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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-seventh Meeting
Montreal, 1–5 December 2025
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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

Phase-out

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|
| • | HCFC phase-out management plan
(fourth tranche) | UNEP and UNIDO | Blanket approval |
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¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan	UNEP (lead), UNIDO	64 th	100% phase-out by 2025

(II) LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2024	0.00 ODP tonnes
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(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2024	
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing			
HCFC-22					0.00			0.00

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	0.28	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	0.28
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	0.28	Remaining:	0.00

(V) ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2025	2026	2027	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
	Funding (US \$)	53,100	0	0	53,100
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Funding (US \$)	0	0	0	0

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2011	2012	2013-2014	2015	2016-2017	2018	2019	2020-2023	2024*	2025	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits (ODP tonnes)			n/a	n/a	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.18	0.18	0.09	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			n/a	0.28	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.09	0.09	0.00	n/a
Funding agreed in principle (US \$)	UNEP	Project costs	55,809	0	0	140,000	0	103,000	0	0	100,000	46,991	445,800
		Support costs	7,255	0	0	18,200	0	13,390	0	0	13,000	6,109	57,954
	UNIDO	Project costs	124,115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124,115
		Support costs	11,170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,170
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)	Project costs		179,924	0	0	140,000	0	103,000	0	0	100,000		522,924
	Support costs		18,425	0	0	18,200	0	13,390	0	0	13,000		63,015
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US \$)	Project costs											46,991	46,991
	Support costs											6,109	6,109

* Approved at the 95th meeting 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 (decision 95/34).

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UNEP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the fourth and final tranche of the single-stage HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), in the amount of US \$46,991, plus agency support costs of US \$6,109, for UNEP only.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the third tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2020 to 2024, and the tranche implementation plan for 2026. The submission also includes a detailed report on the end-user replacement demonstration project approved at the 86th meeting in line with decision 84/84(d).³

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported a consumption of 0.00 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2024, which is 100 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2020-2024 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2020-2024 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	0.11	0	0	0	0	5.1
ODP tonnes	0.01	0	0	0	0	0.3

3. 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

4. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2020-2024 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government is 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 2020 to 2024 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification noted minor discrepancies between customs and national ozone unit (NOU) data for 2020–2022, resulting from the incorrect use of Harmonized System (HS) codes; these were resolved through regular data reconciliation and customs training on HS code application. The verification report concluded that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains in full compliance with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol and has a functioning licensing and quota system. It recommended inter alia urgent promulgation of the revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations to sustain the zero HCFC consumption achieved in 2023 and 2024 through the administratively imposed ban on HCFC imports through the non-issuance of licences and quotas; and to ban the import of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment once the revised regulation is passed. UNEP indicated that the Government would implement all verification recommendations during the fourth tranche.

² As per the letter of 12 September 2025 from the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the Secretariat.

³ Decision 86/53

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

6. The draft revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations, which introduce import bans on HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, mandatory technician certification, and provisions consistent with the Kigali Amendment, were prepared by a legal consultant and reviewed by the NOU and the Government's legal department. The regulations have been submitted to the Attorney General's office for Cabinet approval and are expected to enter into force in the first quarter of 2026. The ban on the import of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment will take effect upon enactment, replacing the administratively imposed ban currently in force. Four national standards⁴ were adopted covering energy labelling for refrigeration appliances and air-conditioners, labelling of refrigerant containers, and the handling, storage, and safe use of refrigerants. The country ratified the Kigali Amendment on 7 November 2022.

7. Customs and importer training workshops are scheduled for November and December 2025 covering the revised regulations, the 2022 HS codes that were adopted by the country in 2023, the use of refrigerant identifiers, and refresher sessions on the electronic licensing and quota system. The Montreal Protocol training module for customs officers is expected to be finalized by March 2026.

Refrigeration servicing sector

8. Eighteen refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians, including one female participant, attended a three-day training held in November 2024 covering the Montreal Protocol and national RAC standards, the Kigali Amendment, good servicing and refrigerant recovery practices, and a demonstration of the electronic licensing and data management system.

