been coordinating, implementing, monitoring and reporting of project activities. Of the US $11,500 approved under the first tranche, US $9,000 was disbursed for project staff.

Activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector

10. Preparatory activities have begun with the development of a detailed workplan defining the scope of activities, implementation timeline, responsibilities and key milestones to guide project execution. One

[3] Recovery and recycling equipment, recovery cylinders, mobile refrigeration training station, AC units, refrigerant identifiers, replacement condenser and evaporator units, vacuum pump, electronic leak detector, electronic scales, digital manifold, digital vacuum gauges, clamp multimeters, electronic refrigerant scale, thermometers, hoses with valves, service port coupler, piercing pliers, charging hose, brazing equipment, tools and accessories.

international consultant has been hired, while recruitment of the national consultant is ongoing and is expected to be completed by mid-November 2026. Partnerships and coordination mechanisms have also been established with key national stakeholders, including the Barbados National Standards Institution, relevant government entities and representatives of the RAC sector.

Level of fund disbursement

11. As of July 2026, of the US $261,000 approved so far (US $36,000 for UNEP and US $225,000 for UNDP), US $40,100 had been disbursed (US $33,500 for UNEP and US $6,600 for UNDP), as shown in table 2. The balance of US $220,900 will be disbursed in 2026–2027.

Table 2. Financial report of stage II of the HPMP for Barbados (US $)

Agency	First tranche		Additional activities (decision 89/6) approved at the 96th meeting		Total		
	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Balance
UNEP	36,000	33,500	0	0	36,000	33,500	2,500
UNDP	125,000	0*	100,000	6,600	225,000	6,600	218,400
Total	**161,000**	**33,500**	**100,000**	**6,600**	**261,000**	**40,100**	**220,900**
Disbursement rate (%)	**20.8**		**6.6**		**15.36**		

**A purchase order for equipment and tools under the first tranche, for which US $125,000 was approved for UNDP, is being prepared. The exact purchase order value will be known upon issuance, which is expected by December 2026. Payment will be made upon receipt of the equipment and tools, expected by the end of January 2027.*

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

12. The following activities will be implemented by UNEP and UNDP between January 2027 and December 2028:

(a) *Improving policy, legislative and regulatory framework:* Conduct legislative review and develop a report on the legislative options in preparation for the ban on HCFC imports from 1 January 2030; conduct one stakeholder and focus group meeting on the planned ban (UNEP) (US $10,000);

(b) *Strengthening control and monitoring of import of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment:* Conduct a feasibility study on the integration of the ozone curriculum into the Customs and Excise Department's internal training curriculum, with relevant recommendations and training modules (UNEP) (US $6,000); conduct one training workshop for 30 customs and enforcement officers on control and monitoring of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, classification using Harmonized System codes, prevention of illegal trade, and enforcement of the ban on HCFC-based equipment, safe handling and storage of alternative refrigerants and data collection (UNEP) (US $6,000)*;* procurement of two refrigerant identifiers for the Customs Department (UNDP) (US $11,000);

(c) *Improving the capacity for vocational schools for training technicians:* Procurement of second lot of equipment and tools[4] for two training centres (BVTB and SJPI) for the training of RAC technicians (UNDP) (US $86,000);

[4] Recovery and recycling equipment, refrigerant identifiers, AC systems, vacuum pump, electronic leak detectors, digital manifold, vacuum gauge, oil pump, drill kits, thermometers, brazing equipment, safety equipment, and other tools and accessories

(d) *Public and stakeholder awareness:* Conduct nationwide awareness campaign targeting the general public to deliver information on the HPMP in support of the transition to low-GWP alternatives, through various online and traditional media channels (UNEP) (US $19,000);

(e) *Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector under decision 89/6*: data collection and analysis of remaining HCFC-based RAC equipment, site visits and surveys, identification of barriers to the adoption of energy-efficient low-GWP technologies, development of prioritization criteria for equipment replacement, review of existing and proposed minimum energy performance standards and related policies, preparation of recommendations and roadmaps for the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, design and implementation of the energy-efficient demonstration project, and implementation of stakeholder consultations, training activities, development of standards and policy recommendations to support the transition to energy-efficient and low-GWP RAC technologies, and awareness-raising initiatives; and

(f) *Project coordination and monitoring*: Activities include monitoring, evaluating and reporting implementation progress relating to the HPMP (UNEP) (US $11,500).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

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 Barbados has issued HCFC import quotas for 2026 and 2027 at 0.67 and 0.47 ODP tonnes, respectively, which are lower than the Montreal Protocol control targets.

14. As part of the approval of stage II of the HPMP at the 91st meeting, the country committed to implementing a ban on the import of HCFC-based equipment effective 1 January 2024. In response to the Secretariat's inquiry, UNEP clarified that the ban has not yet been implemented; however, preparatory work is underway, including defining the scope and requirements of the necessary legislation. Given the time required for consultations, and the relevant approval processes for the revision of the Customs Act and cabinet approval, additional time is needed. The Government plans to finalize the ban by December 2028. UNEP further indicated that, in the interim, through cooperation among the NOU, customs and importers, importers have voluntarily refrained from importing HCFC-based equipment.

Refrigeration servicing sector

15. The Secretariat noted that the second tranche, originally scheduled for submission to the 96th meeting in 2025, was postponed twice due to low disbursement and the absence of a verification report. UNEP explained that measures had since been taken to address the delays, including strengthened coordination and the recruitment of an assistant project coordinator, resulting in improved implementation progress.

