

# International OZONE DAY

September 16, 2008 "Montreal Protocol - Global partnership for global benefits"



**Multilateral Fund**  
for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol



**NEPA**  
National Environment  
and Planning Agency



## Message from the Prime Minister The Hon. Bruce Golding, MP



This year is the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Protocol.

I am very proud of Jamaica's achievement under the Protocol. We became the first country in the Caribbean to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS) namely

chlorofluorocarbons, four years ahead of the deadline of 2010. I must commend the National Ozone Unit (NOU) at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), the National Ozone Commission (NOC), and other organizations for their efforts in ensuring that Jamaica met her targets to date under the Montreal Protocol. The work of the NOU has not gone un-noticed as in 2003 it was given an international award for outstanding work for the period 2001-2002.

Through financial assistance provided by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the NOU was able to imple-

ment a number of projects geared towards the phase out of ODS. Particular mention should be made of the training and equipment given to Jamaica's Customs Officers to assist with the identification of CFCs and CFC-based equipment at our ports of entry. Their diligence at the ports has enabled us to ensure that there is no importation of prohibited ODS.

Though Jamaica has achieved much, there is still a lot of work left to be done if we are to see the recovery of the ozone layer. This may not happen during this generation, but if we continue on this trend of protecting our environment, future generations will enjoy a better quality of life.

## THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL



National Ozone Unit staff: (l-r) Claudette Edwards (Project Assistant) and Nicol Walker (Manager)

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is an international agreement to reduce the amount of ozone depleting substances (ODS) released into the atmosphere. The Protocol was established in 1987 and entered into effect in 1989. To date there are over 190 signatories to the Protocol. Jamaica ratified the Protocol in 1993.

The Montreal Protocol was established in 1987 out of the hypothesis of two scientists, Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina who theorized that when chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were released into the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight, they caused thinning of the ozone layer.

Since the Protocol came into effect there has been a 95% reduction in the consumption of ODS. Also, over five thousand (5,000) projects and activities valued over US\$2 billion and geared toward

The Montreal Protocol addresses the following areas:

- Chemical control - which chemical to control as well as the manner and extent of control
- Flexibility of implementation - countries can decide how best to meet the reduction targets
- Trade controls - restricting trade with countries that are not Parties to the Protocol
- 'Grace period' for developing countries to comply

Compliance - parties annually report production, imports and exports of the ODS which is compared with the Protocol's control measures/provisions to determine compliance.

Despite the many accomplishments of the Protocol many challenges are foreseen. Cases of illegal trade have been detected and these may increase as production of ODS for non-controlled uses is still allowed. Large banks and inventories of ODS exist and these may eventually be unintentionally released into the environment if proper disposal is not carried out. It is hoped that efforts to protect the ozone layer will continue for upcoming generations.

## Jamaica's

## Achievements



## Message from Leary Myers, Ph.D., PE., JP Chief Executive Officer, NEPA

It is indeed a pleasure for the National Environment &

Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) which houses the National Ozone Unit (NOU), to be instrumental in the commemoration of International Ozone Day. Jamaica's ratification of the Montreal Protocol in 1993 signaled its commitment to phasing out Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone depleting substances (ODS). All four Amendments to the Protocol have also been ratified by Jamaica.

With the tremendous amount of work carried out by the NOU and local and international supporting entities, Jamaica has proven that preservation of the ozone layer can only be accomplished as a team. It seems only fitting, that International Ozone Day 2008 should be recognized under the theme: *Montreal protocol - global partnership for global benefits.*

There are many who do not realize that the ozone layer is important for a healthy life and environment. Thinning of the ozone

layer causes increased harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation to reach the earth's surface. Some scientists have postulated that the exposure to increased UV rays may lead to skin cancer, cataracts, and weakened immune systems. Crop productivity and disruptions in the marine food chain may also occur.

The good news is that Jamaica is on target with its programme for phasing out ODS. In fact, we were the first Caribbean country to phase out CFCs at January 1, 2006. This was four years ahead of the Montreal Protocol's January 1, 2010 phase out date. Halons (used in fire extinguishers), methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride (solvents) are other types of ODS that the country has phased out.

