



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/30
14 May 2026



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-eighth Meeting
Montreal, 22–26 June 2026
Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: BURUNDI

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

Energy efficiency

- | | | |
|--|------|------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector (decision 89/6(b)) | UNEP | Blanket approval |
|--|------|------------------|

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Stage II of HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Burundi was approved at the 95th meeting² to completely phase out HCFC consumption by 2030, in the amount of US \$418,000, plus agency support costs for UNEP and UNIDO. As per the Agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Executive Committee, the second tranche of the HPMP is scheduled to be submitted to the second meeting of 2027.

2. On behalf of the Government of Burundi, UNEP, as the lead implementing agency, has submitted a request for funding additional activities for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration-based appliances in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22,³ in the amount of US \$100,000, plus agency support costs of US \$13,000.⁴ The submission includes a description of proposed activities, targets, and an implementation plan from June 2026 to June 2028.

Report on HCFC consumption

3. The Government of Burundi reported under the country programme (CP) implementation report a consumption of 0.45 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 93.8 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The Article 7 data for 2025 has not been reported yet. The 2021-2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Burundi (2021-2025 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	21.4	14.03	12	10	8.20	130
ODP tonnes	1.18	0.77	0.66	0.55	0.45	7.2

*From CP data

4. The only HCFC consumed in the country is HCFC-22 used in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing sector. Consumption over the five years has been decreasing due to the implementation of activities under the HPMP, the effective implementation of the licensing and quota system, and the introduction of non-HCFC technologies (HFCs and low global-warming potential (GWP) refrigerants).

Country programme implementation report

5. The Government of Burundi reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2024 CP implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Project description

6. Burundi faces constraints in energy access, with an estimated 26 per cent of households connected to electricity, often with limited service availability. In response, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, has introduced policy and regulatory measures, including a national energy efficiency action plan (2015), a national electrification strategy to expand access and encourage private sector participation, and a revised electricity law (2024). Historically, access to electricity limited the uptake of cooling appliances, particularly in rural areas, and with modest penetration in urban areas due to affordability and limited supply. However, as electricity access expands, demand for RAC is growing and is expected to continue rising in the coming

² Decision 95/42 and document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/44

³ Decision 92/22 allows for the submission of requests for activities referred to in decision 89/6(b) separately from HPMP 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 10 April 2026 from the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi to the Secretariat.

years, creating both challenges and opportunities for energy consumption and efficiency of cooling equipment.

7. The proposed project on energy efficiency provides an opportunity to reduce emissions, manage electricity demand, and support economic activity by creating the enabling environment for deployment of energy-efficient cooling appliances. As a Party to the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, Burundi is committed to transitioning to low-GWP refrigerants and improving efficiency in the RAC sector. Within the framework of the East African Community (EAC), regional minimum energy performance standards (MEPS)⁵ for cooling appliances have been developed, and Burundi is expected to adopt these standards alongside supporting labelling programmes. This project will support this transition through strengthening institutional coordination, raising awareness, and providing capacity-building, while also supporting the adoption of energy-efficient cooling technologies and technician preparedness relevant to cold-chain development in the agriculture sector.

8. The description and proposed cost breakdown of activities to maintain energy efficiency in the sector are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Activities, expected outputs and funding requested for the project to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector in Burundi (as submitted)