9. An awareness campaign was implemented targeting stakeholders, including students, end users, customs officers, and officials of partner ministries, to promote the HCFC phase-out and low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives and advise on the forthcoming revised regulations. The campaign distributed 500 umbrellas and 500 tote bags with ozone and climate protection messages. The NOU produced an informational video for importers and retailers on how to register as licensed importers. Monitoring of the operation of refrigerant recovery centres continued.⁵

Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector

10. Additional activities to promote energy efficiency in the RAC servicing sector under decision 89/6 were approved at the 95th meeting.⁶ A detailed work plan for activities to promote energy efficiency in the RAC servicing sector was finalized. UNEP initiated the recruitment of an international consultant to support implementation, and a preliminary meeting with the Ministry of Energy confirmed the Government's continued commitment to the project. The first disbursement is expected by December 2025.

Project implementation and monitoring

11. The NOU coordinates activities among stakeholders, monitors progress to ensure efficient implementation, and prepares relevant reports on progress achieved. A total of US \$17,231 was disbursed

⁴ SVGNS 74:2020 – Energy labelling – Refrigerating appliances – Requirements; SVGNS 76:2020 – Energy labelling – Air conditioners – Requirements; SVGNS 77:2020 – Labelling of refrigerant containers; and SVGNS 84:2023 – Handling, storage and safe use of refrigerants.

⁵ No additional refrigerants have been recovered since the recovery of 0.06 mt of HCFC-22 reported at the 86th meeting.

⁶ Decision 95/34

under the third tranche, including US \$8,282 for staff and consultants; US \$4,356 for travel; US \$2,593 for meetings and workshops; and US \$2,000 for miscellaneous expenses.

Level of fund disbursement

12. As of September 2025, of the US \$522,924 approved so far, US \$351,968 had been disbursed (US \$227,853 for UNEP and US \$124,115 for UNIDO), as shown in table 2. The balance of US \$170,956 will be disbursed in 2025 and 2026.

Table 2. Financial report of the HPMP for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (US \$)

Tranche		UNEP	UNIDO	Total	Disbursement rate (%)
First	Approved	55,809	124,115	179,924	100
	Disbursed	55,809	124,115	179,924	
Second	Approved	140,000	-	140,000	100
	Disbursed	140,000	-	140,000	
Third	Approved	103,000	-	103,000	31
	Disbursed	32,044	-	32,044	
EE 89/6	Approved	100,000	-	100,000	0
	Disbursed	0	-	0	
Total	Approved	398,809	124,115	522,924	67
	Disbursed	227,853	124,115	351,968	
	Balance	170,956	0	170,956	

Implementation plan for the fourth and final tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

13. The following activities will be implemented by UNEP between January and December 2026:

- Follow-up meetings with the legislative focal point and finalize the revision of regulations for enactment by first quarter of 2026; conduct one national seminar for Government and private stakeholders to present the revised regulations; two training workshops for 30 key stakeholders on national standards and the revised regulations; and an annual consultation to support the implementation of the electronic licensing and quota system (US \$6,000 plus US \$30,436 from previous tranche);
- Training of 10 customs officers and 10 importers on the revised regulations, application of the HS 2022 codes, the electronic licensing and quota system, use of refrigerant identifiers, and safe handling and storage of alternative refrigerants (US \$3,000 plus US \$22,000 from the previous tranche);
- Training of 30 technicians (target of five women) in two workshops on good servicing practices, servicing with hydrocarbons and other alternatives, practical training on refrigerant recovery practices, and the implications of the revised regulations, including mandatory certification (US \$2,000 plus US \$15,751 from previous tranche);
- Awareness-raising activities including a national information campaign to promote low-GWP technologies; three technical fact sheets for technicians, importers, and distributors on low-GWP alternatives, good servicing practices, and the revised regulations; and promoting UNEP OzonAction mobile applications (US \$25,000); and
- Project coordination, monitoring and reporting (US \$10,991 plus US \$2,769 from the previous tranche); Travel (US \$10,000), meetings and workshops (US \$2,000), and miscellaneous expenses (US \$1,760).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Verification and the licensing and quota system

14. The verification made several recommendations to strengthen regulatory enforcement, data accuracy, and customs capacity. In response, the Government and UNEP confirmed that the revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations will include bans on equipment using HCFCs and remove outdated retrofitting provisions. The NOU will enhance coordination and data reconciliation with the customs department and continue training customs officers, brokers, and importers on refrigerant identification, application of the 2022 HS codes, and enforcing the licensing and quota system. Two new refrigerant identifiers will be procured to strengthen enforcement at ports of entry. To improve data accuracy, customs will be encouraged to submit ASYCUDA⁷ reports biannually, and importer registration renewals will require annual submission of import records. These actions, supported by UNEP, will ensure accurate monitoring and sustained enforcement of the licensing and quota system. Customs and importers workshops will serve as a platform to discuss verification findings and recommendations.

Progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

15. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has issued HCFC import quotas for 2025 at zero mt, in accordance with the Agreement and ahead of the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule. The country does not intend to consume HCFCs for a servicing tail during the period 2030-2040.

16. During the third tranche, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines further strengthened its licensing and quota system through institutional coordination, legislative reform, and administrative enforcement. The NOU provides the customs department with an annual list of registered importers and HCFC quotas and conducts a half-year reconciliation of import data to ensure accurate reporting. To ensure long-term sustainability, the NOU is advancing integration of the electronic licensing and quota system with the national single window and ASYCUDA platform under the National Digital Transformation Project. Future customs training will focus on the revised regulations, use of the electronic system, and safe handling of low-GWP refrigerants. A proposed National Ozone Fund, which would collect import fees and fines, would provide financial support for continued enforcement, training, and awareness activities.

Revised regulations

17. Pending Cabinet approval of the revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations, the NOU continues to enforce an administrative ban on the import of HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment through the non-issuance of licences and quotas. The existing licensing and quota system requires mandatory importer registration with the NOU, issuance of import licences by the Minister based on quotas allocated by the NOU, and publication of national and individual importer quotas in ODP tonnes by 1 February each year. To expedite adoption of the revised regulations and ensure the sustainability of zero HCFC consumption, the NOU will hold regular meetings with the legislative focal point to advance submission for Cabinet approval and brief stakeholders on key updates. The NOU will also continue collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the National Training Agency, and vocational institutions to implement mandatory RAC technician certification and the Recognition of Prior Learning scheme for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College graduates, including capacity strengthening for assessors and

⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Automated System for Customs Data

examiners. Following Cabinet approval, the revised regulations will be formally promulgated through seminars, workshops, and training sessions, supported by public awareness activities.

Refrigeration servicing sector

18. The activities planned under the servicing sector are expected to support the transition away from HCFCs to low-GWP technologies. UNEP reported that the main barriers to adopting these technologies include the limited market availability of low-GWP alternatives, limited trained and certified technicians, and the high cost of alternatives. To address these barriers, the NOU will monitor developments in low-GWP technologies, coordinate with importers and brokers to establish supply chains for low-GWP alternatives, continue capacity development through training and mandatory certification, and conduct awareness-raising programmes to influence end users' decision-making, supplemented by incentive schemes to lower upfront costs. Strengthened regulations and private-sector engagement will further support the long-term uptake of low-GWP alternatives.

Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector

19. The start of the additional activities to promote energy efficiency was delayed due to administrative changes within the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture and prolonged discussions between UNEP and the NOU on the work plan and agreement. The approved work plan and schedule include stakeholder consultations and workshops on minimum energy performance standards in February 2026, a market penetration study in April 2026, preparation of a policy paper on selection criteria for RAC equipment in July 2026, and trainer training and development of training materials in August 2026. Awareness-raising activities will be carried out continuously throughout project implementation. It is expected that the project will be completed by the end of 2026 together with the HPMP tranches.

End-user demonstration activities

20. In accordance with decision 92/36(g), UNEP submitted a report on the results of the end-user replacement demonstration project implemented under the HPMP by UNEP.⁸ The project replaced 39 HCFC-22 split air-conditioning units with R-290 inverter systems at the Kingstown District Medical Clinic and the National Archives, demonstrating the viability of energy-efficient, low-GWP technology in the commercial air-conditioning subsector. The project was funded with US \$99,800 from the Multilateral Fund and US \$38,876 in co-financing from the Government. Eleven Government RAC technicians trained in hydrocarbon technology carried out the decommissioning and installation as in-kind support, recovering approximately 45 lbs of HCFC-22.

21. Technical assistance under the project included specialized training in good refrigeration practices, recovery and recycling of HCFCs, and the safe handling of hydrocarbon refrigerants, which strengthened national capacity for the safe adoption of low-GWP technologies. Although baseline power consumption was recorded prior to conversion, post-installation energy data could not be collected due to challenges with power meter installation. Two faulty units were replaced from reserve stock, and all systems are now operating normally.

