

The Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance and the MLF funding window for inventories and national action plans on banks of used or unwanted controlled substances – Brief for Article 5 countries

Sustainable refrigerant management offers enormous potential for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation. Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) contained in cooling appliances need to be properly recovered, collected, reclaimed or destroyed. This also includes proper maintenance of cooling appliances in the first place to avoid leakages during operation. However, due to a lack of appropriate political and regulatory frameworks, financial mechanisms, skilled technicians as well as infrastructure, the refrigerants already contained in cooling equipment often remain left behind. Each year, approximately 1.5 Gt CO₂-eq are released from improperly managed or disposed refrigerants.

The Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA) works jointly with countries and relevant stakeholders across the private and public sectors to accelerate the mitigation actions urgently needed to address accumulated banks of ODS and HFCs. Initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and funded as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), COPA is jointly implemented by GIZ, UNIDO and UNDP.

This briefing paper provides an overview of COPA support for partner countries to complement activities on ODS and HFC bank management financed by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF). ExCom decision 91/66

[ExCom decision 91/66](#)

In their 91st Meeting in December 2022, the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the MLF decided to establish a funding window for activities on banks of used or unwanted controlled substances ([Decision 91/66](#)).

The funding window will be open to requests from Article 5 countries for (1) the preparation of a national inventory of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and (2) the development of a national action plan for the collection, transport, and disposal, including consideration of recycling, reclamation, and cost-effective destruction. Projects to be funded can be submitted between the 93rd and 97th Meeting of the ExCom, (taking place between December 2023 and December 2025) for a project duration of 24 months. Funding levels range from 70,000 US \$ to 100,000 US \$, depending on the HCFC baseline of countries. Thus, the finalization of those activities is expected between December 2025 and December 2027.

COPA's synergies with the MLF funded action

COPA welcomes the decision of the ExCom to support countries in conducting inventories and developing national plans for managing and disposing of banks of ODS and HFCs. The decision is an important step towards improved framework conditions for the sustainable management of ODS and HFC banks in the medium term. However, there is a **need for complementary implementation measures as well as mobilization of additional funds to bring action plans into practice**. As the window of opportunity for climate action is closing, the time to step up mitigation action on ODS and HFC banks is now.

The Alliance aims to support ozone and climate action in a synergetic and cost-effective manner. COPA primarily supports partner countries which are eligible to receive official development assistance ([ODA](#)), through funding and technical support to enact mitigation measures. COPA services for partner countries include:

1. Provide a standard methodology for inventories and national action plans
2. Complement national inventories with status quo analyses in selected urban areas
3. Support mitigation project design based on inventories and status-quo analyses
4. Support mobilizing finance for collection, reclamation and destruction activities.

Standard methodology for inventories and national action plans

COPA **developed a standard and tested methodology** to enhance harmonization of national inventories and action plan developments. The methodology includes guidelines for:

- a. conducting an inventory of ODS and HFC banks, including guidance for policy analysis
- b. developing a national action plan.

In parallel, COPA is developing a registry to compile globally available data on ODS and HFC banks and mitigation potentials, which will be accessible on the COPA website. The aim is to raise awareness and to provide the necessary evidence base to incentivize mitigation actions on ODS and HFC banks.

Status quo analyses in selected urban areas

Through status quo analyses in selected urban areas, COPA supports partner countries in identifying areas and subsectors in the country with high amounts of ODS and HFC banks. A status quo analysis includes a stakeholder analysis, policy analysis, and the identification of amounts and location of ODS and HFC banks per subsector and their mitigation potential. Complementing the MLF support by taking this localized approach, COPA will support local governments in developing sustainable refrigerant management mechanisms. Status quo analyses conducted by COPA will complement national inventories developed under the MLF funding window with an in-depth study of the selected urban area and aim to accelerate the preparation of concrete mitigation actions with high mitigation potential.

Mitigation project design

COPA assists in deriving concrete mitigation actions from the status quo analyses and inventories. Mitigation measures supported by COPA include designing and implementing effective policies as well as technical support in **setting up a collection, transportation, and destruction or reclamation infrastructure**. COPA activities encompass the entire lifecycle of refrigerants, including **leakage prevention** during operation.

Mobilizing finance and implementation

COPA supports estimation of the financing scope of respective mitigation actions and identification of suitable financing instruments. COPA provides technical assistance to countries for the application to international climate finance and for mobilizing greater funds to implement mitigation actions and reduce emissions from ODS and HFC banks in the long term.

Join our Alliance to combat leaks from ODS and HFC banks!

All countries and organisations willing to join forces in the global shift towards sustainable refrigerant management are invited [to become members of COPA](#).