



# TRAINING MANUAL FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS

## SAVING THE OZONE LAYER:

### Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances in Developing Countries

United Nations Environment Programme  
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics

Multilateral Fund for the Implementation  
of the Montreal Protocol

Environment Canada

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

World Customs Organisation

Concurrent Technologies Corporation



OzonAction Programme

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The reviewers listed in this guide have reviewed one or more interim drafts of this guide, but have not reviewed this final version. These reviewers are not responsible for any errors that may be present in this document or for any effects that may result from such errors.

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## Foreword

The ozone layer, high in the stratosphere, is vital to life on Earth. It acts as a shield to prevent harmful UV-radiation from reaching the Earth. In the 1970s scientists discovered that a number of man-made chemicals damage the ozone layer. These chemicals include CFCs, HCFCs, methyl bromide, halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform.

In September 1987, nations around the world concerned about the depletion of the ozone layer signed the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer", a landmark agreement that identified the major ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and established a timetable for the reduction and eventual elimination of their production and consumption world-wide.



In July 1999, the first phase-out obligation applicable to developing countries came into effect. These countries had to freeze their consumption of the five main CFCs at their average consumption level during the years 1995-97. During the following years further reductions will be required for the CFCs as well as other controlled substances, such that the majority will have disappeared by 2010.

Developing countries are now undertaking tremendous efforts to comply with or even to exceed the phase-out schedules of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. Phase-out can best be achieved and remain sustainable through an overall strategy that integrates national and regional technical, regulatory and policy measures.

Compliance with the ODS phase-out provisions requires action to address both supply and demand. The supply of ODS will decrease once the major production plants are closed down and effective trade controls are in place. The demand for ODS will be reduced through the application of good practices in the servicing sector, retrofitting of existing equipment in the end-user sector, changing manufacturing plants to ozone-friendly products and applying import restrictions to ODS-containing products.

The challenge is to reduce the supply and demand for ODS in a co-ordinated manner. The risk of illegal trade arises where there is over-supply on the world market and/or scarcity on the local markets. In some countries, the black market for ODS has become the second most profitable after drug smuggling. In the future, customs authorities will need to play an increasingly prominent role in the prevention of illegal trade of ODS.

The success of all international environmental agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, will also depend on the continued support of the world's customs authorities and other key stakeholders (e.g. the World Customs Organisation, World Trade Organisation, Interpol and NGOs).

Therefore, UNEP is promoting participatory and integrated approaches for customs training in order to involve all key stakeholders and to create synergies for the customs authorities. We are extremely grateful for the support received for this work from all partners.

Customs officers using this training manual should keep in mind that the protection of the ozone layer is a long-term issue and that you can play a vital role in helping your country to comply with the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. It is worth remembering that the ozone layer can only recover by the middle of this century and the incidence of skin cancer decline towards "normal" levels by the end of the century if all countries comply with their phase-out obligations.

The "UNEP Customs Training Manual" is part of a series of self-help guides produced by UNEP's OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund, in order to assist developing countries to implement the Montreal Protocol. They should be read and followed in conjunction with other similar publications prepared by the OzonAction Programme, specifically:

- Resource Module on Policy Design and Setting Up of Legislation - ODS Import/Export Licensing Systems, UNEP, 1998
- Regulations to Control Ozone-Depleting Substances - A Guidebook, UNEP, 1996
- Elements for Establishing Policies, Strategies and Institutional Framework for Ozone Layer Protection, UNEP, 1995

More information can be found on the World Wide Web at:  
<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction.html>.

We hope you enjoy this publication and find it useful. Please send me your comments and suggestions.

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