



OZONACTION

World Ozone Day Report 2024 - Africa region

16 SEPTEMBER 2024



1. Introduction

World Ozone Day, observed annually on [September 16th](#), is a pivotal event aimed at raising awareness and catalyzing action to protect the ozone layer, our planet's protective shield. Since its inception following the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, this day has underscored the importance of global cooperation in combating ozone depletion and its harmful effects.

The theme for World Ozone Day this year, "[Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action](#)," highlights the continued success of the Montreal Protocol, which has not only steered the ozone layer towards recovery but also contributed significantly to the fight against climate change. The protocol's phase-out of ozone-depleting substances has preserved biodiversity, safeguarded human health, and protected ecosystems and economies worldwide.

World Ozone Day encourages individuals, communities, and governments to take action to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ozone layer and push forward with ambitious climate strategies. From reducing harmful emissions to improving energy efficiency in cooling systems, it is a day to renew our commitment to safeguarding the planet for future generations. Like World Environment Day, it reminds us that collective efforts can lead to significant environmental milestones, paving the way for a healthier, more resilient world together.

1.1 Background

World Ozone Day, officially known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the [Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987](#). This landmark agreement marked a historic moment in environmental diplomacy, bringing together nations to address the alarming depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer caused by harmful chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons.

The ozone layer, located in the Earth's stratosphere, acts as a critical shield that absorbs the majority of the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Its depletion posed serious threats, including an increase in skin cancers, cataracts, and damage to ecosystems, crops, and marine life. The scientific discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica in the 1980s spurred global action, leading to the creation of the Montreal Protocol. This agreement is widely regarded as one of the most successful environmental treaties, having achieved near-universal ratification by 198 countries.

Over the years, World Ozone Day has provided a platform to celebrate the achievements of the Montreal Protocol, which has phased out 99% of ozone-depleting substances. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of continued vigilance in environmental protection. Through the Kigali Amendment, adopted in 2016, the protocol expanded its scope to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, demonstrating the evolving nature of global efforts to protect both the ozone layer and the climate.

Each year, on September 16th, World Ozone Day is celebrated to reflect on these milestones and to promote further action toward protecting the ozone layer and advancing global climate goals.

Angola



1. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Angola

The Angola Ozone Unit celebrated World Ozone Day 2024 on September 16 with a series of initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the importance of ozone layer protection and promoting sustainable practices in refrigeration and air conditioning. As part of these activities, educational materials were distributed, including a [2025/2026 calendar](#) that highlighted key refrigerants from the HCFC and HFC families and important environmental dates. Additionally, children received school tables and notebooks containing information on ozone layer preservation, while T-shirts, caps, and blocks were shared with both children and adults to further spread the message.

The celebration extended to training programs, where [coveralls](#) were provided to participants during sessions on good refrigeration and air conditioning practices. One of the key highlights of the event was the [interaction with children from local homes](#), where they learned about the ozone layer's role in protecting the environment and received educational materials to enhance their understanding.

Further, the Angola Ozone Unit inaugurated a [Reference Laboratory](#), which focuses on teaching new [refrigeration and air conditioning techniques](#). This facility will train technicians in the safe handling of chlorinated, fluorinated, and natural refrigerants, ensuring that they use proper collection and recycling equipment to prevent harmful emissions into the atmosphere.

Through these initiatives, Angola reaffirmed its dedication to global efforts in combating climate change and preserving the ozone layer for future generations.

Benin



2. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Benin

On the occasion of the [37th International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#), Benin's Ministry of Living Environment and Transport organized a series of activities aimed at raising awareness and promoting best practices for ozone layer protection. These included awareness sessions for importers of refrigerants and cooling equipment on technical specifications and standards for low global warming potential equipment, as well as training for young students and apprentices in refrigeration and air conditioning.

