UNEP Perspective on HCFC Management Plan Implementation Issues

UNEP DTIE OzonAction

EC HCFC Meeting
Montreal, 5-6 April 2008

UNEP's current HCFC activities

- Internal brainstorming exercise & development of UNEP guidelines to build on ExCom guidelines (CAP team)
- Proposals to develop national **HPMPs** for ~ 60 developing countries (w/IAs)
- **HCFC Help Centre** project http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/topics/hcfc.asp (w/Sweden)
- **"Jump start" project** to encourage developing countries to expedite HCFC compliance & adopt environmentally-friendly alternatives (w/EC)
- Exchange information with countries on illegal trade cases reported under **customs-ozone project** specially related to HCFC blends (w/Sweden, WCO)
- Reviewing **national policies & licensing system** for HCFCs, information & capacity building (w/MLF partners)
- Conducting **HCFC sessions on alternatives and policy** during the Regional network meetings (w/MLF partners & consultants)

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Factors to consider during project implementation

- A5 Parties with **low volume** and very low volume consumption of HCFCs have unique conditions that may require special approaches/windows as was the case with CFCs
- Favouring the most **climate friendly technologies** would need to be taken into account when considering replacements and this require some specific analysis & innovative approach.
- Need to develop a **common methodology / approach** across IAs for how to give priority to alternatives that minimize other impacts on the environment, including on the climate, taking into account global-warming potential, energy use and other relevant factors
- Giving priority to first phasing out **HCFCs with the higher impact** on country's consumption
- Giving **priority to SMEs** will require innovative thinking & new approaches
- Because of the climate/other dimensions, the HPMP process will need to include **other stakeholders** with whom we not normally work under MP: Climate change focal point, ministries of Energy, Energy Standards, Health, Safety, Small and Medium Enterprises

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Lessons learned - process

- **Capacity of the NOU** that has been built over the last 15 years should be gainfully used for developing HPMP
- A **participatory approach** that emphasises local ownership of process & outcome works best
- **A National Team** should be put in place *before* the international consultant first visit.
- If HPMP preparation involves two IAs, consider jointly hiring **one mutually-agreed consultant** knowledgeable about both investment & non-investment activities.
- When the **consultant first visits**, both IAs should accompany him/her to demonstrate the IA's engagement & initiate project
- **After the consultant's first visit**, it is the national team that should initiate the work of conducting the survey, etc. The consultant should work with the national team, not just the Ozone Officer
- **Awareness** of enterprises about HCFC issue & implications must be raised *before* national HCFC survey begins, not afterwards, otherwise they may 'hide'
- Restrictions/controls of imports need to be **coordinated** with replacement/retrofitting activities etc so these are not undermined
- Import /export **regulations** and **capacity building** to combat illegal trade should be an early priority

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Lessons learned - technology

- A number of **alternatives** to CFC refrigerants are on the market, including HCFC blends, HFC blends & natural refrigerants (HC, NH3, CO2). Although adoption of these varies from country to country, they are suitable as HCFC replacements under specific circumstances.
- Inability of A5 countries to collect **import data** on alternatives (in particular for blends) may hamper the country's ability to monitor adoption of each alternative in the respective sectors.
- Introducing a great number of alternative refrigerants into the market increases the possibility of equipment damage through use of incompatible refrigerants. Clear **labelling and training** should and would address this.
- The choice of the most appropriate technology may not be straightforward and need **special attention** in particular when considering climate impact.
- Addressing in a **pragmatic and responsible manner** the safety issues linked with specific refrigerants might open significantly the scope of their use.

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Access to infrastructure

- UNEP-provided infrastructure available to countries & to **support IAs / IAs' consultants**:
  - Regional Networks of ODS Officers (e.g. HCFC sessions)
  - Information clearinghouse services (e.g. HCFC Help Centre)
  - Capacity building services (e.g. HCFC-related training materials)
- Countries may/may not have **refrigeration association**, which is needed for long term HCFC management issue (e.g. technician training)
- Inclusion of Ozone layer protection and climate change mitigation in **technical / professional school curicula** critical for sustained environment protection
- As per evaluation results, **R&R equipment** did not work well for CFCs - how can we make it work effectively for HCFCs?

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Opportunities

- Develop **practical criteria & methodologies** for developing countries to select & implement non-HCFC technology with minimal climate impacts
- Promote replacement of HCFCs in building air conditioning and in refrigeration with **climate & ozone-friendly & energy efficient** equipment
- Promote **building design** that avoids / minimizes mechanical refrigeration as HCFC alternative
- Expand **Refrigerants Naturally** concept to HCFC-related sectors, e.g. encourage market for non-HCFC domestic air conditioning