

## Annual Performance Report 2021 - National Ozone Unit

### Project on Implementation of Montreal Protocol Obligations in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka had ratified the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and subsequently in 1989, ratified the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment serves as the National Focal Point to the Montreal Protocol which significantly contributes to the global effort of eliminating the use of ozone depleting substances. Accordingly, National Ozone Unit takes necessary actions to completely ban the importation or exportation of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) series of chemicals by 1 January 2030.

Sri Lanka has also ratified the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol in 2016. Hence, the country is committed to control and subsequently reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) series of chemicals that contribute to global warming. Accordingly, licenses will be issued under a quota system to control importation of HFCs from the year 2024.

Use of HCFCs and HFCs will be controlled, phased out and phased down. Novel and eco-friendly technologies will be systematically introduced to the air conditioning and refrigeration (RAC) industry to prevent damages to the environment. The main objective is to ensure the sustainability of the local RAC industry by eliminating the use of ozone depleting substances while reducing the use of refrigerants with high global warming potential.

The major actions taken by the National Ozone Unit in 2021 to contribute towards the global efforts of restoring the ozone layer and reducing global warming are as follows:

- The Project Steering Committee established to strengthen the coordination of relevant stakeholders to implement the Montreal Protocol regulations in Sri Lanka met on 28 May 2021. The committee agreed on a number of enforcement policy decisions in line with the goals of the Montreal Protocol.

- HCFCs Import Quota Distribution Mechanism (operation mechanism for the control of ozone depleting substances) was successfully implemented for the year 2021 and quota worth of 156.059 MT was distributed among 16 eligible institutions. Based on the recommendation of the National Ozone Unit, Department of Imports and Exports Control issued Import Control Licenses (ICL).
- Country consumption data on ozone depleting substances and alternative chemicals have to be reported annually to the Ozone Secretariat and the Multilateral Fund. It is a mandatory requirement under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. Accordingly, country consumption report 2020 on ozone depleting substances and alternative chemical substances was submitted on 23 September 2021.
- NVQ certification for “Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)” method for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) sector was initiated by the National Ozone Unit. This was supported by the National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA). Technicians who were not certified and had formal training in RAC field were standardized and properly trained. Thirty six (36) technicians were issued with RPL certificates during the year 2021.

The trilingual advertisement aimed at encouraging RPL for RAC sector was widely publicized on social media, newspapers and websites and the National Ozone Unit received a highly favorable response.

- Refrigerants which are impact to the ozone layer and effect to the global warming are being gradually phased out from refrigeration and air conditioning sector and alternative refrigerants are commend to use in globally. Therefore, these alternative refrigerants are flammable and toxic and as a result international standards have already been introduced. In this context, its' essential to formulate Sri Lanka Standards (SLS)

appropriately. To initiate this, technical committee were appointed to review the existing SLS and commence the initial work of standardization process.

- Equipment and tools were distributed to vocational training institutes located in Monaragala, Mirijjawila, Henakaduwa, Palpotta, Beliatta, and Kilinochchi and Ceylon German Technical and Training Institutes located in Kilinochchi for strengthening the capacity of trainees engaged in RAC field and in relation to proper handling of tools and equipment.
- Refrigerants are being used in food safety and health, commercial, fisheries, livestock, tourism, medicines, food processing, transport, cold rooms etc for cooling purposes. National Cooling Policy are developed to ensure sustainable cooling in country specific sectors while increasing the energy efficiency minimizing the impact of refrigeration and air conditioning when phasing out the refrigerant used.
- National Cooling Action Plan is a strategic plan which provides a multi-stakeholder consultative process that addresses cooling demand and energy efficiency improvements in Sri Lanka linking all relevant sectors and this report was completed and finalized.
- Incentive payment scheme was implemented to procure 46 numbers of air conditioning units containing eco-friendly refrigerants to replace existing air conditioning units working on ozone depleting substances installed in government and semi government institutions.
- Considering the situation of COVID-19, National Ceremony on World Ozone Day was organized on 16 September 2021 virtually under the theme of ***“Montreal Protocol: Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool”***. This event was held under the distinguished patronage of Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment with the participation of Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, distinguished guests and stakeholders.

- National Ozone Unit in collaboration with Central Environment Authority capacitated 24 environment officers as Ozone Trainers who are interested in dissemination of knowledge on ensuring sustainability of ozone layer protection. Further, training workshops were conducted for RAC trainers and instructors and students of RAC sector who attached to the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TEVT) sector on proper handling of refrigerant while engaging the activities of servicing and maintenance in RAC sector and implementing novel technology, trends and methodologies.