A digital awareness campaign was also launched to enhance outreach. The official celebration featured an award ceremony recognizing outstanding female students and graduates in refrigeration and air conditioning for 2024. Additionally, on September 9 and 10, 2024, awareness sessions were conducted in [Dassa-Zoumè and Abomey](#), co-organized with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, which included opening ceremonies, presentations, discussions, and closing ceremonies to promote the adoption of eco-friendly technologies. These initiatives underscore Benin's commitment to protecting the ozone layer and advancing climate action through collective efforts and informed practices.



Botswana



3. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Botswana

The National Ozone Unit (NOU) of Botswana focused this year's World Ozone Day celebrations on empowering [high school students through debate competitions](#), aiming to raise awareness and cultivate environmental advocacy among the younger generation. The initiative sought to ensure that school-going children understand the importance of their role in preserving the Earth's atmosphere for future generations.

On September 14, 2024, a preliminary debate competition was held at Legae Academy in Gaborone, where ten senior schools participated, including Legae Academy, Seepapitso Senior School, Ledumang Senior School, Moshupa Senior School, Regent Hill International School, Naledi Senior School, Mogoditshane Senior School, St. Joseph's Senior School, Rainbow School, and Gaborone Senior School.

In conjunction with this, a selfie competition was launched on the [Departmental Facebook page](#), encouraging the public to post photos related to ozone depletion, accompanied by messages for the public using specific hashtags to raise awareness.

On September 16, 2024, the celebrations continued with a keynote speech from the Permanent Secretary, who emphasized the successes of the Montreal Protocol and encouraged students to engage in environmental studies and become future leaders in the fight against ozone depletion. The highlight of the day was a debate competition between the two best-performing schools from the preliminary event, Naledi Senior School and Mogoditshane Senior School, who debated the motion: "This House Should Ban Products That Harm the Ozone Layer." Naledi Senior School emerged as the winner, receiving a prize of P15,000. Mogoditshane Senior School secured second place with P10,000, while St. Joseph's Senior School took third place with P8,000.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony, where participants were celebrated for their efforts. Medals and hampers were distributed to the top-performing schools, with Naledi Senior School also receiving a trophy for the overall best speaker. A total of 150 hampers, containing eco-friendly bags, pens, water bottles, and educational pamphlets, were distributed to all participants, reinforcing the environmental message of the event.

Burkina Faso



4. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Burkina Faso

In celebration of the 37th International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (IDOP), Burkina Faso [launched a local campaign to monitor companies](#) involved in importing and marketing refrigerants and related equipment. The campaign also included inspections of maintenance workshops, with recognition awarded to the best [refrigeration and air conditioning workshop in Ouagadougou](#). Additionally, the country hosted an Open Day at the National Ozone Office, conducted quality checks on vehicle refrigerants, and held public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on the importance of ozone protection.

Looking forward, Burkina Faso's Ministry of Environment plans to enhance refrigerant quality checks nationwide, establish centers of excellence in Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou, introduce a certification system for natural refrigerants, and enforce regulatory standards on energy labeling for refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. These actions are aimed at promoting a sustainable and climate-friendly future.



Cameroon



5. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Cameroon

Cameroon joined the global community in commemorating the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer under this year's theme, "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." The theme underscores the collective efforts and achievements made under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, which have contributed to restoring the ozone layer over the past three and a half decades and reaffirmed the global commitment to combating climate change.

Despite challenges brought about by the persistent global pandemic, Cameroon adapted by organizing a week-long awareness campaign. The focus was on the achievements of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, while highlighting the need to continue strengthening efforts to protect the ozone layer and mitigate climate change. The commemorative week included activities aimed at increasing visibility and enhancing public awareness, culminating in a celebration at the [Cercle Municipal Conference Hall in Yaoundé](#).

A key highlight of the celebration was the inauguration of the Kigali Implementation Plan Phase I in Cameroon. The Kigali Amendment, ratified by Cameroon on August 24, 2021, marked the country as one of the first nations to have its Kigali Implementation Plan approved by the Executive Committee. This plan aims to reduce the use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), substances that contribute to both ozone depletion and global warming, particularly in the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sectors. This step will enhance Cameroon's efforts to preserve the ozone layer while mitigating climate change.

