

Government of the Gambia



The Ozone programme background information



Background information

The Ozone programme was set up in the Gambia in 1997 with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of projects and programmes in a view to protecting and preserving the Ozone Layer with reference to the Montreal Protocol, a universally agreed international environment treaty.

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The Ozone Layer is a protective shield up in the stratosphere that absorbs the harmful Ultraviolet B Radiation which can cause various negative effects on human health and the environment. The Ozone Layer can be destroyed by man-made chemicals or refrigerants called Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The importation and consumption of ODS is regulated by the Ozone Depleting Substances regulations which was gazetted in 1999.

Mandate

- ❖ Partake in decision making by Government and the National Environment Agency management on issues related to the protection and preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- ❖ Assist in the formulation and updating of Ozone related issues.
- ❖ Coordinate and arrange stakeholder meetings.

- ❖ Ensure a sustainable financial mechanism by reporting on time and, observing compliant procedures as enshrined in the Montreal protocol and its amendments.
- ❖ Participate in local and international meetings to discuss progress, challenges and the way forward in the implementation of Ozone related programmes and activities.

Goal of the Ozone Program

The ultimate goal of the Ozone programme is to protect and preserve the Ozone Layer by educating the general public and enforcing the ODS Regulations.

Coordination of the Ozone programme

The Ozone programme is responsible of coordinating the activities and programmes related to the protection and preservation of the Ozone Layer as enshrined in the Montreal Protocol. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) is assisted in the implementation of its activities by a Technical Working Group (TWG) that comprises a cross section of stakeholders. The stakeholders include refrigeration and air conditioning technicians, custom officers and representatives from various institutions.

The Need for the Ozone Programme

The Ozone programme is necessary to protect and preserve the Ozone Layer which is an important resource protecting life on earth from Ultraviolet B Radiation. It also creates awareness on the dangers associated with the depletion of the Ozone Layer and how to handle flammable refrigerants.

Key Activities

- ❖ Training of refrigeration and air conditioning technicians on how to retrofit and, handle toxic and flammable refrigerants.
- ❖ Training of customs and other security officers on the identification of Ozone Depleting and Ozone friendly Substances.
- ❖ Yearly data collection, compilation and reporting to the Ozone Secretariat.
- ❖ Monitoring the importation and consumption of ODS.

The Ozone Technical Working Group Members

National Environment Agency

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Tropical ice plant

Gambia Standards Bureau

Refrigeration and air conditioning technicians associations

MFH Group

Representative from Importers

Gambia Revenue Authority

Gambia Technical Training Institute

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