Activity	Performance indicators	Cost (US \$)
Institutional coordination and establishment of MEPS		
<i>Awareness workshops:</i> Organise workshops to highlight the economic savings and potential energy gains associated with the adoption of MEPS and energy labelling; provide information on how these measures are operationalised and implemented and demonstrate the savings from deploying energy-efficient equipment.	Three workshops (120 to 150 participants)	12,000
<i>Coordination mechanism:</i> Set up a national coordination mechanism on energy efficiency in refrigerant-based appliances with the National Ozone Unit (NOU), under the Directorate of Environment and Sanitation at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, bringing together stakeholders, including customs and border control authorities, appliance and equipment importers and wholesalers, technician associations and training institutions, as well as relevant line ministries such as energy, agriculture, statistics, standards, and industry, among others.	Three national stakeholders' coordination meetings	12,000
<i>MEPS and labelling system development:</i> Develop a regulatory roadmap for adopting EAC regional MEPS and labels for refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pumps equipment at the national level through recruiting an international consultant or firm to conduct a comprehensive analysis and provide recommendations on the design and implementation of MEPS aligned with ongoing regional efforts within the EAC; assess current market stock; and identify recommendations to incorporate GWP information as part of the energy labelling programme(s).	MEPS and labelling regulatory framework developed	15,000
<i>Technical training to support advancement of energy-efficient, low-GWP appliances:</i> Conduct three training sessions, particularly for technicians working in or supporting the agriculture sector; support workforce readiness by equipping technicians with the skills needed to ensure energy-efficiency gains and safe handling of low-GWP, energy-efficient appliances through the development of training materials on best practices for RAC installation and servicing, including variable speed compressors.	Three training sessions; Training materials developed	20,000
Subtotal		59,000

⁵ EAS1213:2025 and EAS 1214:2025 as gazetted by the EAC Council of Ministers on 30 June 2025.

Activity	Performance indicators	Cost (US \$)
Community awareness and outreach programmes		
<i>Communication tools:</i> Develop informational and educational materials on technologies, benefits and uses of low-GWP and high efficiency equipment for agricultural and commercial sectors of agricultural products and disseminate content through social media platforms, government websites, local TV channels, and at community events.	Two videos', Pamphlets/flyers, media posts, and infographic	20,000
<i>Awareness campaigns:</i> Conduct workshops across four regions during community events such as village meetings, local market days, and religious gatherings, featuring real-time demonstrations, interactive displays, and expert-led sessions. These activities will provide participants with hands-on experience and direct engagement with energy-efficient technologies and best practices.	Four workshops (200 to 250 participants in each region)	21,000
Subtotal		41,000
Total		100,000

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

9. The Secretariat has reviewed the project proposal in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and sought additional information from UNEP on different elements of the project.

10. The Secretariat noted the project's emphasis on the agro-food sector as a potentially high-growth segment of Burundi's economy. It further observed that the cooling infrastructure required to support this growth would likely depend primarily on commercial and industrial refrigeration systems such as cold storage, industrial refrigeration, and pre-cooling technologies which may fall partly outside the scope of the existing regional MEPS. In response, UNEP clarified that, given the structure of the sector largely composed of smallholder farmers, the adoption of small and light commercial refrigeration equipment, as well as residential air-conditioning systems, is expected to be more prevalent among farmers and small-scale rural outlets. Accordingly, the project aims to raise awareness within the agricultural sector about energy-efficient, low-GWP refrigerant-based appliances that fall within the scope of the recently adopted EAC MEPS. At the same time, it will provide information and guidance on larger-scale applications required by bigger users.

11. UNEP further indicated that the technical support provided under the project will not be limited to the agro-food sector but will extend to all user types in both rural and urban areas. However, the project places particular emphasis on the agro-food sector due to its rapid growth potential. UNEP highlighted that, with population growth and increasing access to energy, air-conditioning and refrigeration across both residential and commercial applications could potentially contribute to 75 per cent of total electricity savings in 2040.

12. In response to an enquiry regarding the legal process of the MEPS enactment, UNEP clarified that the proposed project activities differ from the regional EAC MEPS, as these standards are not automatically adopted at the national level. Countries must undertake a formal process to transpose them into national regulations, including defining institutional roles and responsibilities, assessing market impacts, and establishing compliance mechanisms, in line with common practice for regionally adopted standards. Accordingly, the project aims to support the development and adoption of a national MEPS regulatory framework, including provisions for placing compliant equipment on the market. It will also facilitate the establishment of a national stakeholder platform to support consultations, regulatory development, and the rollout of MEPS and labelling programmes. The localization process will focus on equipment already covered by existing standards, while identifying additional equipment that may require MEPS or labelling.

The national consultation process that will be established by the project will set specific milestones for the enactment and update of the EAC MEPS.

