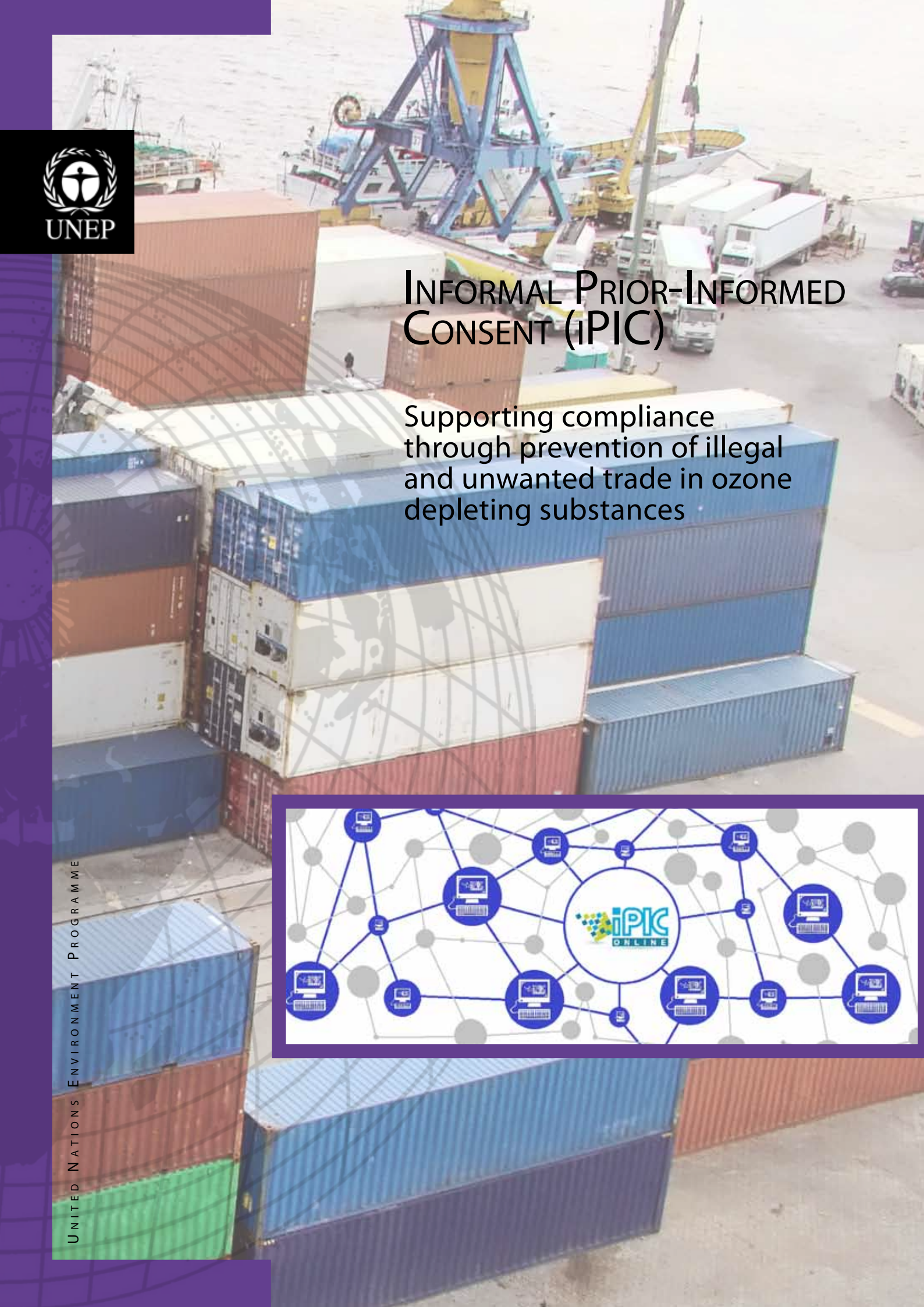

UNEP

Informal Prior-Informed Consent (iPIC)

