



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2 April 2006**

**Subject:** Joint UNEP - GTZ mission to Afghanistan to support the formulation of a work plan for the National Phase Out Plan of Ozone Depleting Substances for Afghanistan, 26- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, Kabul – Afghanistan

A joint mission composed of delegates from the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (UNEP ROAP) – Compliance Assistance Programme and the GTZ – Proklima, Government of Germany was in Kabul from 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> March to support the National Ozone Unit (NOU) to work out its 2-year-activity plan for phasing out the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in Afghanistan.

UNEP ROAP and GTZ – Proklima assisted the Government of Afghanistan in the formulation of the project proposal for Afghanistan's Country Programme/ National ODS Phase Out Plan, which was submitted to the 47th Executive Committee meeting of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, in November 2005. Afghanistan's proposal was approved and a total of 1,065,806 USD for a period of four years (Excom Decision, 47/40) were granted, to be used to phase out 179 ODP<sup>1</sup> tonnes of Ozone Depleting Substances in Afghanistan.

The delegation was hosted by the National Ozone Unit and the UNEP PCoB – Kabul office. The following approved projects were reviewed and draft work plans prepared:

- Institutional Strengthening Project for operation of the National Ozone Unit
- Establishment of a Project Management Unit with in NOU
- Good Practices in Refrigeration (Train-the-Trainers programme followed by training programmes to be delivered by the trained trainers)
- Customs Training Programme (300 custom officers will be trained and 20 ODS identifier will be supplied to the Custom Department)
- Umbrella Foam Project
- Recovery and Recycling (Provision of technical assistance and equipment to approximately 150 Refrigeration Workshops in Afghanistan)
- CTC<sup>2</sup> Phase Out Plan

The delegation also met with stakeholders such as the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Finance and the Director General of the General Directorate of Customs.

Field visits to the Korean Vocational Training Centre and refrigeration workshops were also facilitated.

<sup>1</sup> ODP: Ozone Depleting Potential

<sup>2</sup> CTC: Carbon Tetra-Chloride

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست



د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت  
د چاپیریال ساتنې ملی اداره

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency

.....

Afghanistan ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer along with all 4 amendments on 17th June 2004. The National Ozone Unit was established in September 2004 and is working to fulfill the Afghanistan's requirements under the convention and its protocol.

**For further information and interviews, please contact:**

Zahid Ullah Hamdard  
Ozone Officer  
National Ozone Unit (NOU)  
National Environmental Protection Agency  
(NEPA)  
Darul Aman Road,  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel: +93(0)79 565 458  
Email: zahidhamdard1@yahoo.co.in