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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSAL: SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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

Energy efficiency

• Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b)	UNEP	Blanket approval

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' single-stage HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) was approved at the 64th meeting[2] to completely phase out HCFC consumption by 2025 in four tranches, at a total cost of US $469,915, plus agency support costs. Since its approval, three tranches have been released to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with timely implementation and completion. The third tranche was approved at the 86th meeting.[3] As per the Agreement between the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Executive Committee, the fourth and last tranche of the HPMP is scheduled to be submitted to the first meeting of 2025.

2. On behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UNEP as the designated 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,[4] in the amount of US $100,000, plus agency support costs of US $13,000.[5] The submission includes a description of specific activities, targets, and an implementation plan from January 2025 to December 2026.

Report on HCFC consumption

3. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported a consumption of zero ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2023, which is 100 percent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2019-2023 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2019-2023 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	0.42	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.00	5.10
ODP tonnes	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28

4. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines achieved the complete phase-out of HCFC-22 in advance of the 2025 phase-out schedule.

Country programme implementation report

5. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2023 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Project description

6. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been making efforts to enhance energy efficiency while phasing out HCFCs and preparing for the phase-down of HFCs. The country ratified the Kigali Amendment on 7 November 2022, and the Amendment's implementation is expected to help the country to sustain the HCFC phase-out while maintaining/enhancing energy efficiency in the RAC sector.

[2] Decision 64/38
[3] Blanket approval decision 86/53(a)
[4] 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.
[5] As per the letter of 9 September 2024 from the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the Secretariat.

7. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enacted and implemented the Montreal Protocol Regulations, 2005 Statutory Rules, and Orders 2005 No. 14, to establish the legal framework to fulfill its obligations under the Montreal Protocol. These legislations, initially adopted in 2005 to control ODS, are currently being revised to include HFCs in the list of controlled substances under the licensing and quota system and to add provisions to ban the import of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment by 2025. The revised regulations have been approved by the Cabinet for review by the Attorney General's office and are now awaiting submission to Parliament for final approval.

8. The RAC market is dominated by HFC-based equipment, with an increasing presence of low-GWP refrigerant-based technologies in recent years. However, market shares for the equipment based on different refrigerants are not available nor is their energy consumption performance, and a detailed survey is needed to understand market challenges. Rising temperatures and growth in the tourism sector have increased demand for RAC equipment.

9. Servicing and maintenance are mainly performed by four service companies and freelance technicians. The national ozone unit (NOU) partners with the Division of Technical and Vocational Education to provide good servicing practices training for RAC technicians.

10. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is implementing the Regional Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to address high energy costs in the region. CARICOM's Regional Organization for Standards and Quality has developed minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and energy labelling requirements for RAC equipment and lighting. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a pilot country for adopting these standards, which have been declared as national standards by the Bureau of Standards.

11. Although adopted, it will take time for the mandatory standards to take effect as stakeholders, RAC importers, retailers, and distributors prepare for equipment testing and registration. To support implementation, the NOU plans to hold coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders and raise awareness among large end-users and tourism-sector representatives to promote energy efficiency in the RAC sector. Additionally, stakeholders will need training and information sessions to understand and comply with the technical standards.

12. The project related to energy efficiency, submitted in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22, has been designed to promote the use of low-GWP refrigerant-based alternative technologies, facilitating the successful implementation and enforcement of energy labelling requirements and MEPS for RAC equipment by supporting coordination between the involved agencies and building the capacity of stakeholders. The activities also include linking the country's energy efficiency policymakers and other relevant stakeholders to the project. 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 requested funding for the project proposed to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Activity	Performance indicators	Cost (US $)
Market study and strengthening of policy and regulations		
Study on the market penetration and possible challenges of low-GWP-based RAC equipment such as air-conditioning and domestic refrigeration	The study will inform legal improvements and promote the safe use of low-GWP refrigerants, supporting a transition to energy-efficient technologies through targeted awareness campaigns	10,000
Develop policy paper(s) for relevant sectors on promoting energy efficiency of RAC equipment	Policy paper(s) developed on selection criteria for RAC equipment where relevant	8,000
Subtotal		**18,000**

Activity	Performance indicators	Cost (US $)
Capacity building of RAC servicing technicians on energy efficiency		
Training of trainers on good servicing of HC-290-based RAC equipment including energy efficiency	One training session organized for 10 trainers	16,000
Update training materials for RAC servicing technicians	Training materials for RAC servicing technicians updated with focus on low-GWP alternative refrigerants and energy performance	10,000
Subtotal		**26,000**
Stakeholders' engagement and capacity building on labelling standards and MEPS		
Stakeholders' consultation and engagement meetings for energy labelling and MEPS implementation	Two workshops organized for main stakeholders from Government organizations and RAC equipment importers and distributors	10,000
Information dissemination workshops to introduce the requirements of the labelling standards and MEPS to relevant stakeholders	Four workshops of 20 participants each for refrigerant and RAC equipment importers, servicing technicians, tourism sector representatives and customs and enforcement officers	20,000
Assessment of the implementation and impact of the energy labelling and MEPS of RAC equipment and data analysis	The implementation and impact of energy labelling and MEPS are assessed, and consultation held with stakeholders on any possible improvements	16,000
Subtotal		**46,000**
Awareness raising and outreach		
Awareness-raising activities to promote energy-efficient RAC equipment	Users of RAC equipment and the public are aware of the new MEPS and the benefits of using more energy-efficient equipment	10,000
Subtotal		**10,000**
Total		**100,000**

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

13. 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 activities.