Supporting compliance through prevention of illegal and unwanted trade in ozone depleting substances

United Nations Environment Programme

Acknowledgements

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We are very grateful to the following for reviewing and providing suggestions and comments on the draft text:
Mr. Halvart Koppen, Regional Network Coordinator, Europe & Central Asia, OzonAction Branch
Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Policy & Enforcement Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, OzonAction Branch

The project was managed by:
Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head, OzonAction Branch
Dr. Ezra Clark, Programme Officer, OzonAction Branch
Mr. Ruperto de Jesus, Programme Assistant, OzonAction Branch

Design and layout: Ms. Aurélie Ek

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Back cover image: © Shutterstock

Executive Summary

In 2006, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), as part of its work in providing assistance to developing countries to fulfil their commitments under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer launched* the 'informal Prior-Informed Consent' (iPIC) mechanism. This initiative was developed in order to better manage trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) that are controlled under the Protocol.

iPIC is a voluntary and informal mechanism of information exchange on intended trade between countries in ODS, ODS-containing mixtures, products and equipment. The countries participating in iPIC share details of eligible importers and exporters with other iPIC members through a secure online platform and the designated iPIC focal points carry out a simple consultation with their trading partner country prior to intended shipments of ODS. UNEP's regional iPIC focal points are usually copied on iPIC consultations and can provide valuable assistance and support to follow-up on specific cases, as required.

Currently there are 106 members of iPIC, including major producing/ exporting countries such as China, Singapore and those in the European Union. This informal system has proven to be valuable in facilitating and expediting information exchange and can assist in forging links between responsible staff in importing and exporting countries. iPIC has helped to clarify the status of hundreds of intended shipments of ODS since its inception and has been responsible for preventing numerous illegal or unauthorized shipments. In 2013, of the reported 111 iPIC consultations, over 53% resulted in rejections or cancellations of the licence request and this prevented unwanted trade in more than 273 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs, halons, and HBFCs (hydrobromofluorocarbons).

iPIC has been recognised by the Parties of the Montreal Protocol as a useful tool which can be used to reduce discrepancies between import and export data, to identify and reduce illegal trade and cases of non-compliance with domestic legislation. All countries, both developed and developing, which are not already members are strongly encouraged to join iPIC.

The Montreal Protocol

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer all countries worldwide are taking specific, time-targeted actions to reduce and eliminate the production and consumption of man-made chemicals that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield. It is the first multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) to achieve universal ratification. The Protocol has already effectively established a world-wide ban on the production and consumption of the most potent ozone depleting substances (ODS), such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and carbon tetrachloride (CTC). However, there are some exemptions which still exist to allow specific quantities of these ODS to be produced, traded internationally and consumed.

The main ODS still in use today are hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and to a lesser extent, methyl chloroform and methyl bromide. HCFCs will be phased out in developed countries by 2020 and in developing countries by 2030. Methyl chloroform and methyl bromide will be phased out globally by 2015.

In order to enable countries to effectively monitor and control trade in ODS and to prevent illegal trade, which first became a significant problem in the mid-1990s, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol established, in 1997, a system for licensing the import and export of new, used, recycled and reclaimed ODS and ODS-containing mixtures.

While a licensing system on its own is not sufficient to eliminate ODS smuggling, it gives the national authorities a way of taking stock of legitimate ODS traders, to allocate import and export permits among the authorised traders and to weed out any unauthorised trade (intentional or unintentional). Such a licensing system is more effective when coupled with a quota system that sets levels of permitted imports and exports.

The Montreal Protocol did not follow the route taken by some other MEAs with trade-related obligations (such as the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions[1]) which established formal and mandatory systems of 'prior-informed consent'. However, the usefulness of such an initiative was realised by many National Ozone Units (NOUs), and by pursuing a similar system but through informal means gave rise to iPIC or the 'informal Prior-Informed Consent' mechanism.

