Montreal Protocol Project Brief | UNDP Pakistan | 2026

Institutional Strengthening of National Ozone Unit for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol

Background & Project Overview

In the 1970s, scientists discovered that certain man-made chemicals – known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS) – were thinning the Earth's ozone layer, which protects life by filtering harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This led to increased health risks and ecological disruption. In response, the international community adopted the Montreal Protocol in 1987, the first universal treaty aimed at phasing out ODS and safeguarding the ozone layer.

To meet its obligations under the Protocol, Pakistan established the National Ozone Unit (NOU) within the Ministry of Environment, now Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, MoCC&EC in 1996. The NOU oversees national compliance and supports ODS phase-out in partnership with UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO) and the Multilateral Fund Secretariat. UNDP, as the designated implementing agency for the Institutional Strengthening (IS) component, supports capacity building, regulatory enforcement, and data monitoring under the Montreal Protocol.

The NOU develops policy measures to regulate the import of ODS and supports the transition of ODS-based industries to ozone-friendly technologies.

Quick Facts

Duration
April 2024 – March 2027

Implementing Partners
Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and UNDP Pakistan

Funding Partners
Multilateral Fund Secretariat (MLFS)

Location
Nationwide

Total Budget
US$594,748

Objectives

- Strengthen the overall programme management capacity of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) for ozone layer protection.
- Support Pakistan in maintaining progress in phasing out ODS consumption.
- Improve the management system for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and support the introduction of a licensing system for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- Enable timely and accurate data collection and reporting under Article 7 and the Country Programme.
- Promote awareness-raising and information exchange on issues related to the Montreal Protocol.

Impact

The project has strengthened national institutional mechanisms for ozone layer protection, supported timely data collection and reporting, positioned Pakistan to meet all phase-out milestones. These efforts have ensured Pakistan's continued "compliant" status under the Montreal Protocol.

Key Interventions

Phase-Out of ODS

Achieving targeted reductions in HCFCs as per the Montreal Protocol schedule, the project has supported Pakistan in:

- Reaching a 10 percent reduction of HCFCs by 1 January 2015
- Achieving a 50 percent reduction by 1 January 2020
- Meeting a 67.5 percent reduction by 1 January 2025

Pakistan is now on track to achieve 100 percent reduction of HCFCs by 31 December 2030.

Timely Submission of Country Programme (CP) and Article 7 Data Reporting

Submitting annual data reports under Article 7 and the Country Programme on time to the Ozone Secretariat and the MLF Secretariat to ensure accurate tracking of HCFC and HFC imports and use, maintaining Pakistan's compliant status.

Ratification of the Kigali Amendment

Recognizing its global importance, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol – which entered into force on 1 January 2019 – commits nations to phasedown hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration, air-conditioning (RAC), and foam industries. In support of Pakistan's ratification, the project has developed all required documentation and led a series of stakeholder consultations, technical workshops, and awareness-raising sessions. These efforts have built broad-based understanding of compliance obligations and fostered political momentum. With groundwork completed, Pakistan has successfully ratified the Kigali amendment in 2025, paving the way for national action on HFC phasedown.

Ozone Advocacy

Promoting public awareness and environmental stewardship by launching ozone protection campaigns at both the federal and provincial levels. Disseminating advocacy and visibility materials, the initiative has increased knowledge-sharing and dialogue among government institutions, academia, the private sector, and youth – strengthening national commitment to the Montreal Protocol and long-term environmental sustainability.

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