14. The project aims to help the RAC sector transition to low-GWP alternatives by addressing policy gaps, improving market conditions, and raising awareness of safety standards. It will develop detailed reports to inform targeted awareness activities, improve the legal framework, and promote ozone- and climate-friendly refrigerants. Policymakers and relevant stakeholders will receive guidance on how to integrate energy efficiency and refrigerant GWP aspects of RAC equipment standards into procurement policies and environmental assessments.

15. On the status of implementation of MEPS and labelling for different RAC equipment in the country, UNEP explained that the performance standards for RAC equipment have been established but are not yet mandatory. Furthermore, capacity-building and awareness programmes for relevant stakeholders are required for ensuring effective implementation of these standards. UNEP also clarified that this project would facilitate the effective adoption of low-GWP energy-efficient-based technologies through a market assessment on technology trends and gaps that need to be addressed for the implementation of energy efficiency standards in RAC equipment, greater stakeholder coordination and awareness of new technologies, as well as systematic training and capacity building of RAC technicians on energy-efficient operations of the equipment.

16. Regarding the enforcement of the standards, UNEP explained that the study would initiate activities related to inspection for monitoring the types and performance of RAC equipment. Furthermore, these monitoring inspections could provide relevant feedback for improving the effectiveness of the enforcement of standards.

17. On HCFC consumption and the maintenance of RAC equipment with HCFC-22, UNEP explained that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has successfully transitioned the RAC sector from the use of HCFCs to alternatives. The vast majority of RAC equipment previously using HCFC-22 has been replaced with equipment utilizing HFCs or hydrocarbon. Furthermore, the adoption of these alternatives has been enhanced through the implementation of a comprehensive standards framework, public awareness campaigns, and consistent training programmes for technicians.

18. UNEP confirmed that there are no other activities being implemented with non-Multilateral Fund funding sources that could overlap with the activities planned under this project.

19. The Secretariat requested information on the expected implementation date for the mandatory certification system for RAC servicing technicians. UNEP explained that the system is currently being developed under the HPMP and is expected to be completed by December 2025, in line with the HPMP timeline and work plan.

Gender policy implementation

20. The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture has encouraged women to participate in all HPMP-related training programmes, consultation and advisory activities, capacity-building, workshops and other activities, and has committed to collecting gender-disaggregated data for inclusion in future reporting. UNEP confirmed that gender mainstreaming actions to be taken during the implementation of the HPMP will also be applied to the current proposal, which is part of the HPMP.

Updated Agreement

21. 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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Executive Committee has been updated. Specifically, Appendix 2-A has been revised and paragraph 16 has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 64th meeting by decision 64/38, as contained in annex I to the present document. The updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 95th meeting.

Conclusion

22. The project has been submitted in accordance with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and includes activities to promote the use of alternative technologies based on low-GWP refrigerants. It also aims to facilitate the successful implementation and enforcement of energy labelling requirements and MEPS for RAC equipment by coordinating the involved agencies and building stakeholder capacity, including technicians' capacity for maintenance and servicing of equipment. The project will contribute to the overall objectives of the HPMP and help the country sustain the achieved reductions of HCFCs while adopting more energy-efficient RAC technologies.

RECOMMENDATION

23. The Fund Secretariat recommends blanket approval of the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the corresponding

2025-2026 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 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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 16, which has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 64th meeting by decision 64/38.

	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 SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS

(Relevant changes are in bold font for ease of reference)

16. This updated Agreement supersedes the Agreement reached between the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Executive Committee at the 64th meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

		2011	**2012**	**2013-2014**	**2015**	**2016-2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020-2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**Total**
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	n/a	n/a	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.18	**0.18**	0.09	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	n/a	0.28	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.09	**0.09**	0.00	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US $)	55,809	0	0	140,000	0	103,000	0	0	**100,000**	46,991	**445,800**
2.2	Support costs for lead agency (US $)	7,255	0	0	18,200	0	13,390	0	0	**13,000**	6,109	**57,954**
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US $)	124,115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	124,115
2.4	Support costs for cooperating agency (US $)	11,170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	11,170
3.1	Total agreed funding (US $)	179,924	0	0	140,000	0	103,000	0	0	**100,000**	46,991	**569,915**
3.2	Total support costs (US $)	18,425	0	0	18,200	0	13,390	0	0	**13,000**	6,109	**69,124**
3.3	Total agreed costs (US $)	198,349	0	0	158,200	0	116,390	0	0	**113,000**	53,100	**639,039**
4.1.1	Total phase-out of HCFC-22 under this Agreement (ODP tonnes)											0.28
4.1.2	Phase-out of HCFC-22 in previously approved projects (ODP tonnes)											n/a
4.1.3	Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)											0.00