This booklet aims to briefly describe the functioning and advantages of the iPIC system, to provide some information on results and successes in 2013 and to encourage countries which are not yet members to join and begin to reap the benefits of this initiative.

Introduction to *iPIC*

iPIC was established as a mechanism to exchange information on intended trade between countries in ODS, ODS-containing mixtures, products and equipment. Importantly it is a voluntary and informal mechanism which countries can join if they wish to be members. Essentially the countries participating in iPIC are requested to share details of authorised importers and exporters with iPIC members of other countries and to exchange information prior to shipments of ODS. In practice, applying the iPIC procedure means that before issuing a trade licence (for import or export), the relevant authorities request the iPIC focal points of their trade partner to confirm that they agree to the intended trade and that they will issue an import/export licence accordingly.

The information exchange and cross-checking is carried out between the designated iPIC focal points of the trade partners through a secure online platform - iPIC online - or via a simple exchange of emails or by phone. iPIC data are only shared among the designated iPIC focal points of the 106 member countries. iPIC members include the major producing/exporting countries such as China, Singapore and those in the European Union, significantly increasing the effectiveness of the mechanism.

iPIC has proven to be a valuable mechanism for facilitating information exchange and has helped to clarify the status of hundreds of intended shipments of ODS since its inception. It has been responsible for preventing numerous illegal or unauthorized shipments. For example, in 2013, of the reported 111 iPIC consultations, over 53% resulted in rejections or cancellations of the licence request and this prevented unwanted trade in more than 273 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs, halons, and HBFCs (hydrobromofluorocarbons).

In addition to its original purpose of preventing illegal and unwanted trade, iPIC can assist in forging links between responsible staff in importing and exporting countries and has also contributed to increased mutual co-operation between the officers responsible for ODS licensing around the world. Furthermore, it assists countries in the effective enforcement of their own national licensing system, for example by identifying trading companies that are unaware of existing obligations.

The Parties of the Montreal Protocol have recognised iPIC as a tool with the means to combat illegal trade in ODS.[2] The Parties have for example encouraged specific countries to participate in the iPIC process to help overcome the difficulties of being new members.[3] Further in 2012, all Parties were invited to consider participation in iPIC as a means to improve information about their potential imports of controlled substances with the aim of reducing differences between reports of imports and exports of ODS and helping to identify illegal trade or cases of non-compliance with domestic legislation.[4]

For each region UNEP has nominated regional iPIC focal points (see p.17) which are usually copied on such iPIC consultations in order to follow-up on timely responses, as appropriate. Increasingly, UNEP also facilitates consultations between iPIC members and non-iPIC members routing the requests to the designated Ozone Officers. Such consultations between iPIC and non-iPIC members can yield a high response rate.

The *iPIC* Procedure

The four simple steps to join *iPIC*

Participation in iPIC is simple. Countries must have established and implemented a national licensing system for ODS import and export. It is necessary that the licensing system require individual permits per shipment of ODS (import or export). Once the above requirements are met the basic steps to join iPIC are as follows:

1. The national authority completes a simple standard template with information on its national licensing system, including details of registered importers and exporters, any trade bans or exemptions in place, etc. The contact details of the designated iPIC focal point(s) must also be provided. This completed template is then submitted to UNEP's regional iPIC focal point.
2. UNEP enters the initial iPIC data into the online system. Alternatively the new member can request access to iPIC online and directly enter the data into the system.
3. The designated focal points receive a notification message by email containing their access information for the iPIC online system and a link to validate their contact information. The country is now an iPIC member and as such now has access to iPIC online and all the relevant information including the contact information of all iPIC focal points.
4. The iPIC data and contact details can be updated at any time during the year. Members are required to update the information at least annually. Current data can easily be duplicated and updated for the following year.

If you are interested in joining iPIC please contact the relevant UNEP regional iPIC focal point for more information, (see p.17 for contact details).

