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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: FIJI

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) UNDP and UNEP Blanket approval

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Fiji

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage II)	UNDP (lead), UNEP	88 th	100% phase-out by 2030

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2024	2.63 ODP tonnes
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COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Firefighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing		
HCFC-22					1.31		1.31

CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	5.73	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	5.73
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	5.73	Remaining:	0.00

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNDP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.75
	Funding (US \$)	148,730	0	0	148,730
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.51
	Funding (US \$)	106,107	0	0	106,107

PROJECT DATA			2021	2022-2024	2025	2026*	2027-2029	2030	Total
Consumption (ODP tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		3.72	3.72	1.86	1.86	1.86	0	n/a
	Maximum allowable		3.72	3.72	1.86	1.86	1.86	0	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US \$)	UNDP	Project costs	176,000	0	139,000	0	0	36,000	351,000
		Support costs	12,320	0	9,730	0	0	2,520	24,570
	UNEP	Project costs	116,700	0	**193,900	0	0	23,400	334,000
		Support costs	15,171	0	**25,207	0	0	3,042	43,420
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)		Project costs	292,700	0	100,000	0	0	0	392,700
		Support costs	27,491	0	13,000	0	0	0	40,491
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US \$)		Project costs				232,900			232,900
		Support costs				21,937			21,937

* The second tranche was initially scheduled for 2025.

** Of which US \$100,000, plus agency support cost of US \$13,000, was approved at the 96th meeting for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6).

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Fiji, UNDP 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 \$254,837, consisting of US \$139,000, plus agency support costs of US \$9,730, for UNDP and US \$93,900, plus agency support costs of US \$12,207, for UNEP.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the first tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2021 to 2025, and the tranche implementation plan for 2026 to 2030.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Fiji reported a consumption of 1.31 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025 under the country programme (CP) implementation report, which is 77.1 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 2021–2025 in Fiji (Article 7 data)

HCFC	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)						
HCFC-22	2.47	14.65	36.86	47.81	23.88	103.44
HCFC-142b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65
Total (mt)	2.47	14.65	36.86	47.81	23.88	104.08
ODP tonnes						
HCFC-22	0.14	0.81	2.03	2.63	1.31	5.69
HCFC-142b	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
Total (ODP tonnes)	0.14	0.81	2.03	2.63	1.31	5.73

* CP data.

3. HCFC consumption in Fiji experienced a temporary increase during the period 2022–2024 primarily driven by post-COVID-19 economic recovery and increased servicing needs for equipment using HCFCs. Consumption declined in 2025 due to enforcement of HCFC controls through the quota system. It is expected to continue decreasing as a result of enforcement of the ban on the import, export and manufacture of HCFC-based equipment effective from 1 August 2025, as well as other awareness-raising and capacity-building measures aimed at replacing HCFC-based equipment and promoting the adoption of alternative technologies.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HCFC consumption data provided by the Government of Fiji in its CP implementation report for 2024 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 2021 to 2024 and CP data for 2025 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded that Fiji was in compliance with the targets under the Montreal Protocol and its Agreement with the Executive Committee and that the verified consumption levels remain well below the allowable limits.

² As per the letter of 10 April 2026 from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Fiji to UNDP.

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

6. Stage I of the HPMP was completed on 31 December 2022, in line with the extension approved by the Executive Committee by decision 88/49(a). The project completion report was submitted on 13 April 2023.

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

Legal framework

7. The Government has aligned its customs codes with the 2022 amendment of the World Customs Organization Harmonized System. Since 2022, a mandatory consent system has been established for the import of all refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) equipment, enforced through legislation. Under this system, companies are required to obtain permit and approval from the Department of Environment, before importing RAC equipment with all types of specifications. Since 1 August 2025, Fiji has also enforced a ban on the import, export and manufacture of HCFC-based equipment.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. During the first tranche, the following activities were undertaken:

- (a) *Policy, regulations and enforcement:* Four consultation meetings with key stakeholders on mandatory labelling (effective since June 2025), ban on HCFC-based equipment, integration of good servicing practices into the Fiji Qualifications Framework and competency-based certification; one training workshop for 13 trainers (including five females) on customs and enforcement; six training workshops for 132 customs and enforcement officers (including 55 females) on the prevention of illegal trade of controlled substances, compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the new regulations; one training workshop for 20 enforcement officers and importers (including five females) on tracking HCFC supply and demand and preventing illegal trade in the fisheries sector; eight training workshops for 65 customs agents and importers (including 30 females) on the requirements for the import and export of controlled substances and equipment containing such substances, as well as updates on the Montreal Protocol and its amendments; finalized specifications for appropriate identifiers tailored to Fiji's port environments and staffing capacity, with procurement expected to be completed by June 2026; three consultation meetings with approximately 70 participants from the fisheries sector and relevant enforcement agencies (including 15 females) with a focus on measures to ban the registration of new and second-hand vessels using HCFC-based refrigeration systems; initiation of the recruitment process for consultancy to support data collection, the development of a refrigerant consumption management system, the preparation of standard operating procedures (SOP) for record keeping and data monitoring of HCFC use by fishing vessels, and the development of the export permit system in the fisheries sector;
- (b) *Technical assistance for fisheries vessels:* Development of fishing vessels transformation plans providing guidance to phase out HCFCs and addressing identified financial and technical constraints related to the adoption of alternative technologies with low global warming potential (GWP); field mission on the use of recycled HCFCs in the sector and its supply chain, with technical and economic challenges identified and recommendations being developed; four customized training workshops on good servicing practice for 50 marine technicians and service engineers (including two females) deployed in fishing vessels;

- (c) *Training and capacity-building – RAC servicing sector:* One consultation meeting with the Fiji National University and amendment of the training materials on good refrigeration servicing practices to include Kigali Amendment topics; one training workshop for 20 RAC master trainers; eight training workshops for 163 technicians on good refrigeration servicing practices, including safety aspects; initiation of the equipment procurement process for five training centres (i.e., recovery machines, recovery cylinders, vacuum pumps, electronic weighing scales, digital multi-refrigerator gauge manifolds, leak detectors, and toolkits) expected to be completed by June 2026; integration of good refrigeration servicing practices into the Fiji Qualifications Framework, including the development of competency standards and recognition of prior learning for certification;³ strengthening and establishment of the mandatory Trade Competency Certification in ODS regulations and SOP as a prerequisite for technicians to obtain a licence from the Department of Environment to handle refrigerants; consultations with the NOU and an expert regarding the training content of virtual and hands-on capacity-building workshops for examiners/assessors on competency-based certification;
- (d) *Public awareness and outreach:* Development and dissemination of awareness-raising materials on equipment importation, targeting both schools and the general public; production of various targeted materials for training activities on the Montreal Protocol and HCFC phase-out schedules, HCFC-based equipment import requirements, permitting processes, the environmental impacts of ozone-depleting substances, and mechanisms to promote the adoption of low-GWP alternative technologies; and
- (e) *Project implementation and monitoring:* The NOU and UNDP have been monitoring activities, reporting on progress, and working with stakeholders to phase out HCFCs. Of the US \$55,000 approved for project monitoring activities under the first tranche, US \$18,439 was disbursed for: project staff and consultants (US \$17,964); and travel, equipment, supply, and communication (US \$475).

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of April 2026, of the US \$292,700 approved so far (US \$176,000 for UNDP and US \$116,700 for UNEP), US \$123,532 (42.2 per cent) had been disbursed (US \$53,289 for UNDP and US \$70,243 for UNEP). The balance of US \$169,168, plus US \$100,000 for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency approved at the 96th meeting will be disbursed in 2026 and 2027.

