

# JOURNEY TOWARDS PHASING OUT HCFCs – DUAL BENEFITS

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Montreal protocol is the most successful environmental agreement in which Maldives has achieved many things. Maldives is actively involved in meeting the obligations of the Montreal protocol and it is one of the first countries to phase-out CFC consumption two years earlier, in 2008, than the target phase-out date set by the Montreal protocol, 1st January 2010. With this achievement Maldives has embarked on its journey towards phasing out HCFCs, 10 years earlier to original dates set by the 19th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol.



The HPMP (HCFC Phase-out Management Plan) of Maldives was the very first HPMP prepared and submitted by UNEP and approved by the Executive Committee at its 60th meeting. The HCFC phase-out strategy of Maldives is linked with the carbon neutrality policy of the country. Hence, the country is committed to phase-out HCFC consumption by 2020. This HPMP alone will reduce the emissions of the Maldives by the equivalent of 130 million tons of carbon dioxide which is estimated to be 20% of total carbon emissions of Maldives that is equivalent of 26 million cars taking off the road for a year. Therefore, this plan not only contributes to Ozone layer protection but also global warming reduction.

The task ahead is more challenging than the phasing out of CFCs. Maldives has now started its journey towards achieving the new target. On 09th June 2010 a preparatory stakeholder workshop on HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Implementation Initiation was held to discuss and identify roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders involved in HPMP. This workshop was conducted by UNEP and UNDP. The purpose of this workshop was to establish a measure to fast track implementation of HPMP, get the commitments from the industries and stakeholders and prepare a draft action plan to submit to the high-level roundtable meeting which was held on the following day.

The workshop was attended by the National Ozone Unit (NOU), Air-conditioning and refrigeration servicing technicians from servicing workshops, tourism, fisheries and food processing sector, HCFC and HCFC based equipment importers, distributors, Maldives Customs Services, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Ministry of Tourism, Maldives Polytechnic Climate Change department, Maldives Energy Authority, UNEP, UNDP and Bureau of Energy of Efficiency.



Back to back with the stakeholders workshop a half day media capacity building workshop was held for the representatives of the local media, including news papers, TV and radio stations. A total of thirteen participants took part in this workshop which was conducted by the Regional Co-ordinator of UNEP/ROAP Mr. Atul Bagai, Chief Editor of The Nepali Times Mr. Kunda Dixit and Director/CEO of TVE Asia Pacific Mr. Nalaka Gunawardene. This workshop covered a large variety of topics related to fundamentals of ozone depletion and climate change and their linkages. It also screened number of films and other visual media related photos, stories and articles.

A High Level Round Table Dialogue on HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) and its contribution to carbon neutrality in Maldives was held at the Bandos Island Resort and Spa on 10th June 2010. Government officials, ministers, deputy ministers, foreign dignitaries resident in Male' participated in the high-level roundtable dialogue.

Two agreements were signed for the disbursement of the first tranche of the HPMP; an MOU signed between UNDP and the Government of Maldives, and the funding agreement (SSFA) signed between UNEP and the Government of Maldives. The High Level Roundtable Meeting was very successful in receiving the commitments from the relevant organizations.

To speed up the implementation of the HPMP, President has formulated a Steering Committee in coordinating the implementation of the HPMP.

This year as we mark the ozone day we have lot to accomplish, a lot to look forward to and a whole new set of goals to reach towards. The national ozone unit marks this year's ozone day very colourfully with several events planned to take place.