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of the Ozone Layer  
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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda of the preparatory segment\*

**Vienna Convention issues: status of the General Trust  
Fund for Financing Activities on Research and  
Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna  
Convention**

**General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and  
Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The present note provides information on the status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund). The note also sets out options for the way forward with regard to the operation of the Trust Fund for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention.

2. The objectives and activities of the Trust Fund on research and systematic observations are centrally relevant to the work of the Ozone Research Managers, not only to their mandate under the Vienna Convention but also to their domestic responsibilities. The status and activities of the Trust Fund were reviewed by the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at their ninth meeting held in Geneva from 14 to 16 May 2014. The Ozone Research Managers considered options for the way forward for the Trust Fund and provided their recommendations on the matter for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

**A. Establishment and institutional arrangements**

3. In accordance with the request made by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VI/2, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), established an extrabudgetary fund for receiving voluntary contributions from the parties and international organizations for the purpose of funding certain research and observation activities related to the Convention in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. By that same decision, the Secretariat was requested, among other things, to inform the parties of the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of related funds, with a specific proposal to meet the requirements identified in the decision.

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\* UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/1/Rev.1-UNEP/OzL.Pro.26/1/Rev.1.

4. The Ozone Secretariat and WMO agreed on a memorandum of understanding on the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of funds in the Trust Fund, which was presented to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting in 2008. The relevant paragraphs of the memorandum of understanding are contained in annex I to the present note. The parties requested UNEP and WMO to continue their cooperation with regard to the Trust Fund pursuant to the terms in that memorandum, on the understanding that that agreement could be changed as necessary to meet evolving needs and conditions.

5. The Trust Fund was initially established in February 2003 with a five-year term ending on 31 December 2007, and upon the request of the Conference of the Parties in its decision VII/2, UNEP extended the life of the Trust Fund to 31 December 2015. The UNEP Governing Council in 2007 approved the extension to continue supporting monitoring and research activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6. The Trust Fund will close at the end of 2015 unless the parties request UNEP, once again, to extend it. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the status of the Trust Fund and adopt a decision on the way forward, including on whether or not to extend its life beyond 2015.

## B. Contributions

7. Annual contributions to the Trust Fund since 2003, expenditures to date and the existing balance are shown in the table below. No new contributions have been received in 2014.

### General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation to the Vienna Convention: financial report as at 31 December 2013

(United States dollars)

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Total</i>
Andorra									5 557			5 557
Czech Republic				8 000		10 000						18 000
Estonia				2 000								2 000
Finland	5 700	6 138				7 776	6 603	6 050	7 190		5 498	44 955
France							29 600			5 020		34 620
Kazakhstan		1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	292	1 500			2 069	11 361
South Africa					30 000	30 000						60 000
Spain			6 306	6 035								12 341
Switzerland					20 677							20 677
United Kingdom		17 538				23 449						40 987
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5 700</b>	<b>25 176</b>	<b>7 806</b>	<b>17 535</b>	<b>52 177</b>	<b>72 725</b>	<b>36 495</b>	<b>7 550</b>	<b>12 747</b>	<b>5 020</b>	<b>7 567</b>	<b>250 498</b>
Interest income	16	431	911	2 757	5 494	7 326	4 686	1 597	1 844	1 082	765	26 908
Exchange gain/(loss)						196	2 989	7 013	(7 013)	(2 272)	(865)	48
<b>Total</b>												<b>26 956</b>
Less expenditures to date <sup>a</sup>		(16 950)		(18 193)			(74 580)		(66 105)			(175 828)
Rounding												(1)
<b>Balance available</b>												<b>101 626</b>

<sup>a</sup> The amounts include 13 per cent overhead programme support costs charged by UNEP.

## C. Activities and expenditure

### 1. Past activities

8. The first activity under the Trust Fund was the Dobson intercomparison in Dahab, Egypt, in 2004. Since then, four additional activities have been funded, the last of which was the workshop on data quality in the total ozone network held in the Czech Republic in February 2011. The activities are listed below. The reports on the activities have been sent to the parties for information purposes together with letters from the Ozone Secretariat inviting parties to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. Brief summaries of the same were included in the report by the Secretariat on the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (UNEP/OzL.Conv.9/5), which is available from <http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop23-cop9/pre-session-documents/default.aspx>.

