# **WORKSHOP REPORT**



## Regional Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for the Caribbean Region



**Industry and Environment** 



Castries, St Lucia, 4-6 June 1998

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Regional Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for the Caribbean region Castries, St Lucia, 4-6 June 1998

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Regional Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for the Caribbean Region was the fourth of a series of similar workshops designed and organised by UNEP for developing countries in the English speaking Africa, Asian, Caribbean and Latin American regions. The workshop for the Caribbean region was approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund at its 23rd Meeting.

The objective of the workshop was to enable the participating countries to set up and implement efficient legal systems and institutional frameworks to control and monitor their ODS consumption, in particular imports and exports.

It was expected that with the assistance and information received at the workshop each participating country's team would develop an action plan to establish an effficient legal system and a necessary institutional framework to control and monitor the ODS imports and exports in their own country and to implement these measures.

26 participants from 12 countries registered for the workshop. The participants were national ozone officers, customs administration officers and supervisors of ministerial level.

The workshop was structured through:

- Plenary presentations where the speakers were dealing with the most important problems concerning control and monitoring of ODS in view of ODS import/export licensing system
- Working sessions where the participants could discuss their own opinions on the issues
  covered by the workshop as well as work out the suggestions for plans of actions to be
  undertaken in their countries.

The workshop agenda included, *inter alia*, presentations by the representatives of two countries of the region (St. Lucia and Trinidad&Tobago), and invited experts from Environment Canada and Ozone Layer Protection Unit of Poland. It also included the following four working sessions:

- 1. Systems currently in place in participating countries
- 2. Establishing an import/export licensing system
- 3. Practical use of an import/export licensing system
- 4. National action plans

During the workshop, the participants had an opportunity to acquire valuable information on the existing related requirements of the Montreal Protocol as well as on the ODS import/export licensing systems already in place, methods of establishing such systems, options for their design and their practical suitability for monitoring and control of ODS consumption. The participants had also the opportunity to discuss their own situation with regard to these issues and share experience with their colleagues from the English-speaking countries from the Caribbean region.

It was very important that at the same time countries with no experience in ODS import/export control were advised on how to select, establish and run import/export control systems and countries with some level of experience could acquire information that might help them to improve their own systems.

The participants of the Workshop drafted conclusions and recommendations where they pointed out that import/export permits should be used not only to monitor, but also to limit consumption of ODS and that all ODS should be controlled, including ODS-containing mixtures. They encouraged countries of the region to adopt accelerated ODS-phaseout schedules. They also agreed that there is a need for training of key personel responsible for the implementation and execution of the monitoring and control systems provided that necessary technical and financial support is given. Evaluation results show that the workshop was , in general, highly appreciated by the participants.

A key outcome from the workshop was that the participants developed action plans concerning establishment or improvement of ODS import/export licensing systems in their countries as well as proposals for institutional frameworks necessary to deal with such system in practice.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Regional Workshop on Control and Monitoring of ODS Consumption for the Caribbean Region was the fourth of a series of similar workshops designed and organised by UNEP for developing countries in the English speaking Africa, Asian, Caribbean and Latin American regions. The workshop for the Caribbean region was approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund at its 23rd Meeting.

According to the Montreal Protocol, the developing countries (Article 5(1) countries) must freeze their consumption of five main chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 1 July 1999 at the average 1995-97 level, and then start reducing and eliminating the consumption of the CFCs and other ODS. Under the MP, each country must report its ODS consumption, defined as import plus production minus export of the controlled chemicals, to the Parties of the Montreal Protocol through Ozone Secretariat.

A legal system to control and monitor the ODS imports and exports is then of vital importance for the governments to fulfill these requirements. Moreover, having an import/export licensing system has become mandatory under the latest Amendment to the Protocol approved by the Parties in Montreal in September 1997. Legal restrictions on the production of ODS are also necessary but will have less practical impact in most developing countries, as relatively few of them produce ODS.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop was to enable the participating countries to set up and implement efficient legal systems and institutional frameworks to control and monitor their ODS consumption, in particular imports and exports.

