

**United Nations
Environment
Programme**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/22
29 October 2024

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-fifth Meeting
Montreal, 4–8 December 2024
Item 7(c) of the provisional agenda¹

**2024 CONSOLIDATED PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT
(Part II)****Introduction**

1. As per the established practice for the preparation of the consolidated project completion report (PCR), the list containing outstanding PCRs due for the 95th meeting was sent to bilateral and implementing agencies first in July 2024 followed by an updated list in September 2024 taking account of submissions already received.
2. In line with decision 94/14(b), the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) requested agencies to provide the reasons for not submitting the PCRs due for the 95th meeting, where applicable.² These reasons were varied and included delays in equipment deliveries from suppliers and procurement issues, problems with the installation and commissioning of equipment, visa issues, weather conditions in the country, and political and security issues leading to the closing of borders and complicating the shipment of equipment, all causing delays in project completion.
3. In total eight PCRs for multi-year agreement (MYA) projects were submitted after the 94th meeting by the agreed cut-off date for consideration at the 95th meeting, as listed in annex I to the present document. They correspond to HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs), seven of which are for stage I and one for stage II. No submissions have been received on individual projects for this consolidated report.

I. Summary of information from multi-year agreement project completion reports**I.1 Overview of information from multi-year agreement project completion reports**

4. Of the 312 MYA projects identified as completed in the 2023 progress report, bilateral and implementing agencies submitted 306 PCRs prior to the 95th meeting, of which 298 were received prior to

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/1

² This concerns six MYAs and one individual project.

the 94th meeting and eight after, leaving six outstanding PCRs, as shown in table 1. The six outstanding PCRs are listed in annex II to the present document. In addition, there are 11 outstanding MYA PCRs due by decision in 2025 that are listed in annex III to the present document.

Table 1. Overview of MYA PCRs

Agency	Completed	Received prior to the 94 th meeting	Received after the 94 th meeting	Outstanding
Canada	3	3	0	0
France	6	6	0	0
Germany	13	13	0	0
Japan	1	1	0	0
UNDP	62	62	0	0
UNEP	120	112	5	3
UNIDO	80	75	2	3
World Bank	27	26	1	0
Total	312	298	8	6

5. Table 2 below reports on the aggregated funds disbursed, ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) phased out, and project completion delays in the eight MYA projects for which PCRs have been received since the 94th meeting, and which have been included in the present consolidated report for consideration at the 95th meeting.

Table 2. Overview of the budget, ODSs phased out and delays of MYA PCRs submitted after the 94th meeting

Agency	MYA funds (US \$)		Consumption phase-out (ODP tonnes)		Average delays (months)*
	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Actual	
UNEP	2,931,485	2,621,142	28.4	13.9	0.0
UNIDO	2,283,260	1,936,577	28.5	28.6	25.4
World Bank	6,594,732	5,938,832	137.2	134.5	0.0
Grand Total	11,809,477	10,496,551	194.1	177.0	6.3

* The total average is based on the total of eight MYA PCRs received, as presented in annex I.

I.2 Reasons for delays in multi-year agreement project implementation and actions taken

HCFC phase-out management plan

Reasons for delays

6. The agencies submitted seven MYA PCRs for stage I and one MYA PCR for stage II of HPMPs. A variety of causes for project implementation delays were reported, including Executive Committee provisions, low disbursement of funds and external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, security stability in the country, and market issues impacting on the choice of technologies.

7. It was reported, under the category of Executive Committee provisions and external factors, that some project requirements related to technology choices to be adopted by the enterprises caused delays in different cases. In one case, the country's decision regarding the transition path for the refrigeration sector towards lower-GWP HFC technologies required more time in order to consider all national implications for the sector. Thus, it delayed the implementation of the project as the enterprises required more time to make their choices on whether to participate in the process to change technologies. For another project, it was reported that the technology initially planned for the transition was not available for the country, and it was difficult to find eligible enterprises volunteering to participate in the projects to adopt HCFC alternative technologies.

