

Ref: Oz-Sec/VCGTF Monitoring

14 November 2024

General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention: annual progress update and invitation for contributions

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to refer to decision XIII/2, on the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at its thirteenth meeting (COP13) and decision XXXVI/1, on enhancing regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted by the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP36), at the combined COP13/MOP36 held from 28 October to 1 November 2024 in Bangkok. The decisions are set out in document [UNEP/OzL.Conv.13/8/Add.1-UNEP/OzL.Pro.36/9/Add.1](#), an advance version of which is available on the Ozone Secretariat website.


A report on the status of the General Trust Fund, its activities and the work of its Advisory Committee as at 31 July 2024 was provided by the Secretariat in document [UNEP/OzL.Conv.13/7](#) for the parties' consideration at COP13/MOP36. Updated information on the status of the Trust Fund as at 31 October 2024 is set out in the Annex to this letter.

In paragraph 1 of COP decision XIII/2, the parties recognized that the purpose of the General Trust Fund includes supporting activities related to the atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, a point also emphasized in the recommendations of the Ozone Research Managers at their twelfth meeting. In paragraph 2 of the same decision, parties were encouraged to make contributions to the Trust Fund for the purpose of improving the global ozone observing system and for enhancing the global and regional monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, taking into consideration the report of the Advisory Committee of the Trust Fund to COP13. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to organize the work of the Advisory Committee in line with MOP36 decision XXXVI/1, while the Committee was requested, inter alia, to continue to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action with the assistance of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Secretariat, ensuring that activities relevant to enhancing monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol are taken into account.

Given the support expected to be provided by the General Trust Fund for implementation of additional eligible activities, both currently under consideration and future ones, the Secretariat wishes to encourage parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund in order to improve the global ozone observing system and to enhance the global and regional monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, in accordance with paragraph 2 of COP decision XIII/2.

I look forward to your cooperation and your continued support in enhancing research and systematic observations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Megumi Seki Nakamura
Executive Secretary

Annex

Status of funds related to activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention

Table 1

Financial contributions to the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 October 2024

Contributing party	Year(s) of contribution	Total contribution (US \$)
Andorra	2011	5 573
Australia	2015	28 011
Austria	2017, 2022	38 349
Czechia	2006, 2008	18 000
Estonia	2006	2 000
Finland	2003, 2004, 2008–2011, 2013, 2014, 2016–2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	91 571
France	2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024	106 358
Kazakhstan	2004–2010, 2013	11 361
Netherlands	2022, 2023, 2024	96 958
Norway	2017–2020, 2023	142 884
South Africa	2007, 2008	60 000
Spain	2005, 2006	12 341
Sweden	2018, 2022, 2023	80 593
Switzerland	2007, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024	117 740
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2004, 2008	40 987
Subtotal		852 726
Investment revenue		
Interest income		53 288
Exchange gain/(loss)		2 320
Subtotal		55 608
Total income		908 334

Table 2

Funds available to support activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 October 2024

	US \$
Total income of the Trust Fund (table 1)	908 334
Contribution by Germany to WMO ¹	35 545
Total funds available for activities	943 879
Total funds disbursed to completed and ongoing activities (table 3. A)	(533 726)
Total funds allocated to planned activities (table 3. B)	(101 700)
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (tables 3.A and 3.B)	(635 426)
Total funds available for future activities	308 453
Funds requested on project proposals currently under consideration (table 3. C)	4 685 170

¹ Germany contributed €30,000 to WMO in 2017 in support of activities relevant to the Vienna Convention Trust Fund. This amount is converted to US\$ using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 December 2017 (US \$1 = €0.844).

Table 3

Status of activities under the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on Research and Systematic Observations as at 31 October 2024 (in US dollars, including administrative costs)