#### 3. EXPECTED RESULTS

It was expected that at the end of the workshop each participating country's team would develop an action plan showing how to establish or improve a legal system and a necessary institutional framework to control and monitor the ODS imports and exports in their own country and how to implement these measures. After the workshop, these officers were expected to further develop proposals for such system/framework for discussions with and decisions by the appropriate bodies.

It was understood that the information acquired at this workshop and from the UNEP Resource Module on ODS Import/Export Licensing should make the participants adequately equipped for this work at the national level.

#### 4. PARTICIPANTS

26 participants from 12 English-speaking countries of the Caribbean region registered for the Workshop. Six countries represented at the workshop (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and St. Vincent&the Grenadines) were Parties to the Montreal Protocol and its London and Copenhagen Amendments, two (Dominica and Grenada) were Parties to the Montreal Protocol and its London Amendments and four (Guyana, St. Lucia and St.Kitts&Nevis and Trinidad&Tobago) were parties to the Montreal Protocol only. The complete list of participants is presented in ANNEX 10.2.

The target audience was the ozone officers in charge of co-ordinating ODS strategies and key officers from ministries which control import and export in general and chemicals in particular from each country.

The presence of both the ozone officers dealing with ozone layer protection issues in their daily practice as well as customs officers was necessary to ensure that the need for establishing an ODS import/export licensing system would be well understood by the main stake holders and that the necessary cooperation would be started.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

The workshop was structured in such a way that the participants could receive the information from others and share their own experience through:

- Plenary presentations where the speakers were dealing with the most important problems concerning control and monitoring of ODS in view of ODS import/export licensing system
- Working sessions where the participants could express and exchange their own opinions on the issues covered by the workshop as well as work out the suggestions for plans of actions to be undertaken in their countries. There were brief introductions given to each of the working sessions by the discussion facilitator. At the working sessions the participants were divided into working groups, usually consisting of country teams. The working groups were structured differently for each working session. Countries with some experience and without any experience were put together. Each working group selected its own discussion moderator and rapporteur who represented this group at the plenary discussion of the results of a particular working session. Discussion facilitators visited each of the working groups during the working sessions.

The participants were given all workshop documents, including resource material, presentations and introductions to the working sessions at the start of the workshop.

#### 6. CONTENTS

The workshop agenda included, *inter alia*, the welcome address, keynote opening address and vote of thanks by the host country (St. Lucia), UNEP address and presentations by the representatives of two countries of the region (St. Lucia and Trinidad&Tobago), Ozone Secretariat, and invited experts from Environment Canada and the Ozone Layer Protection Unit of Poland. It also included the following four working sessions:

- 1. Systems currently in place in participating countries
- 2. Establishing an import/export licensing system
- 3. Practical use of an import/export licensing system
- 4. National action plans

Presentations given at the workshop are briefly summarized below:

Mr. G. Bankobeza from the Ozone Secretariat (UNEP, Nairobi) presented the phaseout schedules for the controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol. He also presented the reporting requirements and actions to be taken by the Parties to implement decisions by the Meetings of the Parties which were dealing with ODS licensing systems and control of export of products and equipment using ODS or designed to be used with ODS. He encouraged the countries of the region to ratify all Amendments to the Montreal Protocol and explained what are the advantages of doing so.

Mr. B. Made from Environment Canada described the import/export licensing system introduced in Canada to monitor and control ODS traffic. Based on Canada's experience he discussed the problems that have to be solved in implementing such system in practice giving special attention to training of customs officers, as well as building awareness of these problems in the ODS users, dealers and importers and even general public.

Mr. B.Tulsie from the Ministry of Planning (St. Lucia) presented the planned ODS control and monitoring system in his country. He suggested the possible amendments to relevant regulations

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