**Activity 1:** Dobson intercomparison, Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004 (\$15,000)

**Activities 2 and 3:** calibration of Brewer instrument No. 116 in Bandung, Indonesia, 5–9 September 2006 and No. 176 in Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006 (\$16,100)

**Activity 4:** Dobson intercomparison, Irene, South Africa, 12–30 October and 15–26 November 2009 (\$66,000)

**Activity 5:** workshop on data quality in the total ozone network, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 14–18 February 2011(\$58,500)

### 2. Planned activities

9. The following projects are currently in the pipeline for financing by the Trust Fund:

(a) Late 2014:

- (i) Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, Russian Federation (\$20,000);
- (ii) Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway) to Sri Lanka (\$20,000);

(b) 2015:

- (i) Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia, hosted by the Japanese Meteorological Agency (\$50,000);
- (ii) Dobson intercomparison campaign for Africa, hosted by the South African Weather Service (\$50,000);
- (iii) Relocation of Dobson observation hatch from Arosa, Switzerland, to Nairobi (\$15,000);
- (iv) Training course on ozone measurements with the Brewer instrument in conjunction with a Brewer Users Group meeting, to be held in Thailand during April or May 2015 (approx. \$40,000 to cover the participation of a number of participants from developing countries);

(c) 2016: Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania, hosted by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (\$30,000).

### 3. Performance

10. The key points in relation to the performance and status of the Trust Fund can be summarized as follows:

(a) The financial contributions made to the Trust Fund from 2003 to 2013 (11-year period) total \$250,498 and the total income over the same period was \$277,454, taking into account the interest accrued and fluctuations in exchange rates;

(b) The total disbursement from the Trust Fund for the period 2003–2013 was \$175,828 for four activities on calibration and intercomparison of Brewer and Dobson instruments in nine countries as well as a data quality workshop (see paragraph 8 above). The instrument intercomparison and calibration activities have been essential to maintaining the calibration of nine Dobson instruments at each of the two Dobson intercomparisons as well as two Brewer instruments. The data quality workshop was attended by 34 participants from 22 countries, including 21 station data managers from 51 Dobson stations which represent about 70 per cent of the currently active Dobson stations of the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) network;

(c) Two activities to relocate existing instruments to the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka are at the stage of materializing, and several more intercomparisons as well as a training course on ozone measurements are planned.

(d) In the light of the above-mentioned activities, it could be said that the Trust Fund's operation and performance has been low key. However, the activities that have been undertaken have been effective and important, yielding positive results for the continuation and enhancement of global systematic observation. The lack of new activities since 2011 is due to the fact that it has taken time to repair and refurbish the Dobson instruments prior to their relocation.

#### **D. Way forward**

11. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the way forward for the Trust Fund and adopt a decision on whether to extend the life of the Trust Fund beyond 2015. As mentioned in paragraph 2, above, at their ninth meeting the Ozone Research Managers reviewed the status of the Trust Fund, considered the options in relation to the way forward for the Trust Fund as put forward jointly by the Ozone Secretariat and WMO and provided their recommendations on the matter for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. The options that were put forward are contained in annex II to the present document while the relevant recommendations of the Ozone Research Managers are reproduced below.

## **II. Recommendations on the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention**

12. At the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, there was a detailed discussion on the accomplishments and the future of the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for research and systematic observation. Although important activities, including calibrations, intercomparisons and a training course, have been implemented under the Trust Fund to date, and, despite the fact that these exercises have been useful and successful, the amount of funds in the Trust Fund is not sufficient to make substantial and sustainable improvements to the global ozone observing system. It was agreed that, rather than inviting the parties to contribute funds to the Trust Fund in a general and routine manner, it would be better to ask for support for well-defined and well-budgeted concrete activities, with clear explanations of their necessity, expected outcomes and benefits. There was agreement that such an approach will make it clear to the donors what the "return on the investment" will be, and help to raise more funds in the future.

13. It was proposed and agreed that WMO and the Ozone Secretariat should establish a steering committee for the Trust Fund. This steering committee should consist of members of the Scientific Assessment Panel, individual scientists with expertise in ozone observations and a representative of WMO and the Ozone Secretariat. This steering committee should develop a long-term strategy and implementation objectives and priorities. The objectives should be developed in the light of the four overarching goals (see UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/6). In addition to the long-term strategy, a short-term action plan is required that takes into account the most urgent needs of the global ozone observing system and which will make optimal use of the money currently in the Trust Fund.

### **A. Key recommendations arising from the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers**

#### **1. Long-term recommendations**

14. WMO and the Ozone Secretariat should establish a steering committee for the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for research and systematic observation. The committee will develop a long-term strategy, objectives and priorities for the Trust Fund as described above, and provide advice on the activities under the Trust Fund, including the development of proposals, prioritization and implementation.

#### **2. Short-term recommendations**

15. The following areas were identified as the priority objectives for the Trust Fund in the near future:

- (a) Capacity-building in developing countries;
- (b) Inter-calibration of instruments and training of instrument operators;
- (c) Increasing the number of ozone observations.