A. Completed and ongoing activities		Funds disbursed
1	Dobson intercomparison – <i>Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004</i>	16 950
2	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 116 – <i>Bandung, Indonesia, 5–9 September 2006</i>	18 193
3	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 176 – <i>Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006</i>	
4	Dobson intercomparison – <i>Irene, South Africa, 12–30 October and 15–26 November 2009</i>	25 083
5	Workshop on data quality in the total ozone network – <i>Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 14–18 February 2011</i>	38 227
6	Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, <i>Russian Federation, April 2015*</i> and Dobson training course in <i>Hradec Králové, Czechia, 7–14 April 2015;</i>	13 593
7	Dobson training course in <i>Amberd, Armenia, 28 September–4 October 2015</i>	
8	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia – <i>Tsukuba, Japan, 7–25 March 2016*</i>	27 445
9	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania – <i>Melbourne, Australia, 13–24 February 2017*</i>	20 204
10	Dobson intercomparison campaign for North Africa – <i>El Arenosillo, Spain, 4–15 September 2017*</i>	32 654
11	Training workshop for Brewer operators – <i>Sydney, Australia, 4–9 September 2017*</i>	20 000 ¹
12	Joint project proposal by WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch and Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes: <i>Jülich Ozone Sonde Intercomparison Experiment 2017 – Jülich, Germany, 9–20 October and 23 October–3 November 2017</i>	20 000
13a	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 1 – <i>Hradec Králové, Czechia, and Payerne, Zürich and Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18 June–6 July 2018</i>	25 015
13b	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 2 – <i>Kenya, 18–27 March 2019</i>	17 021
14	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean – <i>Buenos Aires, 4–22 March 2019*</i>	40 000 ²
15	Ecuador: The Ecuadorian Highlands Ozonesondes project – <i>Cumbayá, Ecuador, 1 March 2019–30 April 2020</i>	56 274
16	Dobson intercomparison campaign for southern Africa – <i>Irene, South Africa, 7–18 October 2019*</i>	25 513
17	Kyrgyzstan: Technical support, information exchange for atmospheric monitoring at the shore of the high mountain lake, <i>Issyk-Kul, 22 January 2020- 30 November 2022</i> ³	33 900
18	Comoros: Project on the establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros, <i>15 April 2021- 30 April 2022</i> ⁴	50 850 ⁵
19	Brazil: South American Brewer Spectrometer Network <i>Santa Maria, Brazil, 23 February – 8 March 2024</i>	52 804 ⁶
Subtotal		533 726
B. Planned activities		Funds allocated
1	Belarus: Relocation of Dobson no.8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway, and property of the Norwegian Polar Institute) to Belarus* (<i>On hold</i>) ⁷	22 600
2	Burkina Faso: Acquisition of a ground-based ozone column measurement instrument (<i>on hold</i>) ⁸	22 600
3	Mexico: Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band “B” in Central America and the Caribbean (<i>Dates to be determined</i>)	56 500
Subtotal		101 700
Total funds disbursed and allocated to activities (Tables 3.A and 3.B)		635 426

* Activity listed for priority funding by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting in May 2014.

¹ The activity was also supported by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund with an additional amount of \$20,000.

² The activity was also supported by WMO trust fund with an additional amount of \$10,000.

³ The activity was completed on 12 July 2023 owing to project delays caused by the corona virus pandemic.

⁴ The activity was completed on 30 May 2024 owing to implementation delays caused by technical and administrative issues.

⁵ The activity was also supported by WMO with additional amount of \$10,544.

⁶ The activity is also supported by Canadian Brewer Trust Fund with an additional amount of \$35, 480.

⁷ The relocation of Dobson no.8 was previously destined for Sri Lanka and then Singapore. In the absence of interest from those parties, the Committee decided to lend the instrument to Belarus to assist the party to implement its proposal entitled “Preparing for and undertaking intercomparison sessions of three instruments to monitor total ozone and ultraviolet radiation in Belarus”. The activity is presently on hold due to the political instability in the region. Repurposing of the allocated funds is under consideration by the Advisory Committee.

⁸ The activity is currently on hold due to political instability in the country. Repurposing of the allocated funds is under consideration by the Advisory Committee.

Table 4

Status of project proposals received in response to the Secretariat's call to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on 23 November 2023, (in US dollars, including administrative costs)

A. Proposals approved		Funds requested
1	Morocco: Ground-based total column observation in Africa using PANDORA spectrometer	50 000
Subtotal		50 000
B. Proposals under consideration		Funds requested
1	Burundi: Systematic observations of atmospheric composition over Bujumbura using the Pandora spectrophotometer	50 000
2	Chile: Renovation and maintenance of stations of the ultraviolet radiation network in Chile	50 282
3	Ecuador: Advanced environmental monitoring: developing a real-time UV radiation mapping system for equatorial Andean regions	47 400
4	Indonesia: Monitoring of the dynamics of ozone, ozone-depleting substances, UV radiation and air pollutants	49 425
5	Nigeria: Monitoring anthropogenic contribution to total column ozone in Nigeria	49 600
6	Venezuela: Monitor column ozone and ozone profiles in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	48 340
Subtotal		295 047
C. Proposals not approved		Funds requested
1	Comoros: Monitoring and measurement of the total ozone column in the Union of the Comoros	78 348 ^a
2	Indonesia: Observation of Vertical Distributions of Ozone Depleting Substances and UV radiation in Indonesia by using an Aerial Drone as a carrier for Miniaturized samplers and portable sensors	49 646
3	Somalia: Strengthening ozone monitoring and capacity-building in Somalia	50 000
4	Uganda: Activities on research and systematic observations relevant to the Vienna Convention	50 000
5	Mozambique: Restoration of the Solar Radiation and Ozone Measurement Network in Mozambique	4 000 000
6	Rwanda: Enhancing data quality in the total ozone network: A workshop initiative in Rwanda	50 000
7	Venezuela: Training plan for the internal control of refrigerant gases, aimed at officials from the Ministry of People's Power for Eco socialism	32 808
8	Venezuela: Plan to raise awareness of the safe handling of refrigerant gases, considered to be substances with high ozone depletion and global warming potentials, in the commercial sector (supermarkets)	29 321
Subtotal		4 340 123
Total funds requested (Tables 4.A, 4.B and 4.C)		4 685 170

^a Using United Nations exchange rate of 15 March 2024 (\$1 = €0.914)