

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**

**1. Dates of travel:** Departed and returned to Jamaica 19 and 25 March 2023 respectively

**2. Country Visited:** Panama

**3. Purpose and Objectives of the trip:**

**Purpose and Objective**

The Government of Panama and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly hosted the Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers, 20-22 March and the Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 23-24 March 2023, in Panama City, Panama. These meetings were organised by OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) teams for Latin America and the Caribbean with support from the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund. The Ozone Officers' Network assists National Ozone Officers in Article 5 (developing) countries with the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The objective of the meetings was to facilitate the sharing of experiences, review progress made in the region in terms of meeting Montreal Protocol commitments and follow up on the recommendations of the previous meetings.

**Participants**

Participants included National Ozone Officers (NOOs), representatives of Implementing Agencies and bilateral agencies, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat (MLFS), the Ozone Secretariat (OS), the Multilateral Fund's Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO), and other experts.

**4. Meeting/workshop/training agenda:** The agendas are submitted with this report as attachments.

**❖ Joint Ozone Officers Network Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 - 22 March 2023**

The topics that were comprehensively discussed by national ozone officers from the Caribbean and Latin America were as follows:

- Country Relevant Information and Compliance
- Multilateral Fund's Evaluation of Regional Network of National Ozone Units
- Overview of Decisions of the 91<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting
- Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) related decisions of the 91<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting
- Gender Mainstreaming

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**

- The HFC Phase down Strategies in Article 2 Countries
- UNEP OzonAction Capacity Building Tools, Products and Regional Awareness Activities
- Implementing Agency Activities and Cooperation
- Kigali Implementation Plan Preparation Case Studies

UNEP OzonAction in collaboration with Government of Panama through the Ministry of Health, organised a field visit to Grupo Rey on 21 March to allow participants to have a first-hand experience in alternative technologies to Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and how Panama is collaboratively working with its Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) industry, through implementing agencies, to transition away from HCFCs.

The Caribbean Network National Ozone Officers and the Multilateral Fund's SMEO met on 22 March to hold discussions on the evaluation of regional Networks of National Ozone Units.

**❖ Thematic Network Meeting of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 23-24 March 2023**

The matters discussed are outlined below:

- Article 7 Online Data Reporting System
- New Emerging Multilateral Fund Funding Opportunities
- Current status of the project portfolio in the Caribbean region
- Institutional Strengthening (IS) Projects: ExCom 91 Decisions
- MLF Evaluation of Regional Network of National Ozone Units
- Gender Mainstreaming
- HFC Phase - down Plans (KIPs)
- Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Evaluation Systems in the Caribbean
- Regional and Global Communication Activities
- Regional Public Awareness/South-South Cooperation Initiatives

**5. Benefits to the agency and the public generally**

The knowledge gained will enable the NOU to support the government in meeting its commitments agreed by all countries under the Montreal Protocol.

**6. Recommendations and or action plans arising from the overseas trip**

The key recommendations were:

- The OS encouraged parties to submit their reports as soon as data becomes available.
- It was recommended that the UNEP and Network parties assist countries with project implementation delays using the South-South Cooperation facility with an emphasis that these issues should be treated as urgent. UNEP explained cases of this nature are taken seriously and high importance is placed on helping such countries including missions to assist these countries.

- Starting from the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ExCom, IS projects will be three years with a 38% increase in the level of funding and changes in the format for agreements which include updated performance indicators for the countries. This is consistent with Decision XXVIII/2 paragraph 21 of the Meeting of the Parties.
- Parties were encouraged to include gender mainstreaming activities in the development of Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs) and Kigali Implementation Plans (KIPs) taking into consideration the guidelines presented in document 90/37 of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the MLF.
- Some countries were concerned about increased HFC consumption after the year 2022 which will result in their consumption levels going above their baselines. Parties that have this concern that could hinder their ability to comply with the freeze/baseline were reminded to submit their import data of HFCs for 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat consistent with decision XXXIV/13, paragraph 1 and 2, by 1 May 2023.
- It was recommended that countries take advantage of the funding opportunity for disposal of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) that is available at the MLF.

**7. Suitability of the report for inter-agency sharing:** This report is suitable for inter-agency review.

**8. Description of the interventions made on behalf of Jamaica at the Meeting/workshop/forum etc.**

The National Ozone Officer of Jamaica reminded UNEP that he had previously recommended that a forum be hosted to facilitate the networking of female RAC technicians in the region. The national ozone officer has discussed the matter of greater recognition of these women nationally with the Jamaica Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Association (JARVA) which, through strident efforts made by the National Ozone Unit (NOU), has re-emerged from a state of dormancy, common to sector industry associations in the region.

**9. Issues raised that Jamaica needs to address in a policy**

The matter of ODS and Fluorinated gas (F-gas) waste disposal/destruction needs to be addressed. Refrigerant recovery and recycling facilities are insufficient on their own to comprehensively manage this category of waste. Quantification of ODS banks and F-gas waste must precede the destruction process to determine if it will be economically viable. If a cement kiln is determined to be the chosen facility, it must be retrofitted to ensure it complies with Montreal Protocol emission standards (greater than 99% emission free) and comply with the necessary local permitting and licencing regime.