How *iPIC* operates

The key actions are performed by the designated iPIC focal points:

- On receiving a request to issue an import or export licence the iPIC information provided by the trading partner can be consulted and an iPIC consultation is initiated. This can be carried out through iPIC online, a simple email exchange or a phone call. Often a response is received the same day. It is recommended to copy the regional UNEP iPIC focal points in queries so that they can assist in following up to ensure a timely response is received.
- In order to not unduly delay trade, the absence of a reply to an iPIC enquiry after a reasonable period of time (e.g. 5 days) may be considered at the discretion of the country as an agreement to allow the trade to proceed.
- In cases where the trade partner is not an iPIC member, it is recommended to consult the NOU and designated licensing focal point in the trading partner country for confirmation, copying the UNEP regional iPIC focal point.

It is important that countries provide details of the final destination, rather than the transit point for ODS shipments.

For imports of used, recycled, reclaimed ODS, it is recommended to check whether the exporting country has recycling or reclaim facilities and initiate the iPIC consultation requesting proof of origin.

For ODS exports for destruction, the iPIC consultation should be carried out to determine whether the importing country has appropriate destruction facilities.

For ODS for exempted uses (critical use exemptions, laboratory uses, essential uses, methyl bromide for quarantine & pre-shipment, etc.) it is also recommended to initiate an iPIC consultation.

Example *iPIC* query

The following is an example of a typical message sent by iPIC members when initiating a query with a trading partner regarding an intended ODS import/export. The specific information included will depend on the particular case.

Dear Mr / Ms _____

We received an application for a licence concerning your country. You will find the details below. In the context of the informal Prior Informed Consent procedure (iPIC) we kindly ask you to confirm that you consider this trade as acceptable and in compliance with your provisions under the Montreal Protocol. We are asking in particular as the company concerned is not mentioned in your information provided on iPIC on ODS licensing.

Exporter from your country: [name of exporting company]
Importer in [name of country]: [name of importing company]
Substance: [name of substance and composition if substance is a mixture]
Use: [intended application/use for substance]
Net-mass: [in kg or metric tonnes (equivalent in ODP-kg or ODP tonnes)]

To avoid any inconveniences for the concerned companies we would appreciate if you were able to respond within one week. We would like to thank you very much in advance for your efforts concerning this issue.

Kind regards,

[Name of sender]

iPIC Online

In 2013, UNEP OzonAction launched the iPIC online secure platform to provide participating countries with real-time, 24-hour, 7-days-a-week personalised access to iPIC data.

As of May 2014 iPIC online contains the complete contact details of the iPIC focal points in each of the 106 member countries and information from almost 2000 companies eligible to trade in ODS, as well as details on trade restrictions on equipment or products.

iPIC online is accessible on a members-only basis and only registered users (country focal points) of countries that have submitted iPIC data can have access to iPIC online and to all the iPIC data.

Features of iPIC online include:

- Secured online access to iPIC data of member countries
- List of registered importers & exporters
- Information on specific trade restrictions & bans for ODS (and HFCs)
- List of destruction & reclaim facilities
- Specifics of ODS legislation
- Contact information of iPIC focal points, National Ozone Units, regional UNEP focal points
- A secure communication platform for iPIC consultations with other iPIC members
- The facility to update iPIC data at any time
- The ability to search for specific items within the iPIC data
- A FAQ section which answers basic questions
- A help section explaining how to use the online system

Users can find more information on the use of iPIC and the online system in the iPIC online user guide (http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/Portals/105/documents/publications/user-guide-access.pdf).

iPIC Participating Countries

A country is considered to be a member of iPIC if it has provided its iPIC data in the current or previous year. If this data is not updated, access to other countries' iPIC data will be suspended until this is provided.