8. For one project, a request was made to the country³ to work closely with the implementing agency to revise the action plan and to submit the required documents to overcome the delays in the submission of progress and financial reports required for the approval of different tranches of stage I. These delays were caused by difficulties that were both internal and external to the country and required some time to overcome.
9. For another project, the Executive Committee granted an extension at the 88th meeting, on an exceptional basis, for the completion date of stage I of the HPMP until 31 December 2023. This made it possible to complete the planned activities related to the development of a national plan for refrigerant waste management.
10. For the low disbursement of funds, the agency reported that the security situation and the civil war in the country resulted in governmental and national ozone unit (NOU) changes, thus delaying the disbursement and subsequently the implementation of the first and second tranches.
11. Other delays were reported in the signature of the agreements, or in reaching the 20 per cent threshold of disbursement of the first tranche, thus causing delays in planned project implementation.
12. The COVID-19 pandemic is still referred to as a cause of delays, causing the postponement of planned activities, such as restrictions on travel having impact on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.
13. Security issues have impacted projects in different ways. In one country, as a result of social disruptions that led to travel bans, NOU changes and a delay in the completion of the customs clearance process for the procured equipment, the implementation of the first tranche of stage I of the HPMP was delayed and the submission of the second tranche request under stage I of the HPMP has been delayed for four years. In another case, the security situation delayed the dispatch of equipment to beneficiary enterprises in the foam manufacturing sector and affected the installation and commissioning of the equipment. Only limited activities in the refrigeration servicing sector were implemented.

Actions taken to address the implementation delays

14. For the project where the country was not ready to convert to the lower-GWP HFC alternatives for its refrigeration manufacturing sector, the country, through the agency requested to return most of the approved funding and reallocate the remaining balance to the servicing sector for activities that could be implemented easily. The request was approved by the Executive Committee at the 90th meeting.
15. For the delays caused by the low disbursement of funds, different approaches were taken by the agencies, i.e., working closely with the NOUs and liaising with the Fund Secretariat to resolve the issues related to achieving the 20 per cent threshold of disbursements that allow for the subsequent tranche submissions.
16. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, NOUs conducted online meetings with the main stakeholders until the restrictions were lifted. For some other projects, approval was obtained to extend the project completion date to allow for the completion of planned activities.
17. To overcome delays caused by security issues, one agency conducted regular consultations with the government and stakeholders and stayed in contact with the enterprises and the NOU. It provided remote guidance and technical assistance to the NOU on the legal framework covering the controls for HCFCs and HCFC-based equipment, as well as on the introduction of alternatives (hydrocarbons, CO₂ and hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs)).

³ At the 87th, 88th and 89th meetings.

18. To overcome the delay caused by the postponement of technology choices and the participation of eligible enterprises, one agency worked with the country to reformulate the HCFC phase-out project. The changes resulted in the return of funds in the manufacturing sector, and the reallocation of the remaining funds to the servicing sector. This allowed the project management unit to take direct control of subproject management, replace the previous consulting firms, and remove ineligible and uncommitted enterprises.

I.3 Lessons learned

HCFC phase-out management plans

Project implementation

19. Lessons learned from project implementation highlighted the essential role of NOUs in supervising and monitoring all planned activities and in achieving a national-level impact for projects. Furthermore, agencies reported that the hybrid mode is still being implemented to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and has proven to be an effective approach to ensure full completion of a project's planned activities.

20. It has also been reported that the delivery of training equipment to institutions and servicing technicians contributes significantly to the creation of a successful cooperative network among the NOU staff, the responsible authorities in different locations and all participating technicians and vocational training institutions.

21. From the experience acquired through project implementation, one agency reports that conversion activities should be carried out in parallel with other activities, to avoid delays in implementation. Additionally, flexibility in implementing conversion subprojects is essential for engaging enterprises and achieving sustainable outcomes.

Capacity building

22. Agencies reported that the capacity-building programmes related to the refrigeration servicing sector, involving customs departments and other key stakeholders, proved to be necessary to support the country in achieving the intended targets of the Montreal Protocol and progress towards transitioning to low-GWP technology. The commitment of customs authorities has been a key factor in the pathway towards complying with the Montreal Protocol and fighting illegal trade.

23. One agency noted that they were able to incorporate activities closely related to the original scope of stage I of the HPMP, under the capacity-building activities, when preparing for the requirements emanating from the adoption of the Kigali Amendment.

24. One agency also indicated that a good grasp of the standards and regulations in force is essential to guarantee the safety and lifespan of refrigeration systems. The agency stated that further continuous training on safety precautions to handle flammable refrigerants in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) was required. It was also important to provide RAC stakeholders with a quick reference to the main safety classifications and safe handling techniques for flammable refrigerants available in the market.

National and sectoral approach

25. With regard to the national and sectoral approach, one agency noted the limited scope and quality of available technical vocational education (TVE) programmes in developing countries. The existing programmes were not adapted to the needs of the labour market, the curricula and programmes were out of date, and the institutions lacked the tools and equipment necessary for a practical education. Furthermore, some servicing workshops lacked the proper tools and equipment to follow good practices in the RAC

sector. Therefore, the provision of workshop tools and equipment was very important for the successful development of updated TVE programmes in the RAC sector.

