

Special Issue on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

16 September 2022

The World Ozone Day 2022 theme and tagline – Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth

On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

States are invited to devote the Day each year to promote, at the national level, activities in accordance with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

Please refer to the Ozone Day webpage in the OzonAction [website](#).

We thank you for your ongoing commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol and your excellent work in implementing your national strategies and projects.

OzonAction team wishes you a successful celebration!

Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth

In a human lifetime, the mid-thirties can be a time of reflection: to think about what we have achieved and look ahead to what more we can accomplish. It is no different for the Montreal Protocol to Protect the Ozone Layer, the most successful environmental treaty to date.



As the treaty turns 35 on World Ozone Day, we will remember how the Montreal Protocol ended one of the biggest threats ever to face humanity as a whole: the depletion of the ozone layer. When the world found out that ozone-depleting gases used in aerosols and cooling were creating a hole in the sky, they came together. They showed that multilateralism and effective global cooperation worked, and they phased out these gases. Now the ozone layer is healing, allowing it once again to shield humanity from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

This action has protected millions of people from skin cancer and cataracts over the years since. It allowed vital ecosystems to survive and thrive. It safeguarded life on Earth. And it slowed climate change: if ozone-depleting chemicals had not been banned, we would be looking at a global temperature rise of an additional 2.5°C by the end of this century. This would have been a catastrophe.

In the year of Stockholm+50, marking five decades since the landmark conference that kick-started today's environmental global movement, the Montreal Protocol has much more to give. Under the Kigali Amendment, nations have committed to phase down hydrofluorocarbons – a move that could avoid up to 0.4°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century. The Protocol and its Amendment are helping the world adopt climate friendly and energy-efficient cooling technology.

What does this mean for humanity? As we continue to protect the ozone layer, it will continue to safeguard us and all life on Earth. It also means a cooler planet as more countries ratify the Amendment. It means more people being able to access vital cooling technology without further warming the planet. It also means the Protocol continuing to send a clear and lasting message: global cooperation to protect life on Earth is our best chance at a brighter future for everyone.

[Learn more and access all the WOD 2022 related materials from the Ozone Secretariat, available in the six UN languages >>>](#)

Marking International Ozone Day, Secretary-General Says Montreal Protocol's Success Protecting Ozone Layer Powerful Example of Multilateralism in Action

Following is UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, observed 16 September:

Today, we celebrate 35 years of the Montreal Protocol's success in protecting the stratospheric ozone layer against synthetic chemicals that also cause climate heating. Thanks to a global agreement, humanity has averted a major health catastrophe due to ultraviolet radiation pouring through a massive hole in the ozone layer.

The Montreal Protocol is a success because, when science discovered the threat, we all faced, Governments and their partners acted. We adopted a global environmental agreement that has been universally ratified and decisively implemented.

The Montreal Protocol is a powerful example of multilateralism in action. With the many problems facing the world – from conflicts to growing poverty, deepening inequality and the climate emergency – it is a reminder that we can succeed in working together for the common good.

The Montreal Protocol has already contributed to tackling the climate crisis. By protecting plants from ultraviolet radiation, allowing them to live and store carbon, it has avoided up to an extra 1°C of global warming. The Protocol's work to phase out climate-heating gases and improve energy efficiency through its Kigali Amendment can further slow climate disruption.

But, only by mirroring the cooperation and speedy action of the Montreal Protocol elsewhere can we stop the carbon pollution that is dangerously heating our world. We have a choice: collective action or collective suicide.

On this International Day, let us pledge to emulate the cooperation shown by the Montreal Protocol to end the climate crisis and all our common challenges. And let us continue to back the Montreal Protocol's essential work.



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The United Nations, September 2022

Message from the UNEP Executive director for World Ozone Day 2022



Transcript of

Inger Andersen message for World Ozone Day 2022

As the Montreal Protocol turns 35 on World Ozone Day, we remember how this agreement protected humanity and the planet from Ultraviolet Radiation. When we found out that ozone-depleting gases used in refrigerators and spray-cans were creating a hole in the sky, the world came together. We showed that multilateralism and effective global cooperation worked. They phased out 99 per cent of these gases. Now the ozone layer is on a path to recovery.

