

Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Phase-out in China

Solvent Sector Plan for ODS Phase out in China

The Challenge

The man-made chemicals were rising into the stratosphere and damaging the earth's shield against ultraviolet radiation, the ozone layer. Increased ultraviolet radiation levels lead to higher rates of skin cancer, damage to people's immune system and diminished productivity of food crops.

Since 1987, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its subsequent Amendments has sought to reverse past damage done to the ozone layer through international agreement and efforts to eliminate the use of damaging man-made chemicals. As of November 2006, 191 countries have ratified the Montreal Protocol, which sets out the time schedule to eliminate the consumption and production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), as well as other ozone depleting substances including halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and methyl bromide.

In 1997, the solvent sector in China accounted for about 11,500 tons of ODS or 16% of the country's total ODS consumption. However the large number of primarily small consumers of 2,200 enterprises accounted for an estimated 40-50% of the total number of ODS-consuming enterprises.

The Response

To address the key issues of ODS phase-out, in March 2000, UNDP worked with Chinese authorities to adopt a multi-year Solvent Sector Phase-Out Plan to develop viable alternatives for cleaning processes where ozone depleting solvents were used, and to provide companies with new cleaning equipment. Technical assistance activities, training programmes, institutional strengthening activities in local government and public awareness campaigns etc. were developed to support the introduction of alternative cleaning processes and ozone-friendly substances. The project, "Solvent Sector Plan for ODS Phase out in China", initiated in June 2000, is at a total cost of \$52 million supported by the Multilateral Fund (MLF) to phase out the consumption of carbon tetrachloride (CTC), trichlorotrifluoroethane (CFC-113) and 1,1,1 trichloroethane (TCA), used as cleaning solvents by 1 January of 2004, 2006 and 2010 respectively

The Solvent Sector Phase-out Plan is performance-base, with funding to be released by the MLF in annual installments based on satisfactory verification that China has achieved agreed annual phase-out targets and consumption control limits. The project will develop strategic plans and innovative solutions to address the phase out by assisting approximately 2,200 Chinese enterprises in converting their industrial cleaning processes to ozone friendly alternatives.

The phase out in the solvent sector will follow a phased approach, first addressing phase out in large and medium users, then gradually including phase out of small users. The project will provide eligible Ozone Depleting solvent consumers with equipment and alternative cleaning technologies. It will assist in building technical and managerial capacity to ensure an efficient and timely phase out at the national level. Implementation mechanisms such as policy and regulatory framework, management information system, alternative technology support system will be enhanced and local development and production of alternative solvents will be encouraged. Through the "Ozone Friendly Cities" programme, it will facilitate the early phase out of ODS at provincial and city level all over China.

At A Glance

Project Phase: 2000-2010
Implementing Partner: State Environmental Protection Administration
Project ID: 00012117

UNDAF: Outcome 9 - Key UN conventions promoted through improved capacity to fulfill their obligations
MDG: Goal 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability

MLF Funding: US\$52,000,000

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