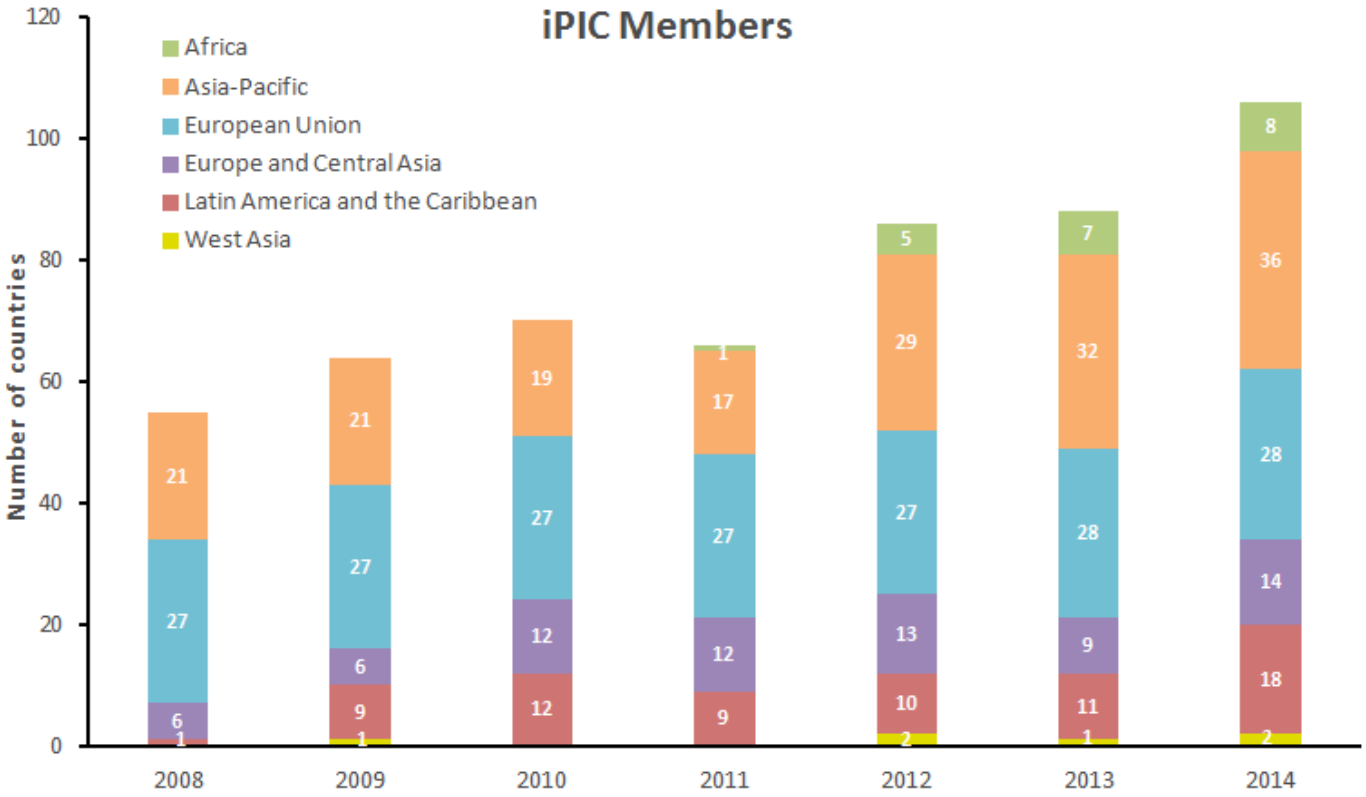
As of May 2014 there are 106 iPIC members, nine of which joined in late 2013 or early 2014. However, there are several countries which were previously members, but have not updated their iPIC data since 2011 and are thus not now considered members. As can be seen in the chart below, there is some variation in the number of countries participating in iPIC from year to year. There is also a marked difference in participation from countries of different regions. The effectiveness of iPIC is progressively improved as more countries become members and the mechanism covers an increasing proportion of global ODS trade. Therefore all counties, both developed and developing are encouraged to join and to begin to reap the benefits of this initiative.