26. It has also been reported that effective servicing and maintenance in the RAC sector were critical in reducing refrigerant leakage, minimizing indirect emissions from energy-inefficient equipment, and creating significant employment opportunities. Further improvement of the servicing, maintenance and disposal in the refrigeration sector is required. It was suggested that this could be achieved by ensuring a minimum threshold for training and certification of servicing technicians, along with an appropriate policy framework to help formalize the servicing sector in the country. Further requirements to achieve HCFC phase-out included the development of an advantageous policy framework and infrastructure for recovery, recycling and reclamation at disposal, a robust and practicable sector action plan, technology roadmaps, and a conducive environmental policy.

27. Lessons reveal that the key elements of an effective and sustainable recovery and recycling (R&R) scheme in one country were: strengthening the capacity of local service workshops rather than creating local or regional R&R centres; including refrigerant conservation through R&R and the safe handling of alternative technologies in the curricula of the vocational schools and the training curricula for servicing technicians; and introducing mandatory leak checks for the effective R&R of refrigerant blends, as those checks prevented blend decomposition. Furthermore, providing adequate tools and equipment for refrigerant recovery and analysis, together with a major improvement in the knowledge and practical skills acquired for good servicing practices significantly contributed to the achievement of project results.

Policy and regulatory framework

28. Agencies reported that in many cases, countries managed to adopt efficient regulatory and institutional frameworks that ensured good management and monitoring of controlled substances and the achievement of Montreal Protocol phase-out targets.

29. In some countries, it was suggested that policies for the phase-out of HCFCs be formulated, and that rules and regulations be enforced from the beginning of implementation of project activities, in order to foster the smooth implementation of investment projects. Policies and regulations on targeted sectors/industries should be further developed and disseminated to draw enterprises' attention and interest, and to sustain the management and phase-out of controlled substances.

Public awareness

30. Lessons learned from many projects showed the crucial impact of developing and conducting public-awareness activities that: facilitate the adoption of the required control measures and related policies; reach out to various stakeholders through various media fostering their buy-in and ownership to ensure the achievements of the HPMP and the transition to low-GWP technologies; transmit information about the energy-efficient alternatives in a clear manner; and ensure the long-term success of the project and contribute to the sustainability of project results.

II. Summary of information from individual project completion reports

II.1 Overview of information from individual project completion reports

31. Of the total 1,867 investment projects completed, bilateral and implementing agencies have submitted 1,866 PCRs, with a balance of one outstanding PCR, as shown in table 3 and listed in annex IV to the present document.

Table 3. PCRs submitted for investment projects

Agency	Completed	Received prior to the 94 th meeting	Received after the 94 th meeting	Outstanding
Canada	2	2	0	0
France	13	13	0	0
Germany	20	20	0	0
Italy	11	11	0	0
Japan	6	6	0	0
Spain	1	1	0	0
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0
United States of America	2	2	0	0
UNDP	899	899	0	0
UNIDO	454	453	0	1
World Bank	458	458	0	0
Total	1,867	1,866	0	1

32. Of the 1,283 non-investment projects completed, bilateral and implementing agencies have submitted 1,282 PCRs, with a balance of one outstanding PCR, as shown in table 4 and listed in annex IV to the present document. In addition, there is one outstanding individual non-investment PCR due by decision in 2025, included in annex V to the present document.

Table 4. PCRs submitted for non-investment projects

Agency	Completed	Received prior to the 94 th meeting	Received after the 94 th meeting	Outstanding
Canada	57	57	0	0
France	34	34	0	0
Germany	62	62	0	0
Japan	17	17	0	0
UNDP	301	301	0	0
UNEP	512	512	0	0
UNIDO	163	162	0	1
World Bank	44	44	0	0
Others	93	93	0	0
Total	1,283	1,282	0	1

33. No individual project completion report has been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

III. Reporting on gender mainstreaming in project completion reports

34. Among the eight PCRs considered for the present consolidated report, only six MYA projects were approved after the 84th meeting,⁴ date after which it became mandatory to include the gender dimension in project submissions.

35. The new universal format of PCRs,⁵ approved in decision 94/5, includes a new section to report on gender. This will facilitate future reporting on the implementation of the Multilateral Fund's operational policy on gender mainstreaming as set out in decision 92/40, once the online reporting functionality becomes available in the knowledge management system. Meanwhile, agencies are using the existing format, using the comments section to report on the implementation of the operational gender policy.

⁴ Date after which projects should be addressing gender issues in compliance with the Multilateral Fund operational gender mainstreaming policy approved by decision 84/92. For latest updates see document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/51 and decision 92/40.

⁵ Annex II in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/94/67.

36. One agency reported that women's participation in activities in the RAC and refrigeration servicing sectors had been deemed praiseworthy and had been recognized at the national level.