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

10. The following activities will be implemented between July 2026 and December 2030:

- (a) *Policy, regulations and enforcement:* Development of SOP for the fisheries sector, including data monitoring and export permit systems; one train-the-trainers workshop for 15 customs and enforcement officers; 10 training workshops for 20 customs and enforcement officers each on monitoring and reporting HCFC trade for different applications and enforcement of HCFC quota system; one training workshop for 20 enforcement officers on tracking HCFC supply and demand and preventing illegal trade in the fisheries sector; nine training workshops for customs agents and importers with 15 participants each on HCFC import, export, monitoring, and reporting; support for the NOU to procure three additional refrigerant identifiers for the Fiji customs, along with technical support for their use; one customized training workshop for 20 marine technicians and service engineers deployed on

³ The NOU is working with the Fiji National University on the Trade Certificate in good practices in refrigeration, expected to be completed in 2027.

fishing vessels, focusing on HCFC regulations, monitoring and reporting requirements, and the identification and prevention of illegal HCFC trade (UNDP) (US \$15,000) and (UNEP) (US \$54,000);

- (b) *Technical assistance for fisheries vessels*: Two training workshops on good refrigeration practices for 40 marine technicians and service engineers deployed in fishing vessels (UNEP) (US \$4,800);
- (c) *Training and capacity building – RAC servicing sector*: Review and update of training materials on good refrigeration servicing practices; one workshop for 20 trainers on the updated curriculum; eight workshops to train 200 technicians on good refrigeration servicing practices, including safety aspects; technical assistance and provision of tools and equipment to the servicing workshops; provision of tools to marine technicians for training on good servicing practices, including leak detection equipment; and certification launch programme (UNDP) (US \$95,000) and (UNEP) (US \$28,000);
- (d) *Public awareness and outreach*: Development and dissemination of awareness-raising and education material for the public about the Montreal Protocol and the RAC servicing sector, specifically on the safe introduction of alternative refrigerants (UNEP) (US \$7,100); and
- (e) Project monitoring (UNDP) (US \$29,000): Engagement of project monitoring staff/consultants (US \$20,000); and travel, equipment, supply and communication (US \$9,000).

11. In addition, the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low GWP for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector will continue to be implemented by UNEP.

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Submission delays

12. The submission of the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP, originally scheduled for 2025, was delayed due to changes in personnel and administrative issues within the NOU. These issues have since been resolved with the appointment of new staff and close coordination among the NOU, UNDP, and UNEP on project implementation matters. Where necessary, additional consultants have been engaged to provide support to the NOU.

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 Fiji has issued HCFC import quotas for 2026 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol control targets.

14. The Secretariat requested clarifications on how controls will be implemented on HCFC use in fisheries applications. UNDP explained that to reduce HCFC consumption in fishing vessels, the prohibition on the registration of fishing vessels equipped with HCFC-based refrigeration systems is implemented through the ban on the import of all HCFC-based equipment, effective from 1 August 2025, which includes fishing vessels containing such systems. For existing fishing vessels, alternative refrigerants such as CO₂

and R-454C are being considered. However, high replacement cost, complexity of the systems with alternatives, and safety considerations remain key challenges. The Government, along with relevant technical experts from the fishing industry, continues to explore suitable alternatives for this sector.

15. With regard to capacity-building and training of customs and enforcement officers, UNDP explained that such activities are being implemented in an integrated manner under stage II of the HPMP and stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, which was approved at the 97th meeting. Under the HPMP, training programmes already cover licensing and quota systems, trade control, identification of controlled substances, and enforcement procedures, and have been designed to include HFC-related elements.

Refrigeration servicing sector

16. With regard to the retrofitting of equipment using flammable refrigerants, UNDP explained that the Government of Fiji has not introduced specific national regulations prohibiting the retrofit of existing cooling equipment to hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants. These practices are already indirectly restricted through existing safety standards, equipment design requirements, and licensing rules. In addition, awareness-raising, technical assistance, and training activities under stage II of the HPMP have strengthened stakeholders' understanding of the safety risks and technical limitations associated with such retrofits, thereby effectively discouraging these practices in the market.

17. Regarding the certification system, UNDP explained that Fiji has an established mandatory technician licensing system under the Ozone Depleting Substances Act and its amendments, which requires technicians to complete formal training and meet minimum experience requirements before obtaining a licence to handle refrigerants. Under stage II of the HPMP, this system is being further strengthened into a competency-based certification framework in collaboration with the Fiji National University. Structured certification pathways for different categories of technicians will be progressively introduced during the second tranche, with full operationalization expected from 2027 onwards.