Throughout the week, Cameroon's [Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature, and Sustainable Development \(MINEPDED\)](#), through the National Ozone Unit (NOU), collaborated with the [GIZ ROCA Project \(Green Cooling\)](#) to promote ozone-friendly practices and climate-respecting cooling methods in Central and West Africa. Various stakeholders, including schools, took part in competitions designed to raise awareness about ozone layer preservation and climate action, with participants showcasing their knowledge through essays, quizzes, and performances.

The official celebration day, chaired by [His Excellency Mr. Hele Pierre](#), Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature, and Sustainable Development, featured a keynote speech in which he officially launched the Kigali Implementation Plan. His address celebrated the achievements of the Montreal Protocol and reinforced the government's commitment to advancing climate action through the Kigali Amendment.

Dr. Raymond Tavares, Resident Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), also read the message of the UN Secretary General, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation to protect the ozone layer and mitigate climate impacts. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes for the school competitions, followed by a group photo and interviews with key stakeholders.

Egypt



6. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Egypt

Under the Leadership of His Excellency Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, the Egyptian National Ozone Unit celebrated World Ozone Day 2024 with the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." This celebration marked the 37th anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on September 16, 1987, a landmark agreement in environmental protection and a global model for successful international cooperation. The event, organized by the Ozone Unit of the Environmental Affairs Agency, was attended by prominent figures such as Dr. Ali Abu Senna, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, Dr. Ezzat Louis, Director of the Ozone Unit at the Ministry of Environment, representatives from UNIDO, international agencies, members of the National Ozone Committee, and leaders from governmental, industrial, and civil society organizations.

During the celebration, Dr. Ali Abu Senna, head of the Environmental Affairs Agency, launched the "[Participate in the Solution](#)" initiative, aimed at strengthening climate action and reducing the negative effects of climate change. This initiative encourages collective efforts to reduce emissions of ozone-depleting gases, which contribute to global warming. Dr. Abu Senna emphasized that improving air quality, water purity, and soil cleanliness will require the active participation of all citizens to ensure a healthy and clean environment for everyone.

The event also honored companies that have successfully adapted their operations to align with environmental standards. [Fresh Electric](#), [Unionaire](#), and [Al Araby Group for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration](#) were presented with honorary shields in recognition of their efforts to comply with the Montreal Protocol. The awards were presented in the presence of Dr. Patrick Gilbert, Regional Director of UNIDO in Egypt, and Dr. Zhou Yunrui, Industrial Development Officer at UNIDO.



Guinea



7. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Guinea

During the celebration of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Guinea, under the leadership of [Minister Djami Diallo](#), organized several key activities to strengthen its commitment to protecting the ozone layer. These initiatives included a [gas leak detection campaign](#), aimed at identifying and reducing harmful emissions, and quality control of refrigerants to ensure compliance with environmental standards. Additionally, Guinea [utilized new technologies to recover refrigerants, contributing to the prevention of ozone layer depletion](#).

The Minister highlighted Guinea's progress under its Refrigerant Management Plan, which focuses on raising awareness, training refrigeration technicians and customs officers, and establishing a monitoring mechanism for ozone-depleting substances. These efforts are part of Guinea's broader strategy to meet its commitments under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment, which addresses hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) phase-down and global warming mitigation.

The Minister also expressed gratitude to Guinea's Technical and Financial Partners, particularly the Multilateral Fund, UNEP, and UNIDO, for their ongoing support in the country's efforts to eliminate substances harmful to the ozone layer and advance climate action.

Kenya

8. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Nairobi

In Kenya, the main commemorations of [World Ozone Day 2024](#), themed "[Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action](#)," were collaboratively organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry and the Kenya Meteorological Department. The efforts of these key institutions ensured a successful event, highlighting Kenya's commitment to advancing climate action and protecting the ozone layer.

The main celebration took place on [Monday, 16th September 2024](#), at the [Kenya Meteorological Department headquarters in Dagoretti Corner](#), Nairobi. The event was graced by Environment CS Aden Duale, who presided over the ceremony, emphasizing the critical role the Montreal Protocol has played in protecting the ozone layer and mitigating climate change.

