



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/27
13 November 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(b) of the provisional agenda¹

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of requests from two bilateral agencies and whether these are eligible, considering the maximum level of bilateral cooperation available for 2025 or the triennium 2024-2026. It cross-references the relevant meeting documents, which include the discussion on the bilateral requests and contain the recommendation on the year of assignment for bilateral cooperation.

Overview

2. Five projects at a total cost of US \$877,135 have been submitted to the 97th meeting as shown in Table 1.

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/1

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.

Table 1. Projects for bilateral cooperation submitted to the 97th meeting

Bilateral agency	Country	Project title	Funding requested (US \$)	Support costs requested (US \$)	Amount recommended* (US \$)	Considered under
Germany	Namibia	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage I, fourth tranche)	90,000	10,329	100,329	97/64
Germany	Papua New Guinea	Preparation of a national inventory of banks of waste-controlled substances and development of a national plan for management of these substances (decision 91/66)	80,000	10,400	90,400	Present document
Subtotal			170,000	20,729	190,729	
United Kingdom	Grenada	Preparation of a pilot project on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)	30,000	3,900	33,900	Present document
United Kingdom	Sierra Leone	Pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (decision 91/65)	265,836	34,559	289,437	97/75**
United Kingdom	Togo	Pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (decision 91/65)	360,160	46,821	363,069	97/79**
Subtotal			655,996	85,280	686,406	
Total			825,996	106,009	877,135	

* Including support costs

** For individual consideration

Allowable level of bilateral cooperation

3. The amount of funding being requested by the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom at the 97th meeting, together with the funding approved for their requests during the 2024-2026 triennium, do not exceed the 20 per cent allowable level of bilateral cooperation for the 2024-2026 triennium, as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Funding levels as bilateral cooperation for 2024-2026 (US \$)

Agency	Funding			Allowable level 2024-2026 triennium
	Approved 2024-2026	Requested 97 th meeting	Total	
Germany	10,530,271	190,729	10,721,000	10,883,917
United Kingdom	593,476	686,406	1,279,882	7,792,037

Bilateral requests

Preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and a plan for the collection, transport, and disposal of such substances

Project description

4. The Government of Germany submitted a request for the preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and plan for Papua New Guinea as the designated implementing agency, as shown in table 1.

Secretariat's comments

5. In reviewing the request, the Secretariat took into account the criteria for the preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and plan, contained in decision 91/66, the activities proposed for project preparation, as well as how these connect with national phase-out/phase-down plans (i.e., HPMP or KIP) in the country. The Secretariat noted that the funding request is in line with decision 91/66, and that as designated implementing agency, the Government of Germany provided a description of the activities required for the preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and plan for Papua New Guinea and the corresponding costs for each activity, using the relevant submission form for the project proposal.

6. The preparation activities included the preparation of the national inventory, action plan, and final report; consultations with relevant stakeholders; awareness-raising activities, data collection and analysis; a review and analysis of existing regulations and policies; forecasting the amounts of used or unwanted ODS and HFCs; a study of the chain of supply and disposal, and gender policy considerations. The inventory of ODS banks will complement an ongoing Government initiative, Green Cities, a programme that includes activities on energy efficiency and waste management.

Secretariat's recommendation

7. The Secretariat recommends blanket approval for the preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and a plan for the collection, transport, and disposal of such substances for Papua New Guinea at the level of funding shown in table 1.

Preparation of a pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (decision 91/65)

Project description

8. The Government of the United Kingdom submitted one request for the preparation of a pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency in the context of the HFC phase-down for Grenada, as shown in table 1.

9. The objective of the project is to demonstrate the use of digital tools, data analytics and automation to improve overall technical capacity, service quality, energy efficiency, safety, and sustainability in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing sector in Grenada.