18. In addition, the competency-based certification system under stage II will be directly linked to refrigerant procurement and servicing workshop operations. Enforcement measures will be strengthened to ensure that only certified and licensed technicians are authorized to access controlled refrigerants and undertake servicing activities. Furthermore, specialized training modules for marine and industrial refrigeration systems used in fishing vessels are proposed, aiming to improve servicing practices in fisheries applications.

19. With regard to the additional activities to maintain energy efficiency, UNEP indicated that the signing of agreements for the implementation of various project activities had been delayed due to administrative reasons. The Government has held consultations to initiate implementation, including on the integration of energy efficiency-related content into competency-based training and assessment for RAC technicians, as well as on the market assessment study, and will proceed once the necessary administrative clearance is obtained. These activities are expected to be completed by December 2027.

Gender policy implementation

20. In line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), the Government of Fiji has integrated the Multilateral Fund's operational policy on gender mainstreaming during the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities. Efforts include encouraging the participation of women in policy consultations, decision-making processes, and trainings activities, particularly in RAC servicing and customs enforcement, including in the fisheries sector. Disaggregated data are being systematically collected to track participation and inform targeted interventions, while relevant considerations are integrated into workshops to strengthen stakeholders' awareness and capacity on gender mainstreaming. While the overall participation of women across the various activities remained low (21 per cent), their involvement was consistent across all components. The Government intends to further address barriers and enhance women's participation in

HPMP implementation through targeted outreach and awareness-raising activities, and incentives and scholarships for women in RAC training programmes.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

21. The sustainability of HCFC phase-out activities is expected to be achieved through a combination of targeted training and technician certification activities; policies and regulations to control HCFC use and promote the safe adoption of alternative technologies; and other relevant regulatory measures, including the prohibition of the import, sale and use of HCFC-based equipment, which would facilitate the cessation of use of such equipment. Challenges related to the adoption of sustainable alternatives in fisheries applications using HCFCs are expected to be mitigated through measures aimed at reducing HCFC use in fishing vessels, including adoption of alternatives to HCFCs; training and capacity-building of technicians to promote the safe use of alternatives across fisheries applications; and continuous efforts to identify and promote the use of sustainable alternative technologies in such applications. The risks associated with the use of flammable refrigerants are expected to be mitigated through training and capacity-building activities, including technician certification, as well as awareness-raising and outreach on the safe use of alternative refrigerants. In addition, the Government will continue to work with national stakeholders on HCFC consumption assessment and develop a plan for managing the servicing tail of HCFCs, in line with decision 86/77(e)(i) and (ii). Through a combination of timely enforcement of different regulations related to controlled substances, including HCFCs, training and certification of service technicians, awareness-raising and outreach activities, and targeted interventions in the servicing sector, the sustainability of the HCFC phase-out is expected to be achieved.

Conclusion

22. The Government of Fiji remains in compliance with the maximum allowable HCFC consumption levels during the reporting period, with consumption decreasing from 2.03 ODP tonnes in 2023 to 1.31 ODP tonnes in 2025, well within the limits stipulated under its Agreement with the Executive Committee. The disbursement rate of funds approved under the first tranche amounts to 42.2 per cent. During the first tranche, progress was achieved in strengthening the regulatory framework, including customs and enforcement training on the control and monitoring of HCFC consumption; training of service technicians; initiation of activities to strengthen the licensing system; targeted capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to facilitate the adoption of alternatives to HCFCs in fisheries applications; and project management and reporting activities. During the implementation of the second tranche, the Government plans to further strengthen technician training, including the capacity of training institutions; strengthen HCFC consumption regulations and control measures; develop a plan for managing the HCFC servicing tail; and continue awareness-raising activities. UNEP has confirmed that the additional activities to maintain energy efficiency will be completed by December 2027, as originally planned. These efforts are expected to support the complete phase-out of HCFCs by 1 January 2030, in accordance with the Montreal Protocol schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

23. 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 Fiji, and further recommends blanket approval of the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP and the corresponding 2026–2030 tranche implementation plan for Fiji at the funding levels shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	139,000	9,730	UNDP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	93,900	12,207	UNEP
