

CLIMATE AND OZONE PROTECTION ALLIANCE ON ODS AND HFC BANKS MANAGEMENT

Advancing Nationally Determined Contributions through the management and destruction of halogenated hydrocarbons

Background

Due to the increasing global demand for refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC), the stock of appliances, foams and products containing **halogenated hydrocarbons** is rising rapidly. Halogenated hydrocarbons are either ozone-depleting substances (ODS) or have high global warming potentials (hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs). If old cooling appliances are not disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, emissions from these so-called **“ODS and HFC banks”** are released unhindered into the atmosphere. The resulting annual emissions are estimated to exceed **1.5 Gt CO₂-eq**. This is equivalent to the annual emissions of 441 coal-fired power plants.

Consequently, the proper disposal of gases and foams in old cooling appliances offers enormous potential for climate action. Despite its significant cost-effectiveness, ODS and HFC banks management remains a **“blind spot”** in the international climate debate.

Political context

While the international community has agreed to regulate the production and consumption of ODS by the Montreal Protocol (1987) and to phase-down HFCs with its Kigali Amendment (2016), **no agreements have been made** regarding end of life solutions for ODS and HFC banks. For the Global South in particular, the recovery, collection, reclamation or destruction of waste containing ODS and HFCs present challenges as they generally lack the appropriate political and regulatory framework and infrastructure.

Approach

By joining forces with **UNIDO** and **UNDP**, the Alliance aims to contribute to a substantial reduction of emissions in the long term.

As a first step, COPA cooperates with metropolitan regions in the partner countries **China, Ghana and Colombia**, as ODS and HFC waste stocks mostly accumulate in densely populated areas. Additional partner countries with high mitigation potential and political commitment will be identified and supported as the Alliance progresses.

Project measures include the establishment of the Alliance through networking and political positioning, as well as the preparation of status-quo analyses and practical concepts for the implementation of mitigation actions in selected metropolitan regions.

In the long term, the Alliance aims to engage a growing number of partner countries that reduce GHG emissions from ODS and HFC banks and include the sector in their NDCs. This contributes to a sustainable transformation of the global RAC sector.






Objective

The Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA) aims to:

- promote international dialogue on GHG mitigation action through ODS and HFC banks management,
- empower key actors to initiate action,
- design concrete mitigation measures,
- assist partner countries in raising funds to implement comprehensive mitigation actions,
- and to position the topic at the international level as a cost-efficient and effective measure in contribution to national climate targets.

Outputs

To achieve the project goal, COPA defined the following deliverables:

-  1. A global Alliance is established and a secretariat serves as the technical and administrative advisory and overall coordination unit.
-  2. Representatives of governments, international organisations, the financial and private sectors, academia, and NGOs have joined COPA and are actively contributing to its implementation.
-  3. A funding mechanism is in place and interested donors have pledged their willingness to provide funding.
-  4. The international dialogue on the implementation of measures to manage and destroy ODS and HFC banks is promoted beyond the Montreal Protocol and COPA is internationally known with its objectives and offers.
-  5. Based on a global status quo analysis of ODS and HFC emissions, existing infrastructure and emission reduction potential, concrete measures in partner countries are designed and technical issues for sustainable mitigation are addressed.

Target Groups

The project primarily supports national and international decision-makers in the energy, environment, and/or waste sectors in creating effective GHG mitigation through ODS and HFC banks management and destruction in selected metropolitan areas. Other target groups include:

- Ministries, National Ozone Units and policymakers at the national and sub-national level
- Bilateral and multilateral, as well as private and public donors and foundations
- Private companies (and their associations)
- NGOs and regional/multilateral networks
- RAC industry technology providers for ODS and HFC recovery, collection, reclamation, and destruction
- Municipal waste management institutions
- Academia
- End-Users

Title: Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance on ODS and HFC Banks Management (COPA)

Country: China, Ghana, Colombia

Sector: Refrigeration, air-conditioning and foam (RAC&F)

Objective: Promotion of GHG mitigation through ODS and HFC banks management and destruction in contribution to national climate targets (NDCs)

Project Executing Organisation: BMWK
(Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action)

Implementing Partner Organisation:
Environmental Ministries and National Ozone Units in selected partner countries

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