By banning these chemicals, the protocol protected plants, and their capacity to store carbon, from UV damage. Without the protocol protecting Earth's carbon sink, we might have seen additional warming of nearly 1.0 degrees Celsius.

In the year that also marks five decades since the Stockholm conference, which kick-started today's global environmental movement, the Montreal Protocol has much more to give. Under the Kigali Amendment, nations have committed to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – a move that could avoid up to 0.4°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century.

Backing the amendment will also allow increased energy efficiency and an expansion of sustainable cooling. Such moves will reduce food waste and loss – increasing food security and further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But to deliver the full impact on climate and human wellbeing we need full ratification of the amendment. On this 35th anniversary, I urge the remaining parties to do the same.

As we celebrate World Ozone Day, let us remember that the treaty continues to take concrete action and inspire the other agreements that we must implement to overcome the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste.

As we look to solve the environmental challenges we face, the Montreal Protocol stands ready to provide more: continuing to protect all life on Earth, creating a cooler environment, and safeguarding biodiversity to help feed growing populations. And it sends a message that global cooperation is our best chance at a brighter future for everyone.

Video [link >>>](#)

Letter from the Head of UNEP OzonAction to National Ozone Officers for World Ozone Day 2022

Dear National Ozone Officers,

On the eve of World Ozone Day (WOD), 16 September, the celebratory day of the Montreal Protocol community, UNEP OzonAction is pleased to offer its congratulations to you and your team for the continuing excellent work to implement your national compliance strategy, including the policies, projects, capacity building and awareness activities approved under the Multilateral Fund. Your dedication and hard work demonstrate why the Montreal Protocol is considered by many to be such a great multilateral environmental success story: it continues to deliver on its promise in spite of challenges, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This success story starts at the national level. It is led by the National Ozone Units and includes the most important partners in civil society: other government agencies including customs, the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, the private sector, NGOs, and the general public. Partnership with these groups is absolutely essential for the success of the Montreal Protocol and for achieving broader socio-economic and environmental objectives, as noted in Sustainable Development Goal number 17.

This year's WOD theme reflects this concept: **Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth**. Through cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, we have collectively continued to deliver the Montreal Protocol commitments throughout a pandemic, with impressive results. Under the umbrella of the Montreal Protocol, and with a new emphasis inspired by the Kigali Amendment, we can use these partnerships to protect human health and the environment even more through parallel and inter-connected ozone protection and climate mitigation.

To assist you in organizing activities for WOD this year, we are pleased to provide you with the following Resources, which you can download from our website:

Five posters on the Kigali Amendment: OzonAction has developed five related posters for different target audiences, with the following slogans: 1. *Let's change this*; 2. *Make the right decision*; 3. *Let's continue working for our planet*; 4. *For an increasingly sustainable*



planet; and 5. **Keep them cool without warming the planet.** The posters are available in English, French, Russian and Spanish. The countries can translate the posters and add their logos to the editable files which are available from the OzonAction website.

Poster on Gender Mainstreaming in Montreal Protocol: OzonAction has developed a poster on gender mainstreaming which is available in English, French and Spanish.

Cooling keeps food fresh campaign: OzonAction has joined Chefs4thePlanet and Global Food Cold Chain Council to raise awareness of cooling technologies that reduce food loss and promote climate security. The campaign offers several resources including a special brochure, video messages and recipe cards of renowned chefs as well as a dedicated webpage with a platform for engagement by other interested chefs and the public. [The campaign material](#) are available in English, French and Spanish.