iPIC members

The following are the current iPIC members, these include countries and the European Union, new members are highlighted in green:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Angola*
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Azerbaijan*
- Bahamas
- Barbados*
- Belarus
- Belize
- Bhutan*
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Burkina Faso*
- Cambodia
- China*
- Colombia*
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Egypt, Arab Republic of
- European Union (28 member states)
- Fiji*
- Gambia*
- Guyana*
- Indonesia*
- Iran, Islamic Republic of*
- Iraq
- Jamaica*
- Japan
- Kazakhstan*
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Korea, Republic of
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic*
- Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritius
- Mexico*
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Moldova, Republic of*
- Mongolia*
- Montenegro
- Myanmar*
- Namibia*
- Nauru
- Nepal
- New Zealand*
- Niue
- Oman*
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama*
- Papua New Guinea*
- Paraguay*
- Peru*
- Philippines*
- Russian Federation
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Serbia
- Seychelles*
- Singapore*
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan*
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago*
- Turkmenistan*
- Tuvalu
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu*
- Vietnam, Socialist Republic of*

* Data is from 2012, requires update

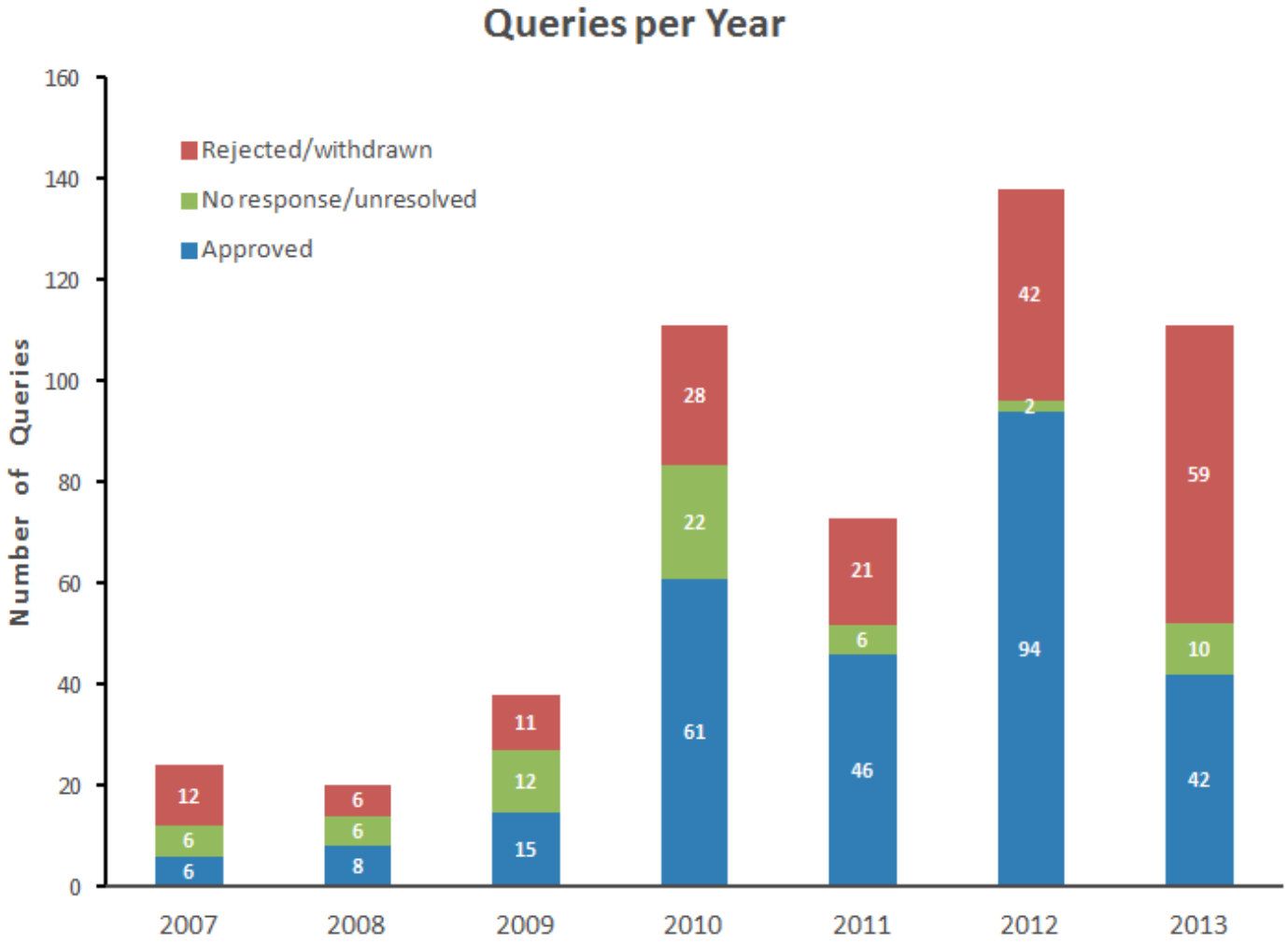


iPIC in Action

There are some interesting and encouraging trends in the use of iPIC through the years of its operation.

The number of trade requests screened using iPIC has progressively risen over the years. Prior to 2008, the number of these trade requests was around 20 queries per year. This has steadily increased, reaching a peak in 2012 with 128 reported iPIC consultations. Out of the 111 iPIC consultations in 2013, more than 53% resulted in rejections or cancellations. This prevented illegal or unwanted trade in more than 273 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs, halons, and HBFCs.

Active participation in iPIC of some of the world's key ODS exporters, such as the European Union, Singapore and China, has contributed significantly to increasing the number of queries being generated and responded to. This increase can also be attributed in part to the efforts of UNEP's Regional Ozone Networks in establishing regional cooperation mechanisms involving Customs & Ozone Officers on Montreal Protocol issues.