In addition to the national event, the [UNEP OzonAction team](#) gathered to celebrate the day, reflecting on the achievements of the Montreal Protocol and discussing ongoing efforts to phase out ozone-depleting substances in Africa. The team reaffirmed their commitment to supporting countries in implementing the protocol and advancing climate action, particularly in addressing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment.

Leading up to the national event, a series of week-long activities were held in different parts of the country to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding the ozone layer and advancing climate action. These events engaged local communities, research institutions, and civil society organizations, underscoring the importance of concerted efforts to reduce harmful emissions and adopt sustainable environmental practices.

The 2024 World Ozone Day celebrations in Kenya not only celebrated the successes of the Montreal Protocol but also highlighted the urgent need for continued action to address climate change, particularly in Africa, where the impacts are already threatening livelihoods and food security.



Madagascar



9. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Madagascar

The celebration of World Ozone Layer Protection Day began with the welcoming of officials, followed by a traditional Malagasy folk dance by the group "VALALA." Key speeches were delivered by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Director General of Sustainable Development, the Acting Resident Representative of UNIDO, and the Director of DMGR/CERED.

Mr. Rabenandrianina Rivosoa highlighted Madagascar's efforts under the Montreal Protocol, including the second phase of the HCFC Phase-out Plan and the ongoing ratification of the Kigali Amendment. Professor Randrianaijaona emphasized the importance of sustainable economies and capacity building. Madame Rakotondrazafy of UNIDO reiterated their support in providing technical assistance and environmentally friendly technologies for Madagascar's industry.

The Minister, Mr. Max Fontaine Andonirina, praised the successful collaboration between Madagascar, UNEP, and UNIDO in protecting the ozone layer, thanking all stakeholders involved. The event also included the signing of a partnership agreement between the National Ozone Bureau and DMGR/CERED, focused on training, research, and capacity building. The day concluded with a press briefing, an equipment handover to the Union of Refrigeration Technicians, and a closing cocktail.

The celebration also emphasized Madagascar's ongoing commitment to phasing out substances that deplete the ozone layer (SAOs), with a focus on capacity building for customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Director General of Sustainable Development outlined the progress made through the national HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) and highlighted the importance of strengthening national regulations to safeguard the ozone layer. The event served as a platform to reinforce the need for continued collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, and international partners in implementing the Montreal Protocol's goals.

In addition, the partnership between the National Ozone Bureau and DMGR/CERED was celebrated as a significant step forward in integrating academic research and practical implementation for ozone protection. This collaboration aims to expand knowledge sharing and technical training, targeting key stakeholders such as importers, technicians, and educators. With this partnership, Madagascar is poised to further enhance its national strategies for ozone protection, ensuring that future generations benefit from a safer and more sustainable environment.

Malawi



10. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Blantyre

In Malawi, activities to commemorate World Ozone Day 2024 were held at [Soche Technical College in Blantyre](#). The event was led by the Secretary for Natural Resources and Climate Change, Dr. Yusuf Mkungula, who emphasized the importance of collective action in preserving the ozone layer. He assured the public that the Malawi Government remains committed to facilitating programs that ensure the complete phase-out of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

Dr. Mkungula called on the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector to invest in ozone-friendly technologies available in the country. He also urged suppliers to import new, environmentally friendly alternatives to meet Malawi's demand and advised consumers to opt for energy-efficient, ozone-friendly alternatives. Additionally, he encouraged enforcement agencies to continue supporting the Environmental Affairs Department in enforcing compliance and halting illegal trade of ozone-depleting chemicals.

Meanwhile, the UN Environment Programme's Regional Ozone Coordinator for Africa, Patrick Salifu, commended Malawi for its efforts in implementing programs aimed at preserving the ozone layer. He highlighted the progress Malawi has made in adhering to the provisions of the Montreal Protocol, ensuring a significant reduction in the use of harmful substances and promoting sustainable climate action.