**10. The follow up that needs to be made after the meeting/workshop/forum etc.**

- Continue engagement with the Montreal Protocol Focal Point in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation regarding the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- Development and execution of an ODS bank and F-gas waste survey.

**11. Outcomes of the trip**

After discussions with the OS, Jamaica made a commitment to advance the progress made towards the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**

**APPENDIX I: PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY**



**Plate 1: Joint Network meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers**



**Plate 2: Vivian Blake, National Ozone Officer, Jamaica**



**Plate 3: Seat assigned to Jamaica**

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**



**Plate 4: James Curlin, Head of Branch, UNEP OzonAction**



**Plate 5: Donnalyn Charles, Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator-Caribbean**

Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023

Country	HPMP stage 2	Year of last tranche	ExCom approval	Extension/Completion
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	CANCELED	-
Bahamas	YES	2020	ExCom-88	June 2023
Barbados	YES	2020	ExCom-91	December 2023
Belize	YES	2020	ExCom-87	December 2022
Dominica	NO	2020	NO (ExCom-93 latest)	Extreme Delay
Grenada	YES	2020	ExCom-90	December 2023
Guyana (stage 1 up to 2030)	N/A	2021	NO	Delay
Haiti	NO	N/A	CANCELED	New Stage 2 PRP approved
Jamaica	YES	2020	ExCom-86	June 2022
Saint Kitts and Nevis	NO	2020	NO	P. Cancellation

Plate 6: Jamaica successfully closed HPMP Stage 1

Country	PRP funding approval	HPMP stage 2 agency (s)	ExCom approved	Next tranche
Antigua and Barbuda	ExCom-73	UNEP and UNIDO	NO	NO
Bahamas	ExCom-84	UNEP and UNIDO	ExCom-90	2025
Barbados	ExCom-86	UNEP and UNDP	ExCom-91	2025
Belize	ExCom-82	UNEP and UNDP	ExCom-87	2024
Dominica	NO	-	NO	NO
Grenada	ExCom-82	UNEP and UNIDO	ExCom-90	2025
Guyana Stage1 only	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Haiti	ExCom-91	UNDP	NO	N/a
Jamaica	ExCom-81	UNDP	ExCom-86	2024
Saint Kitts and Nevis	NO	-	NO	NO
Saint Lucia	ExCom-82	UNEP and UNIDO	ExCom-87	2024

Plate 7: HPMP Stage 2 approved for Jamaica

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**

Country	ExCom approval	2-years cycle	Comments
Antigua and Barbuda	ExCom-73 (2014)	NOT ExCom-77(2016)	Extreme delay
Bahamas	ExCom-90	ExCom-94	Progressing well
Barbados	ExCom-90	ExCom-94	Progressing well
Belize	ExCom-91	ExCom-95	Progressing well
Dominica	ExCom-81	NOT ExCom-85	Extreme delay
Grenada	ExCom-87	NOT ExCom-91	One meeting delay
Guyana	ExCom-84	NOT ExCom-88	Extreme delay
Haiti	ExCom-90	ExCom-94	Progressing well
Jamaica	ExCom-90	ExCom-94	Progressing well
Saint Kitts and Nevis	ExCom-90	ExCom-94	Progressing well
Saint Lucia	ExCom-86	NOT ExCom-90	Two meetings delay
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	ExCom-88	ExCom-92	To be done this ExCom
Suriname	ExCom-86	NOT ExCom-90	Two meetings delay
Trinidad and Tobago	ExCom-88	ExCom-92	To be done this ExCom

**Plate 8: IS Project is progressing well for Jamaica**

**Main important directions of the Decision - 91/63**

- Implementation period three years from the 92nd meeting onwards
- 38% Increase, with a minimum level of IS funding of US \$60,000 per year
- Initiate implementation of the KA and meet the first control measures, while continuing implementation of HPMPs
- The revised format for IS and the corresponding performance indicators (from 1st meeting in 2023)
- To prepare report on a use of the format in the second meeting in 2028 and a further review of IS projects in 2029
- To update the guide for preparation of IS renewal requests

**Plate 9: Approval given for an increase in IS funding. The IS phase is increased from two (2) to three (3) years**



**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**

**Plates 10-12: National Ozone Officers' recognition of upcoming retirement of Dr. Bankobeza, Ozone Secretariat**



**Plate 10: Photo with Jamaica**



**Plate 11: Gift presented by NOO, Trinidad and Tobago**



**Plate 12: Photograph collage of National Ozone Officers presented to Dr. Bankobeza**

**Joint Network Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean National Ozone Officers and (3) Thematic Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the English-Speaking Caribbean and Haiti, 20-24 March 2023**



**Plate 13: Field visit to Grupo Rey refrigeration facility on 21 March to observe a non-ODS cooling technology**



**Plate 14: Cultural evening hosted by the Government of Panama**