22. In total, 104 technicians were trained in good refrigeration practices and safe handling of hydrocarbons, with 16 receiving specialized training directly linked to the project. The results will be disseminated through awareness activities targeting the servicing sector, Government agencies, and private stakeholders, and will inform future HFC phase-down planning in line with the national energy policy. The

⁸ Approved at the 86th meeting (decision 86/53).

project also underscored the need for robust data collection and monitoring systems to support energy efficiency assessment and guide the replication of low-GWP technologies nationally.

Gender policy implementation

23. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remained committed to implementing the Multilateral Fund's gender mainstreaming policy by promoting women's participation in the RAC servicing sector. The NOU strengthened institutional capacity for women within the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and encouraged women's engagement in planning, capacity-building, and outreach. In 2023, a female RAC technician attended UNEP's Women in RAC regional workshop in Trinidad and Tobago, and three women, including one trainer, participated in national technician training. Female leadership remained strong, with women heading the NOU and DSD and serving as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. The NOU collected disaggregated data for all project activities and highlighted women's contributions through inclusive communications. It plans to provide female trainees with tools and equipment, launch a scholarship programme to encourage RAC studies, and promote female trainers in future HPMP activities. While participant selection for customs training is managed by the Department of Customs, the NOU continues to encourage women's participation through official invitations.

Completion of the HCFC phase-out management plan

24. UNEP has confirmed that the HPMP for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including the energy efficiency component, will be completed on 31 December 2026 as established in paragraph 14 of the Agreement.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

25. The long-term sustainability of HCFC phase-out activities in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is ensured through the DSD within the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture. The HPMP is integrated into the DSD's Cabinet-approved work programme and supported by national resources and legislation. The NOU works with the RAC association and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College to build stakeholder capacity and institutionalize technician certification, and with the Department of Customs to integrate Montreal Protocol content into training. The revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations, expected to be finalized in early 2026, will formalize the ban on HCFCs and related equipment and mandate certification for all practicing technicians.

26. To mitigate risks such as shifts in national priorities or Government changes that could delay implementation, UNEP will maintain close communication with the NOU, regularly monitor progress, and implement a joint work plan with coordination meetings to provide timely guidance and support, while formal correspondence to ministerial focal points may be issued when necessary to address delays and maintain project momentum.

Conclusion

27. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has maintained zero HCFC consumption from 2023 to 2024. Significant progress was achieved during the reporting period, including the continued strengthening of the licensing and quota system, adoption of updated 2022 HS codes, and finalization of the revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations for Cabinet approval, which will introduce a legal ban on HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment and make technician certification mandatory. Pending the formal adoption of the revised regulations, an administrative ban on the import of HCFCs and equipment containing has been enforced by the NOU. The disbursement rate of the third tranche stands at 31 per cent. Preparatory work for the additional energy efficiency activities under decision 89/6 has also advanced. The country is also

planning to submit the Kigali HFC implementation plan to the 98th meeting.⁹ The Secretariat recommends approval of the project as the country remains fully committed to sustaining its HCFC phase-out and enhancing its licensing and quota mechanisms.

RECOMMENDATION

28. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

(a) Note:

- (i) The progress report on the implementation of the third tranche of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (ii) The report on the completion of the end-user demonstration activities to replace HCFC-22 split air-conditioning units with R-290 inverter systems in the commercial air-conditioning sector;

(b) Request:

- (i) The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and UNEP to provide an update on the status of the revised Montreal Protocol Control Regulations as part of the request for the Kigali HFC implementation plan to be submitted to the 98th meeting; and
- (ii) The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UNEP and UNIDO to submit a final progress report on the implementation of the work programme associated with the final tranche and the project completion report to the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2027.

29. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the fourth and final tranche of the HPMP for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the corresponding 2026 tranche implementation plan at the funding level shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (fourth tranche)	46,991	6,109	UNEP

⁹ The Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties noted inter alia that the annual consumption of 45,975 CO₂-eq tonnes of HFCs reported by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for 2024 exceeds the party's maximum allowable consumption of 25,280 CO₂-eq tonnes for that year and that the party was therefore in non-compliance with the HFC consumption control measures under the Montreal Protocol.