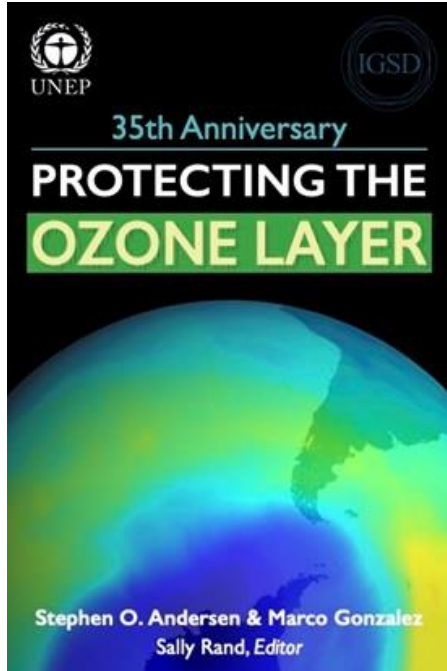
Beyond these resources, OzonAction also has a wide range of information and awareness-raising materials that could also be used for your national celebrations. Please visit the [Ozone Day webpage](#) on the OzonAction website for several examples.

We would appreciate to receive your country's WOD activities or reports for posting on our web site. Please send this information to your Network's Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator or directly to Ms. Jo Chona at jo.chona@un.org

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintaining compliance with the Montreal Protocol and your excellent work in implementing your national strategies and projects. On behalf of the entire OzonAction CAP team, I wish you great success in this year's WOD celebration!

Yours sincerely,
James S. Curlin
Head of OzonAction
UNEP Law Division

[The United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\), OzonAction, WOD 2022 special webpage.](#)



Protecting the Ozone Layer, 35th Anniversary – Book

16 September 2022 - In celebration of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Environment Program Ozone Secretariat announced the release of a new book celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. The book highlights the Montreal Protocol's successes and innovation during its first 35 years and inspires new ambition to strengthen the protection of stratospheric ozone as well as the climate before Earth passes dangerous tipping points that could cause irreversible and abrupt climate change.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, can rightfully **claim to be one of the most successful international treaties ever struck**. The treaty fulfilled its original objective by putting the **stratospheric ozone layer on the road to recovery**, but its effects have not stopped there: it has also done more than any other measure to date to combat climate change.

The Montreal Protocol has achieved all this through a united, indeed unanimous, world community. The Montreal Protocol is the first and only treaty ever to have been ratified by every nation on Earth.

The 35th-anniversary book by Dr. Stephen O Andersen, IGSD Director of Research and Former Co-Chair of the Technology and Economics Assessment Panel (1989–2012), and Marco Gonzalez, Former Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat (2002–2013), edited by Sally Rand, Former TEAP member and Foam Technical Options Committee Co-Chair (1993–1998) was written by an additional 56 co-authors and two dozen additional collaborators from 23 Parties, including 10 from Article 5 Parties.

Over 20 Chapters and 7 Appendixes, it tells the story of inspired treaty design based on new principles of precaution, start and strengthen, common but differentiated responsibility, finance of agreed incremental costs, and binding control measures backed up with trade measures.

The book will be released at a Side Event at the 34th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Montreal, Canada, on 31 October 2022.

See Previous Anniversary Books:

- **20th Anniversary:** Stephen O. Andersen, K. Madhava Sarma, & Kristen N. Taddonio (2007), *Technology Transfer for the Ozone Layer: Lessons for Climate Change*, Earthscan Press, London. (Official publication of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme).
- **20th Anniversary:** Donald Kaniaru (2007), *The Montreal Protocol: Celebrating 20 Years of Environmental Progress - Ozone Layer and Climate Protection*, Cameron May, London.
- **15th Anniversary:** Stephen O. Andersen and K. Madhava Sarma (2002), *Protecting the Ozone Layer: The United Nations History*. Earthscan Press, London. (Official publication of the United Nations Environment Programme).

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Prepared by: Samira Korban-de Gobert
Reviewed by: James S. Curlin

If you wish to submit articles, invite new subscribers, please contact:
Samira Korban-de Gobert, samira.degobert@un.org



UNEP, OzonAction · 1 rue Miollis · Bat. VII · Paris 75015 · France