The event in Malawi was part of the broader World Ozone Day 2024 celebrations, which focused on the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action," and underscored the continued need for global cooperation to safeguard the ozone layer and mitigate climate change.

Namibia



11. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Namibia

On September 16, 2024, Namibia joined the global community in celebrating World Ozone Day under the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." The event, held at Zoo Park, was organized by the [Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade \(MIT\)](#), in collaboration with the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#). The Directorate of Industrial Development, as the focal point for the National Ozone Unit (NOU), spearheaded the celebration in Namibia, emphasizing the country's commitment to the Montreal Protocol and its role in addressing both ozone layer protection and climate change.

In her keynote address, Hon. Lucia lipumbu, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, highlighted the significance of September 16 as a day of global awareness on the Montreal Protocol's evolution from its initial goal of protecting the ozone layer to becoming a powerful tool in combating climate change. She emphasized the urgency of addressing rising global temperatures and the increasing demand for cooling solutions, stressing the role of the Montreal Protocol in safeguarding both people and the planet.

Hon. lipumbu underscored that the Montreal Protocol should not be underestimated in its capacity to advance climate action, especially as the world continues to face record-breaking temperature increases. She pointed out that as the demand for cooling grows, the protocol remains a credible and effective solution in reducing the environmental impact of refrigeration and air conditioning systems.

The event also featured [public engagements](#) aimed at raising awareness about ozone protection and climate change. Ongoing [customs training programs](#) were highlighted, focusing on equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to regulate ozone-depleting substances. These efforts align with Namibia's broader strategy to promote sustainable practices and reduce the country's environmental footprint.



Nigeria



12. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Nigeria

The National Ozone Office (NOO) of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV), Nigeria, celebrated World Ozone Day 2024 on 18th September, as the official date, 16th September, fell on a public holiday.

As part of the Ozone Day activities, the NOO of the FMENV made the event practical by taking the awareness campaign directly to [Refrigeration and Air Conditioning \(RAC\) Technicians](#), represented by the [National Association of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Practitioners](#). The event focused on sensitizing the technicians, providing a highly interactive platform where they could engage with the National Ozone Officer. On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Environment, the National Ozone Officer addressed the technicians, discussing important topics such as good refrigeration practices, the safe management of refrigerants, and the government's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable, ozone- and climate-friendly technologies.

The forum allowed RAC technicians to share their knowledge, experiences, and challenges with the National Ozone Officer. In return, the officer pledged continued government support for the promotion of sustainable RAC practices, emphasizing the collaboration with the [Multilateral Fund \(MLF\) and Implementing Agencies \(IAs\)](#).

A highlight of the event was the presence of a recipient of the [Charity Kpabep Scholarship Programme](#), which supports female and young women engineers and technicians in the RAC sector.

To broaden the awareness of the celebration, the National Ozone Officer also granted a radio interview to mark the 2024 World Ozone Day, further emphasizing the importance of protecting the ozone layer.

Awareness materials were developed and distributed to stakeholders and the public, ensuring a wider reach and greater understanding of the importance of ozone layer protection in Nigeria.



Rwanda



13. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Rwanda

Rwanda celebrated World Ozone Day 2024 on September 16, under the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action". The event aimed to raise awareness about the vital role of ozone layer protection and to emphasize the link between ozone depletion and climate change.

In the week leading up to the celebration, Rwanda hosted an [Ozone and Climate Week from September 9-13, 2024](#), which included a range of activities aimed at promoting knowledge and awareness on the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment. The week featured educational TV programs that focused on the significance of these international agreements in the fight against climate change.

Key activities during Ozone Week included visits to [Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centres \(IPRCs\)](#), where the capacities of their Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) systems were assessed. Equipment was distributed to some IPRCs to assist with the practical training of students, enhancing their skills in handling ozone-friendly technologies.

Additionally, on September 12, a public lecture was held where experts presented on the topic of "The Ozone Layer Depletion and Its Effects: Update on the Montreal Protocol", discussing the implications for climate change. The lecture brought together participants from academia, NGOs, importers of RAC equipment, the private and public sectors, and other institutions to deepen their understanding of these critical issues.