16. The specific projects that will be accorded priority for financing by the Trust Fund in the coming three years (2014–2016) are listed below. Their implementation and results will be reviewed at the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers. The costs given for the projects are approximate and amount to \$275,000. The funds currently available in the Trust Fund amount to \$101,626.

(United States dollars)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
Late-2014	Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, Russian Federation	20 000
	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitsbergen, Norway) to Sri Lanka	20 000
2015	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia, hosted by the Japanese Meteorological Agency	50 000
	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Africa, hosted by the South African Weather Service	50 000
	Relocation of Dobson observation hatch from Arosa, Switzerland, to Nairobi	15 000
	Training course on ozone measurements with the Brewer instrument in conjunction with a Brewer Users Group meeting, to be held in Thailand during April or May 2015. Cost approximately \$40,000 to cover the participation of a number of participants from developing countries. Approximately half of that amount can possibly be covered by funds from the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund	40 000
2016	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania, hosted by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology	30 000
	Dobson intercomparison campaign for South America, hosted by the National Meteorological Service of Argentina	50 000

## Annex I

### **Extracts from the memorandum of understanding between the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization on the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of funds under the Trust Fund on research and systematic observation**

#### **1. Background**

Decision VI/2 of the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to establish an extrabudgetary fund for receiving voluntary contribution from the Parties to the Vienna Convention and international organizations, for the purpose of financing activities on research and systematic observations relevant to the Vienna Convention, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Decision VI/2 is attached as Annex I.

In accordance with the decision, a Trust Fund for financing activities on research and systematic observations relevant to the Vienna Convention was established in February 2003, based on the Terms of Reference for the administration of the Fund that was approved by UNEP. The Terms of Reference is attached as Annex II.

Paragraph 4 of Decision VI/2 states that the primary purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide complementary support for the continued maintenance and calibration of the existing World Meteorological Organization Global Atmospheric Watch (WMO/GAW) ground-based stations for monitoring column ozone, ozone profiles and ultra-violet radiation in the developing countries and in the countries with economies in transition (CEITs), to address balanced global coverage. It further states that consideration is to be also given to supporting other activities identified by the Ozone Research Managers and in consultation with the co-chairs of the United Nations Environment Programme Scientific Assessment and Environmental Effects Assessment Panels for the improvement of the observation network and relevant research. The Terms of Reference, under the section on Administration, sets out the general institutional arrangements for the administration and management of the Fund.

Paragraph 5 of Decision VI/2 requested the Secretariat, in consultation with WMO, to advise the Parties of the institutional arrangements for making decisions on allocation of funds, with a specific proposal to meet the requirements identified in paragraph 4 of the Decision and to provide an annual report.

The first letter to the Parties inviting governments to contribute towards the Trust Fund was sent by the Ozone Secretariat in March 2003.

This MOU sets out the institutional arrangements between the Ozone Secretariat of UNEP and WMO on the allocation of funds under the Trust Fund. The MOU or its content will be communicated to the Parties in order to fulfill the requirement of paragraph 5 of the Decision.

#### **2. Procedures including for allocation of funds**

##### **Contributions**

- 2.1 Every year by letter, and at other appropriate times such as during ozone layer related meetings, the Ozone Secretariat shall invite the Parties to contribute towards the Trust Fund. The Ozone Secretariat shall inform WMO regularly of the contributions received to the Trust Fund.

##### **WMO/GAW Activities**

- 2.2 WMO shall submit to the Ozone Secretariat project proposals for fulfilling the objective as stated in the first part of paragraph 4 of Decision VI/2, namely, “for the continued maintenance and calibration of the existing World Meteorological Organization Global Atmospheric Watch (WMO/GAW) ground-based stations for monitoring column ozone, ozone profiles and ultra-violet radiation in the developing countries and in the countries with economies in transition (CEITs), to address balanced global coverage”. Such projects will be hereafter be referred to as M&C Projects (Maintenance and Calibration Projects). In preparing the project proposals, WMO will ensure that relevant developments and requirements within other conventions are

taken into account to avoid duplication of effort. The proposals will be considered by the Ozone Secretariat.

- 2.3 Through consultations between the Ozone Secretariat and WMO, decisions will be made on the eligibility of the ideas or proposals for funding under the Trust Fund. WMO and UNEP shall develop and sign either a memorandum of understanding or a project document, as appropriate, for the implementation of each agreed activity.