37. It is expected that the reporting on gender will improve when more projects approved after the 84th meeting are completed, as agencies will be reporting on those projects in compliance with decisions 84/92 and 92/40 to implement the operational gender policy.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

38. The Executive Committee may wish:

- (a) To note the 2024 consolidated project completion report (PCR) (part II) contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/22;
- (b) To request:
 - (i) Bilateral and implementing agencies to submit to the 96th meeting of the Executive Committee, outstanding project completion reports (PCRs) for multi-year agreements (MYAs) and individual projects or to provide reasons for failing to do so;
 - (ii) Lead and cooperating implementing agencies to continue coordinating their work closely in finalizing their respective portions of PCRs to facilitate the timely submission of the reports by the lead implementing agency;
 - (iii) Bilateral and implementing agencies, when filling in the data for PCR submissions, to ensure the inclusion of relevant and useful information, including gender information, and to report on lessons learned and reasons for delays in project implementation for their use in future improvements in project design and implementation; and
- (c) To invite all those involved in the preparation and implementation of MYAs and individual projects, in particular the Secretariat and the bilateral and implementing agencies, to take into consideration the lessons learned from PCRs, where applicable.

Annex I

**MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS
RECEIVED AFTER THE 94TH MEETING AND CONSIDERED IN THE
2024 CONSOLIDATED PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (Part II)**

	Country	Multi-year agreement sector/Title	Lead agency	Cooperating agency
1.	Barbados	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNDP
2.	Congo	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO
3.	Côte d'Ivoire	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO
4.	Equatorial Guinea	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO
5.	Grenada	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO
6.	Libya	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNIDO	
7.	North Macedonia	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNIDO	
8.	Viet Nam	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	IBRD	Japan

Annex II

**OUTSTANDING MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS FOR
SUBMISSION TO THE 96th MEETING**

	Country	Multi-year agreement sector/Title	Final completion dates	Lead agency	Cooperating agency
1.	Iraq	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	Dec-21	UNEP	UNIDO
2.	Kuwait	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	Jun-22	UNEP	UNIDO
3.	Mozambique	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	Jun-23	UNEP	UNIDO
4.	Niger	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	Dec-22	UNIDO	UNEP
5.	Philippines	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	Dec-23	UNIDO	
6.	South Africa	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	Dec-23	UNIDO	

Annex III

**OUTSTANDING MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS
DUE BY DECISION IN 2025**

	Country	Multi-year agreement sector/Title	Lead agency	Cooperating agency	Final completion date	Schedule date of PCR submission	Decision
1.	Argentina	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	UNIDO	Italy	Dec-24	Jun-25	92/31(e)(i)
2.	Burundi	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO	Dec-24	Jun-25	93/36(a)
3.	Dominica	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP		Dec-24	Jun-25	93/14(b)
4.	Indonesia	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	UNDP	IBRD		Second meeting in 2025	92/24(a)
5.	Jordan	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	IBRD	UNIDO	Dec-24	Jun-25	93/15(b) and 93/16(b)
6.	Mali	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNDP	Dec-24	Jun-25	92/24(a)
7.	Mexico	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	UNIDO	UNEP/ Germany/ Italy/Spain	Dec-24	Second meeting in 2025	90/46(b) and 92/24(a)
8.	Pakistan	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	UNIDO	UNEP		First meeting in 2025	88/72(d) and 92/15(b)
9.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNDP	Jun-24	Dec-24	93/36(a)
10.	Sudan (the)	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)	UNIDO		Dec-24	Jun-25	88/60(a), 91/14(b)(iv) and 93/15(b)(ii)
11.	Suriname	HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)	UNEP	UNIDO	Jun-24	First meeting in 2025	92/32(c)

Annex IV

**OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS
FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 96th MEETING**

	Country	Code	Agency	Final Completion date	Project title
1.	Iraq	IRQ/REF/57/INV/07	UNIDO	Jun-21	Replacement of refrigerant CFC-12 with isobutane and foam blowing agent CFC-11 with cyclopentane in the manufacture of domestic refrigerators and chest freezers at Light Industries Company
2.	Saudi Arabia	SAU/REF/76/DEM/28	UNIDO	Mar-23	Demonstration project on promoting HFO-based low-global-warming-potential refrigerants for air-conditioning sector in high ambient temperatures

Annex V

**OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS
DUE BY DECISION IN 2025**

Country	Individual project title	Lead agency	Cooperating agency	Final completion date	Schedule date of PCR submission	Decision
Maldives	Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b) (MDV/REF/91/TAS/38)	UNEP		Jun-25	Second meeting in 2025	91/60(b) and 93/20(b)