10. The proposed pilot project would prepare a plan for the digital transformation of technician training to incorporate online learning modules, interactive mobile platforms and virtual/augmented reality (VR/AR) simulations, which would allow technicians to improve their competencies regardless of geographic location and ensure consistent, standardized proficiency across the sector, as well as provide hands-on experience with digital tools, fault diagnostics and system optimization in a safe and accessible environment. The plan would also explore the use of smart monitoring technologies, such as internet of things (IoT) sensors, digital leak detectors, cloud-based dashboards, and mobile service management platforms which enable continuous performance tracking, predictive maintenance and data-driven decision-making.

11. The project preparation activities included the collection of data and an assessment of digital and artificial intelligence solutions for the RAC servicing sector, analysis of needs in Grenada and the Caribbean region, stakeholder consultations, local travel, and development of project proposal in line with decision 91/65. The pilot project proposal is expected to be submitted to the 98th meeting.

Secretariat's comments

12. The Secretariat has reviewed the project preparation proposal according to the criteria set out in decision 91/65.

13. Regarding improving energy efficiency through the digitalisation of the servicing sector, it was stated that the project would focus on developing digital solutions to modernise technician training. In terms of IoT solutions, the project will explore sensors, gateways, and cloud-based monitoring for use by technicians. Digitally delivered training and related tools can be updated to include energy-efficient maintenance practices. These learning platforms can also incorporate information on new technologies, efficiency standards, and policy guidelines. Online and VR-based training materials will reduce the need for extensive physical infrastructure, enabling more technicians to acquire modern energy efficiency skills. The project also plans to explore digital service logbooks and cloud-based maintenance records, which can establish data-driven benchmarks for energy performance and identify high-consumption equipment for targeted retrofits or replacement, thereby supporting energy efficiency. Overall, the project aims to develop training programmes delivered through various digital platforms, including VR and online assessments, addressing energy efficiency in refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment and exploring digital tools to improve energy efficiency by transforming how systems are monitored, maintained, and optimised.

14. On linkages with the KIP, it was explained that the main goal of the project to be developed is to use digital tools to support the RAC servicing sector, which in turn supports compliance with the Kigali Amendment and optimizes the HFC phase-down by improving accuracy and efficiency in refrigerant management. Further, the project would support KIP implementation by improving servicing practices, reducing refrigerant leakage and enhancing technician training and certification through digital platforms. These improvements contribute to reduced HFC consumption and increased energy efficiency. The digital tools will also facilitate better data collection, leak detection, refrigerant recovery tracking and policy design, thereby strengthening national capacity and compliance with Kigali Amendment targets. The integration of these tools with existing training activities under the KIP will ensure coherence and maximize impact.

15. The Government of the United Kingdom emphasized that another advantage of developing such a project is the ease with which these digital tools can be adopted by other countries. The primary cost would likely be for the development of the prototype. Once created, these tools could be shared across the Montreal Protocol community and, in principle, applied globally.

16. During the discussion on project preparation activities, it was indicated that a comprehensive market analysis will be conducted to assess global digital platforms and tools relevant to HFC phase-down. Based on this assessment, a tailored implementation plan will be developed, including pilot testing of selected applications to ensure their technical suitability and long-term sustainability within Grenada's national context.

Regarding the need for such a project, it was explained that while global pilot initiatives exist, Grenada currently lacks digital monitoring tools in its RAC sector. This project addresses a critical gap by introducing scalable digital solutions tailored to small island developing states. Several applications are under consideration, including online and VR-based training modules, mobile-accessible technical guides, and IoT-enabled refrigerant management systems.

Secretariat's recommendation

17. The Secretariat recommends blanket approval for the pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down in Grenada, at the level of funding shown in table 1.

Recommendation

18. The Executive Committee may wish to request the Treasurer to offset the costs of the bilateral projects approved at the 97th meeting as follows:

- (a) US \$XX (including agency support costs) against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of Germany for 2024-2026; and
 - (b) US \$XX (including agency support costs) against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 2024-2026.
-