The staff of the NOU is more than willing to provide helpful suggestions on how every child, adult and the general public can play their part in preventing further depletion of the ozone layer.

## Message from Denise Forrest, Chair, National Ozone Commission





tion in the consumption of ODS. Also, over five thousand (5,000) projects and activities valued over US\$2 billion and geared toward phase out of ODS, have been designed and implemented.

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## Jamaica's Achievements

Jamaica was the first country in the Caribbean region to prepare its Country Programme for the phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). In 1989, countries from all over the world signed an agreement called the Montreal Protocol, to protect the ozone layer by phasing out ODS such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in refrigeration systems and air conditioning units and methyl bromide used as a fumigant. The Ozone Layer is located in the upper atmosphere about 10-16 km above the earth's surface and protects the Earth from the harmful effects of ultra-violet radiation from the sun.

Jamaica ratified the Montreal Protocol in 1993. The execution of projects to reduce ODS was delegated to the National Ozone Unit (NOU) which was established in 1997 at the offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), now the National Environment and Planning Agency.

Since ratifying the Protocol Jamaica has met all targets to date for phasing out ODS. The most significant achievement was the phasing out of CFCs and products which use or contain CFCs by January 1, 2006, four years ahead of the Montreal Protocol's 2010 phase out date for developing countries. The exemplary work of the NOU was recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2003 when Jamaica, along with China, Fiji and Senegal, was given an Outstanding Ozone Unit award and again in 2007 when Jamaica received 'The Montreal Protocol Exemplary Project Recognition' for two projects, the Jamaica Refrigerant Management Plan and the Terminal Phase-Out Plan.

NOU members (left to right) - Horace Nelson (Rexham Engineering), James Kerr (Bureau of Standards), Anthony Greenaway (University of the West Indies), Alvin Marshall (Eco Securities), Anastasia Cahill (Office of the Prime Minister), Denise Forrest (Forrest and Associates - Chair), Marcia Thompson (Pesticides Control Authority). Not in the photo are representatives from Stewart Motors, Appliance Traders Limited, Meteorological Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Planning Institute of Jamaica and Ministry of Health and Environment.

September 16, 2008 marks the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol, the landmark international treaty to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The theme for the 21st year is "Montreal Protocol - Global partnership for global benefits". After 21 years there is good news to report, that is, in recent years scientists have found that there are signs that the stratospheric ozone layer that protects life on earth from excessive solar radiation is recovering confirming the effectiveness of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The Montreal Protocol has been hailed as perhaps the most successful international treaty to date and provides a positive message for working cooperatively to solve major environmental problems. The level of ozone-depleting substances continues to decline from its 1992/94 peak in the troposphere and its 1990s peak in the stratosphere. Below are some findings outlining what has been accomplished.

- Ninety five percent (95%) reduction in the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in 2005.
- Over one million cases of melanoma skin cancer prevented by 2060.
- Human and wildlife immune systems protected.
- Reduced damage to agriculture, ecosystems and infrastructure.

This year's commemoration not only represents a coming of age, but the theme for the Day provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the approaches and strategies which have facilitated the achievements of the last

twenty one years. At this time, as we acknowledge these achievements, Jamaica stands proud along with the other countries which have signed and worked to implement this agreement. The country through the leadership of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), the work of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) and the National Ozone Commission (NOC) has played her part effectively and has achieved the targeted reductions in consumption of ozone depleting substances.

On International Ozone Day, even while we applaud the progress which has been accomplished by the Protocol we take note that these achievements have not been without controversy. The agreements which have been reached over the years did not come easily. There have been difficult moments during the international negotiations but happily our mutual interest prevailed, cementing valuable global partnerships.

While we reflect on the success of the global partnership we can also commend the successes of local partnerships. Jamaica can be pleased with the partnerships which have emerged over the past several years which have underpinned the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol. These partnerships have been formed with the public and private sectors, academia and multilateral donors all contributing to what could be strongly argued as the most effective Environmental Multilateral Agreement ever implemented in Jamaica. We are grateful for the commitment and quality service of all who have been involved in the process over these years.