The main celebration took place on September 16 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, bringing together high-level officials from various ministries to discuss Rwanda's climate finance strategies and achievements in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The event also provided an update on the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment, reaffirming Rwanda's commitment to environmental protection and advancing climate action.

Seychelles



14. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Seychelles

Seychelles commemorated World Ozone Day 2024 on 16th September at the [Seychelles University](#), with an official opening by the [Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment](#). The event highlighted the nation's ongoing commitment to protecting the ozone layer, emphasizing the broader environmental and health impacts of ozone depletion.

During the event, the National Ozone Coordinator delivered an insightful presentation on the importance of the ozone layer, its critical role in shielding human beings, animals, and ecosystems from harmful ultraviolet radiation, and the causes of its depletion. The talk also addressed the Kigali Amendment, discussing the future actions Seychelles needs to take to achieve the scheduled Phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), as mandated by the amendment, while promoting a sustainable path forward.

The second phase of the Ozone Day celebrations took place on 19th September, with a Road Show broadcast live on the National Radio, bringing the awareness campaign directly to homes across the islands. All departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment participated in the Road Show to showcase their collaborative work with the Ozone Unit.

The [Seychelles Institute of Technology \(RAC sector\)](#) also joined the event, alongside major importers, who showcased R-600a equipment, highlighting the nation's shift towards more ozone-friendly and energy-efficient technologies. This two-pronged celebration underscored Seychelles' active involvement in the global efforts to protect the ozone layer and promote climate-friendly practices, in line with international environmental agreements.

Sierra Leone



15. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Bo City

In Sierra Leone, the 2024 World Ozone Day was commemorated with a series of impactful events aimed at raising awareness about ozone layer protection and promoting good refrigeration practices under the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." The celebrations began on September 13th, 2024, with a Roadside Melodrama demonstrating best practices in the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector. The performance highlighted the certification and licensing process for RAC technicians, the benefits of professional training, and the permit requirements for importers of refrigeration equipment. The interactive drama engaged the public and emphasized the importance of ozone-friendly practices.

On September 14th, 2024, an awareness-raising [football match](#) was held between the [Environmental Protection Agency of Sierra Leone \(EPA-SL\)/National Ozone Unit \(NOU\)](#) and the Refrigeration Technicians Association (RETA). The EPA-SL team won the exciting match with a score of 3-2, fostering a sense of camaraderie and awareness around the Montreal Protocol's goals.

The celebrations continued with a [Cycling Race](#) on September 15th, 2024, aimed at highlighting the importance of protecting the ozone layer and advocating for the switch to natural refrigerants. The race brought together participants from across the country, creating visibility for ozone protection initiatives.

The grand celebration took place on September 16th, 2024, in Bo City at De Wizzard Hall. The event was graced by Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Madam Mimi Soba-Stevens, and featured remarks from UNIDO Country Representative, Mr. Shaw, and Chief Director of EPA-SL, Sheku Mark Kanneh. The event, moderated by Director of Climate Change, Tamba E. Nyaka, saw participation from several state and local authorities, including the National President of RETA.

The climax of the celebration included the [distribution of tools, equipment, and safety gear to female RAC technicians](#), marking a significant step towards gender inclusivity in the sector. A similar gesture was extended to the five RETA chapters across the country. Awards were also presented to individuals who made significant contributions to the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol and to the growth of the RAC sector, with special recognition given to the achievements of female RAC technicians.



Togo



16. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Togo

The Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources in Togo organized a workshop as part of the celebration of the 37th World Ozone Day, under the theme "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action." The event aimed to review the progress made in protecting the ozone layer by highlighting the successes achieved through the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Additionally, it sought to raise awareness among participants, particularly those who handle ozone-depleting substances, about best practices in the field. The celebration also encouraged the adoption of new refrigerants that are less harmful to the ozone layer and the climate.

Over the two-day workshop, refrigeration technicians were trained on the issue of ozone layer depletion and the legal and institutional frameworks for refrigerant management. They also received information on the [illegal trade of ozone-depleting substances and learned about procedures for inspecting products on the national market](#). The event included practical sessions on using gas analyzers, equipping participants with the necessary skills to identify harmful substances effectively.