16. It was also noted that while the verification report has been submitted and first-tranche disbursement has reached 20.8 per cent, there have been considerable delays in the procurement of tools and equipment for the training centres. UNDP explained that the start of implementation was affected by administrative delays and project start-up requirements. Additional time was required for the development and validation of terms of reference, stakeholder consultations, preparation of technical specifications for specialized equipment, and coordination among stakeholders. UNDP further explained that, despite the initial procurement delays, preparatory work had been completed, including identification of the required

equipment and tools, an equipment needs assessment, validation of technical specifications, preparation of procurement documentation and finalization of the procurement plan. With the procurement plan and equipment specifications finalized, approved and shared with the supplier, the PO is expected to be issued by December 2026, with delivery of the equipment anticipated by the end of January 2027, enabling the country to proceed with the planned training and capacity-building activities under the stage II of HPMP.

17. Regarding the slow progress under additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector, UNDP explained that these activities were approved at the 96th meeting in May 2025. Initiation was delayed but preparatory progress has since been made, including the recruitment of an international consultant and finalization of the workplan. The national consultant will also be on board by mid-November 2026, and UNDP expects substantive implementation to start in November 2026. UNDP also reported that the first milestone, an inception workshop with main stakeholders, is expected to be completed by end of December 2026.

18. The Secretariat considered the status of implementation of the procurement and additional energy-efficiency activities, while also taking into account the efforts made, progress achieved in other components and the momentum gained in project implementation. To avoid further delaying implementation of stage II of the HPMP, the Secretariat reviewed the submission on the understanding that, should the second tranche be recommended for approval, the Treasurer would be requested to transfer the approved funds to UNDP, only upon confirmation by the Secretariat that the purchase order for the equipment and tools under the first tranche had been issued, the equipment and tools had been received, and the inception workshop, the first milestone for the energy-efficiency activities, had been completed.

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

19. Regarding the timeline for procurement of tools and equipment for training centres proposed under the second tranche, UNDP stated that procurement will follow both approval of the second tranche and completion of the remaining first-tranche procurement activities. The detailed procurement plan, including quantities, technical specifications, estimated costs and lot allocations, has already been finalized. Based on the current implementation schedule, procurement is expected to commence shortly after these prerequisites have been met, with delivery of the equipment and tools anticipated during 2027. UNDP and the NOU will continue to closely monitor implementation progress and procurement timelines to support timely delivery, installation and use of the equipment within the approved project implementation period.

20. Regarding actions taken for smooth implementation, UNEP stated that, with the assistant project coordinator on board and strengthened coordination between the NOU, agencies and other stakeholders, the project is expected to progress as planned. UNEP and UNDP reiterated their continued support for, and coordination with, the NOU, and their commitment to reviewing progress against the work plan.

Gender policy implementation

21. In line with the Multilateral Fund policy, and decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), Barbados continued to promote the participation of women in the RAC servicing sector and to align HPMP activities with the Government's framework. The NOU encouraged women's participation in planning, policy and decision-making, consultations, capacity-building and outreach activities; used language and images representing women in project materials; and systematically collected and reported data on men and women's participation. A female RAC technician participated in UNEP's Women in RAC workshop in November 2023, and women accounted for an average of 34 per cent of participants during project implementation. Activities in the second tranche will continue to encourage women's participation and collect sex-disaggregated data.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

22. The Ministry of Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries underpins the long-term sustainability of the HCFC phase-out, as the HPMP forms part of the Ministry's Cabinet-approved programme of work and is supported by national resources and legislative mechanisms. Capacity-building activities are coordinated by the NOU and delivered with the RAC Association of Barbados, the BVTB, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council, and technical and vocational schools, supporting the continuation of technician training beyond the HPMP. Continued cooperation between the NOU and the Barbados Customs and Excise Department, together with the proposed integration of Montreal Protocol modules into standard customs training will help sustain customs capacity. The activities to maintain energy efficiency will support surveys and technical assessments, review of minimum energy performance standards and labelling policies, development of a transition roadmap and demonstration project, and stakeholder training, thereby strengthening the enabling environment for energy-efficient, low-GWP RAC technologies. Identified risks include changes in national priorities in the refrigeration servicing sector and changes in Government focal points which could delay approvals, reporting and funding requests. These risks will be mitigated through UNEP's regular project monitoring calls and meetings with the NOU and, where necessary, official communications offering support and solutions. On the basis of these institutional arrangements, continuing partnerships and mitigation measures, the risks to the sustainability of the HCFC phase-out are considered low.

Conclusion

23. Barbados is in compliance with the maximum allowable consumption levels during the reporting period, and the disbursement level of funds approved in the previous tranche is above 20 per cent (and 6.6 per cent in additional energy efficiency activities approved at the 96th meeting). While there were some delays in procurement of equipment and tools and in implementation of additional energy efficiency activities, progress has been achieved during implementation of the tranche, including four stakeholder sensitization meetings, development and dissemination of awareness materials and training videos, two technical seminars, recruitment of an assistant project coordinator, finalization of list of equipment and tools for vocational training institutions, and the initiation of energy efficiency activities. Considering these delayed activities, transfer of the approved funds to UNDP would therefore be subject to the conditions set out in the recommendation below. The activities implemented and planned will continue to strengthen the refrigeration servicing sector and support Barbados in meeting its HCFC phase-out obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

24. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee note the progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Barbados, and further recommends blanket approval of the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP and the corresponding 2027–2028 tranche implementation plan for Barbados at the funding levels shown in the table below, on the understanding that the Treasurer would transfer the approved funds associated with the UNDP tranche, only upon confirmation by the Secretariat that the purchase order for the equipment and tools under the first tranche had been issued, the equipment and tools had been received, and the inception workshop, the first milestone for the energy-efficiency activities, had been completed.

	Project title	Project funding (US $)	Support costs (US $)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	52,500	6,825	UNEP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	97,000	5,559	UNDP