13. The Secretariat also requested information on the coordination mechanism among local authorities and roles of different entities that would ensure sustained coordination beyond the project cycle. UNEP explained that the adoption of MEPS and labels is aligned with regional standards; therefore, it requires capacity development and national coordination across several local institutions and complemented by the regional technical support provided by the East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency to its members. The coordination mechanism will initially be led and facilitated by the NOU, in coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Mines identified as the relevant authority, other entities will play important coordination roles in the process especially the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, particularly in relation to retails and cold-chain applications, as well as the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change and the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection.

14. The Secretariat also enquired about the background and profile of the target groups to be engaged in the different awareness-raising activities included in the proposal. UNEP clarified that the activities under the institutional coordination and establishment of MEPS component are intended to support the development of regulatory frameworks and the awareness-raising and training needed for the establishment of MEPS and labelling schemes. These workshops will target customs and border control enforcement officers; RAC technicians; equipment importers and wholesalers; RAC association representatives; training institutes; agrifood cooperatives and agribusinesses; the National Consumers' Association of Burundi; and relevant government institutions, including the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Mining and Industry, the Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Standards, and the Commerce Tax Department, responsible for supporting the national establishment and implementation of MEPS and labels. The activities proposed under the awareness campaign component will focus on raising awareness to the public and private end-users and retailers, smallholder farmers that produce staple food in the region; crop exporters, processors of agricultural products and members of regional chamber of agriculture and RAC equipment retailers, for all applications covered by the regional MEPS and for all type of applications in the agro-food sector. The Secretariat noted that the proposed activities were in line with subparagraphs (b)(iii) and (v) of decision 89/6. All activities, performance indicators, and costs were agreed as submitted, as shown in table 2 above.

Gender policy implementation

15. Through the implementation of the community awareness and outreach programmes component of this proposed project, which focuses on the agro-food sector, the Government of Burundi will seek to achieve equal male/female representation and participation in workshops and collect and report on disaggregated data. Activities will be implemented in alignment with the action plan developed under stage II of the HPMP, which addresses women's empowerment through the collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated data; in particular, under the monitoring, evaluation and reporting tasks.

Updated Agreement

16. 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 Burundi 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 95th meeting by decision 95/42, as contained in annex I to the present document. The updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 98th meeting.

Conclusion

17. The project has been submitted in accordance with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and is expected to help Burundi to adopt the regional EAC MEPS at the national level, including designing a labelling scheme

for RAC appliances. It is expected to build and sustain an institutional coordination mechanism bridging the Montreal Protocol commitments with the national energy efficiency plans. The project will also support creating enabling environment through building knowledge and awareness of different stakeholders and users about the energy-efficient appliances. The project will contribute to the overall objectives of the HPMP and help the country sustain the achieved reductions of HCFC consumption while adopting more energy-efficient RAC technologies.

RECOMMENDATION

18. The Fund Secretariat recommends blanket approval of the project for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector in Burundi, and the corresponding 2026-2028 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 Burundi 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 95th meeting by decision 95/42.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	Additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector	100,000	13,000	UNEP

Annex I

TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI 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 Burundi and the Executive Committee at the 95th 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)	4.65	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	0.00	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	0.70	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.00	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US \$)	114,000	0	100,000	130,000	0	0	34,000	378,000
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US \$)	14,820	0	13,000	16,900	0	0	4,420	49,140
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US \$)	101,600	0	0	25,000	0	0	13,400	140,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US \$)	9,144	0	0	2,250	0	0	1,206	12,600
3.1	Total agreed funding (US \$)	215,600	0	100,000	155,000	0	0	47,400	518,000
3.2	Total support costs (US \$)	23,964	0	13,000	19,150	0	0	5,626	61,740
3.3	Total agreed costs (US \$)	239,564	0	113,000	174,150	0	0	53,026	579,740
4.1.1	Total phase-out of HCFC-22 agreed to be achieved under this Agreement (ODP tonnes)								1.37
4.1.2	Phase-out of HCFC-22 to be achieved in the previous stage (ODP tonnes)								0.73
4.1.3	Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)								0

* Date of completion of stage I as per decision 93/36 and annex XIV to document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/105: 31 December 2024