UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PRESS STATEMENT

Handover of Equipment to the Hydrometeorological Service Under the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II

Georgetown, Guyana – 10 February 2025

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)officially handed over specialized equipment to the Ministry of Agriculture's Hydrometeorological Service under the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which were widely used in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, contributed to ozone depletion and climate change. Their phase-out formed part of Guyana's commitment under the Montreal Protocol, and this initiative marked a significant milestone in the country's transition to sustainable cooling technologies.

Through funding from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, UNDP worked closely with the Government of Guyana to provide state-of-the-art equipment aimed at strengthening national technical capacity and improving environmental sustainability. The tools handed over—including refrigerant identifiers, recovery and recycling machines, leak detectors, flushing kits, and prototype refrigeration and air-conditioning training systems—played a critical role in ensuring proper refrigerant management, preventing harmful emissions, and equipping local technicians with the skills needed to transition to environmentally friendly alternatives. These tools were handed over to the Hydrometeorological Service and for distribution to seven technical training institutions across the country to support capacity building and compliance with international standards.

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This investment aligns with Guyana's commitment to the Montreal Protocol, which mandates a phased reduction of HCFC consumption: a 35% reduction by 2020, a 97.5% phase-out by 2025, and complete elimination by 2030. By introducing new technologies, Guyana is not only protecting the ozone layer but also improving energy efficiency in its refrigeration and air-conditioning sector, reducing the climate impacts of refrigerants, and supporting the development of a skilled workforce prepared for emerging industry trends. The initiative also contributes to Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) by promoting sustainable business practices, lowering electricity consumption, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ministry of Agriculture recognizes that sustainable refrigeration and air-conditioning solutions are critical for national economic development. The new equipment will allow for better monitoring and regulation of HCFCs, enabling Guyana to meet its environmental targets while also fostering a competitive and modernized cooling industry. Strengthening technician training and ensuring access to climate-friendly cooling technologies will position Guyana as a leader in sustainable refrigeration practices in the Caribbean.

This initiative directly supports several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

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- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** By promoting energy-efficient cooling technologies, the project contributes to reduced electricity consumption and lower operational costs for businesses and consumers.
- **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):** Investing in modern refrigeration technology and technician training strengthens local industry and prepares the workforce for emerging global standards.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Phasing out HCFCs and promoting sustainable alternatives aligns with Guyana's climate commitments, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting global efforts to mitigate climate change.

The handover of these equipment underscores the strong partnership between UNDP and the Government of Guyana in advancing climate action and sustainable development. As the country continues to implement key environmental initiatives, such collaborations will be essential in securing a cleaner, more resilient future for all.