

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER, LIBERIA

2020

A SUMMARY REPORT

Liberia on 16th September 2020 Joined countries around the world to celebrate International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Under the Global Theme “Ozone for life” Which is accompanied by the “Tagline 35 years of ozone layer protection”

In Liberia, the celebration of the day was carried out in two parts with the first part being held in Monrovia, Montserrado County on 15th September with the following activities being carried out: discussions held on Radio (FM 104.5) located in Logan Town. The radio talk show was intended to create public awareness as related to the purpose for which we celebrate the day each year. Also, on the 15th, three radio stations, including ECOWAS, Liberia Broadcasting System (ELBS) and Truth FM aired the U.N. Secretary’s General Message as part of celebration of the day.

The second part of ozone day celebration was held in Gompa City, Nimba County, at the Ganta United Methodist Gymnasium, under the theme “YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN OZONE DAY 2020” where the celebration of ozone day was blended with the Youth Dialogue on the revision of Liberia’s Nationally Determined Contribution Review program involving youths from the fifteen counties of the country. At this program, which was attended by government officials of Nimba County as well staff of the Environmental Protection Agency, UNDP and Conservation International (CI), the Ozone Officer, Mr. Sete F. Marshall, made a brief presentation on Ozone Day celebration. The U.N. Secretary’s General Message was also read at the program. Following the Gompa Program, three local youth groups requested the Ozone Officer to find time to visit each of them for further education on ozone layer depletion issues.

In an effort to create the necessary ozone day awareness, the Ozone Unit printed Four hundred sets each of awareness T- Shirts and caps as well awareness brochures. These items were distributed to various stakeholders, including youth in Gompa City, EPA staff, importers, and other partners.

Please find below photos items and photo from the celebration:



Awareness T-Shirt and Cap for Ozone Day 2020



A cross section of youths at program held at the Ganta United Methodist Gymnasium

Brief History:

On 15 October 2016, the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, and reached an agreement at their 28th Meeting to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), non-ozone depleting, but global warming chemicals used in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector.

Purpose of Kigali Amendment:

The Kigali amendment to the Protocol was adopted to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs, which are frequently used as substitutes for ozone depleting substances (ODS).

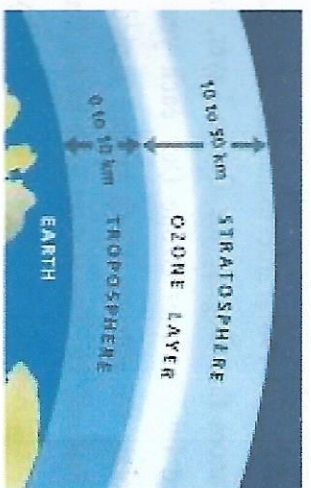
Ratification of Kigali Amendment:

Liberia became the 100th country to ratify the Kigali Amendment on 15th June 2020. To date, 101 countries have ratified the Kigali Amendment.

Benefits of Ratifying Kigali Amendment

Ratification of the Kigali Amendment will Accrue the following benefits to Liberia:

- have access to financial and technical Support provided from the Multilateral Fund of the United Nations for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol;



National Ozone Unit
Environmental Protection
Agency Of Liberia

Theme:

PROTECT THE OZON
LAYER
CARE FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS

International Ozone Day

Since 16th September 1987, Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, have celebrated International Ozone Day each year to commemorate the date on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol. The Day was set aside by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 as international day for the protection of the ozone layer.

Liberia became a Party to the Vienna Convention and its off-spring, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, respectively on 1st January 1996, and has ratified all of the Amendments to the Protocol, including the Protocol itself. Liberia became the 100th country to Ratify the Kigali Amendment. To date, 101 countries have so far ratified the Kigali Amendment.

The 2020 International Ozone Day is celebrated under the theme: "Ozone for life" which is accompanied by the "Tagline 35 years of ozone layer protection".

As this year marks the 35th year of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the theme recognizes this milestone and highlights the Vienna Convention's role in bringing together science and policy makers.

The theme "Ozone for life" has two connotations - that we all need a healthy ozone layer to protect us and our environment, and the need to safeguard this for generations to come.

Ozone Layer Depletion

What is Ozone:

Ozone is a blanket of gas made up of three atoms of Oxygen and is written as O₃ as compared to the normal Oxygen we breathe which is written as O₂. Depending on where it is in the atmosphere, ozone affects life on earth in either good or bad ways.

What is Ozone Layer:

This is simply a layer in the stratosphere containing ozone gas. The ozone layer protects the earth from the sun (UV) Rays. If the ozone layer is depleted by human action, the effects on the planet could be catastrophic.

What is Ozone Layer Depletion:

Ozone layer depletion, is the wearing out (thinning) of the amount of ozone in the stratosphere.

Causes of Ozone Layer Depletion:

People and companies that make things like foam (Vono mattresses), solvents, soap, air-conditioners, ice boxes, freezers use chemicals called Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). When the chlorine atoms in these chemicals are let into the stratosphere, over time, they begin to wear away the earth's protective ozone layer.

Effects of Ozone Layer Depletion:

When the ozone layer is depleted, it negatively affects human, animals, Life in water (Marine eco-systems), agricultural production, construction materials, and others. Ozone layer depletion sometimes leads to cataracts of the skin, eye cataracts, among others.

What is the way forward for ozone layer depletion? The most effective ways to solve the problem of layer depletion include:

- Prohibition of the production and consumption of those chemicals that have the ability to deplete the ozone layer, such as refrigeration and air conditioning equipment that use chemicals containing CHLORINE.
- using of non-ozone depleting and non-flammable, but energy efficient items.
- spreading of the message of the effects of ozone layer depletion in our schools and communities and everywhere.

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