Mrs. Yaou Méry, Director of the Environment, emphasized that this year's theme reflects the collective efforts made by the parties to the Montreal Protocol to recover the ozone layer. She also highlighted the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve climate benefits. Mrs. Méry reiterated Togo's commitment to combating global warming through various initiatives, including the Refrigerant Management Plan (PGFF), the plan for the management and elimination of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and the plan for implementing the Kigali Amendment.

The coordinator of Togo's National Ozone Office, Djossou Vidémé, outlined the context of the training, which aligns with the country's environmental protection policy, particularly regarding the ozone layer. The prefect of Kloto, Assan Bertin, urged participants to take full advantage of the workshop to promote effective collective action in protecting the ozone layer.

Gavi Kokou, president of the Togolese Refrigeration Manufacturers' Association, demonstrated practices related to controlling harmful refrigerants and introduced alternatives that are safer for the environment.

World Ozone Day provides an opportunity for signatory countries of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol to reflect on the activities initiated to protect the ozone layer and fight global warming, as well as to celebrate the progress made. It also serves as a platform to raise public awareness about the importance of ozone layer protection and climate action.

Tunisia



17. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Tunisia

On September 16, 2024, Tunisia marked World Ozone Day, with a ceremony organized by the National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPE) in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The event, which centered around the theme “[Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action](#)”, highlighted Tunisia’s consistent strides in protecting the ozone layer and combating climate change.

Lassaad Ben Hassine, UNIDO’s Representative in Tunisia, applauded the collaborative efforts of Tunisia, ANPE, and UNIDO in successfully implementing the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment. He echoed the sentiments of Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO, who emphasized the importance of international cooperation, stating, “[Without the Montreal Protocol, the world would have faced a global environmental and health disaster. The agreement has saved the planet from devastating consequences and remains a model for global cooperation.](#)”

In 2024, Tunisia continued to demonstrate its commitment to the Montreal Protocol by reducing its consumption of HydroChloroFluoroCarbons (HCFCs) by 55%. As part of its ongoing efforts, 450 technicians were trained in sustainable refrigerant management practices, and 95 customs officers were empowered to strengthen the monitoring of regulated substance imports.

Through the celebration, Tunisia reaffirmed its dedication to protecting both people and the planet, with the Montreal Protocol serving as a cornerstone in its environmental policy. As the country moves forward, UNIDO remains committed to supporting Tunisia in adopting innovative, sustainable solutions to further enhance climate resilience and ozone layer preservation.

Uganda



18. World Ozone Day Commemoration in Uganda

In Uganda, World Ozone Day, typically celebrated on September 16th, was extended in 2024 to run from mid-August to mid-December. The aim is to raise awareness about ozone layer protection and the Montreal Protocol's role in climate action. Activities will culminate with a University Quiz finale and symposium on December 12th, where Mr. and Ms. Ozone will be crowned.

Key initiatives include the development of a [beginner-friendly article titled Tunde's Path to Protecting the Earth](#), and a [student article competition on Ozone for Life](#). These efforts are intended to engage various educational institutions and raise awareness about the importance of ozone protection.

Massive outreach campaigns were also carried out through radio, television, and print media. Radio programs aired in Lusoga, Runyankole, and English, while the national TV station NTV provided insights into the ozone layer's significance and the Montreal Protocol's achievements. Additionally, [an article was published in The New Vision](#), highlighting the progress since 1987 and the impact of the Kigali Amendment.

Social media efforts included videos and articles, focusing on ozone protection and climate action. The University Quiz, involving 26 universities, is being broadcast nationwide, further amplifying the message. A four-month training program for 30 female Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) technicians was also launched, aimed at empowering women and supporting safe handling of climate-friendly HFC alternatives.

These activities demonstrate Uganda's dedication to spreading the message of ozone layer protection and climate action across the country.



#MontrealProtocol Advancing Climate Action



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