#### **Other Activities of the Ozone Research Managers**

- 2.4 After six M&C Projects have been funded on the maintenance and calibration of the existing WMO/GAW ground-based stations, the Ozone Secretariat shall invite the Parties operating under Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol as well as Parties that are countries with economies in transition, to submit project proposals for research and monitoring for possible funding under the Trust Fund. Such projects will hereafter be referred to as R&M Projects (Research and Monitoring Projects). The communication to a relevant Party shall be sent through its official channel of communication with a copy to the participant of the relevant Party at the most recent meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention. The invitation to submit project proposals should also be posted on the web sites of WMO/GAW and UNEP.
- 2.5 The R&M Project proposals from the Parties should be in line with the national activities reported at the most recent meeting of the Ozone Research Managers and with the recommendations of the same meeting.
- 2.6 When the R&M Project proposals are received from Parties, the Ozone Secretariat and WMO, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Assessment Panel and the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, shall select and prioritize an appropriate number of proposals for funding under the Trust Fund.
- (a) The criteria for the selection and prioritization shall be the value that the R&M Project adds to meeting the needs identified by, and recommendations of, the most recent meeting of the Ozone Research Managers.
- (b) The number of R&M Projects to be selected shall depend on the level of funds required to implement them. The total amount of funds to be allocated for the R&M Projects must not exceed the amount of funds used for the six M&C Projects for WMO/GAW ground based stations.
- 2.7 For each selected R&M Project proposal, the Ozone Secretariat and WMO shall agree on which organization will negotiate with the relevant Party for further development and finalization of the project proposal. In accordance with that agreement either the Ozone Secretariat or WMO shall work with the relevant Parties to finalize the project proposal. Depending on the subject area of the proposal, either the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Assessment Panel or the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel will be consulted in the process of its finalization.
- 2.8 The finalized R&M Project proposal shall then be signed by the Party and the Ozone Secretariat, as well as other partners if appropriate, and be implemented in the order of priority set in accordance with paragraph 2.6 above and as funds become available in the Trust Fund.
- 2.9 After the implementation is started on the last of the selected R&M Projects, the consideration and funding of the WMO/GAW activities as set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above shall be repeated, followed by the consideration and funding of the next set of activities of the Ozone Research Managers set out in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.8 above. The cycle will continue to be repeated.

### **3. Reporting on the activities under the trust fund**

- 3.1 As required under paragraph 5 of Decision VI/2, a report will be prepared annually on the status of contribution to the Trust Fund and its activities. The annual reports will be prepared jointly by the Ozone Secretariat and WMO.
- 3.2 The annual reports shall be prepared as an information note to the annual meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in order to ensure good visibility of the reports. The information note will be sent to all the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention.

- 3.3 In addition to the annual reports, special reports shall be prepared for the meetings of the Ozone Research Managers that are organized every three years. The special reports shall also be prepared jointly by the Ozone Secretariat and WMO.

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## Annex II

### Options for the way forward

A number of options are conceivable for the way forward. The main options are to continue the Trust Fund and its operation on a business-as-usual basis, to continue the Trust Fund with some changes in its operation and to close down the Trust Fund. The options are described further below:

**Option 1.** To continue the Trust Fund up to and beyond 2015 on a business-as-usual basis, i.e., the Secretariat invites contributions to the Trust Fund annually, parties contribute when possible and activities are selected for funding in accordance with the existing memorandum of understanding between the Ozone Secretariat and WMO on the allocation of funds (see annex I), implemented and reported to the parties as appropriate.

**Option 2.** To continue the Trust Fund up to and beyond 2015 with some changes in its operation. Possible changes to its operation could include:

(a) Using the funds for simply funding the participation of experts from parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 (Article 5 parties) in various international meetings relevant to systematic observation and research or for fellowships. Appropriate international meetings will be identified by WMO and the Ozone Secretariat. Experts from Article 5 parties will apply for funding, and the selection will be made by the Ozone Secretariat and WMO together, taking into account the needs of the countries applying for funding, geographical balance and international needs and perspective;

(b) Adjusting the procedure so that once the proposals for projects and activities have been developed, invitations are sent to the parties to consider contributing funds towards those specific proposals;

(c) The involvement of another organization to work as a partner in carrying out the specific tasks of identifying co-financiers and fundraising; and designing activities and projects (or identifying existing ones) to which the Trust Fund could contribute for significant benefits to systematic observation and research. An appropriate process for the identification and selection of organizations will need to be agreed upon by the parties.

**Option 3.** To terminate the Trust Fund at the end of 2015, but continue with business-as-usual operations until then. The parties to the Vienna Convention will need to decide on how the balance remaining in the Trust Fund at the end of 2015 will be utilized.