Number of queries reported through the iPIC mechanism from 2007-2013 by outcome. (In 2010 the European Commission queried all ODS exports.)

Illegal trade in ODS

Illegal trade in ODS initially flourished as smugglers exploited the opportunities presented as consumption and production controls were in force in some countries and production for the same ODS continued unabated in others. Since the penalties for being caught illegally trading ODS could be very low and were no real deterrent in most states, it was perhaps inevitable that the illegal trade grew and in the mid-1990s was estimated to be equivalent to over 12% of global ODS production.

The concerted efforts in enforcement activities in many countries, combined with the phase-out in production and consumption of CFCs and halons resulted in a decrease of smuggling of these chemicals, although seizures are still common.

There is a real concern that as the phase-out of HCFCs progresses in developing countries there will be a sharp increase in HCFCs smuggling. Indeed to date there have been many reported cases of HCFC illegal trade in both developed and developing countries.

It is important that countries remain vigilant to the threat of ODS illegal trade and develop good cooperation with officers responsible for enforcement, particularly customs officers, and also cooperate with colleagues at the regional and international levels. iPIC is an important tool which can significantly contribute to this effort.

Enforcement-related publications

For more information please see the following documents, available at www.unep.org/ozonaction:

Training Manual for Customs Officers: Saving the Ozone Layer - Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances in Developing Countries - Third Edition (2013):

http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7571-e-CTM_Third_Edition.pdf

Risk Assessment of Illegal Trade In HCFCs (2011):

www.unep.org/ozonaction/Topics/Customs/tabid/6402/Default.aspx

Customs and Enforcement Officers - Monitoring trade in HCFCs - Information Note (2012)

http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7559-e-Monitoring_trade_in_HCFCs.pdf

Enforcement Strategies for Combating the Illegal Trade in HCFCs and Methyl Bromide (2013):

http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7622-e-Enforcement_Strategies_Illegal_Trade_HCFCs.pdf

Customs and Enforcement Officers Quick Guide - Changes in the 2012 HS Nomenclature for HCFCs and Certain Other Ozone Depleting Substances

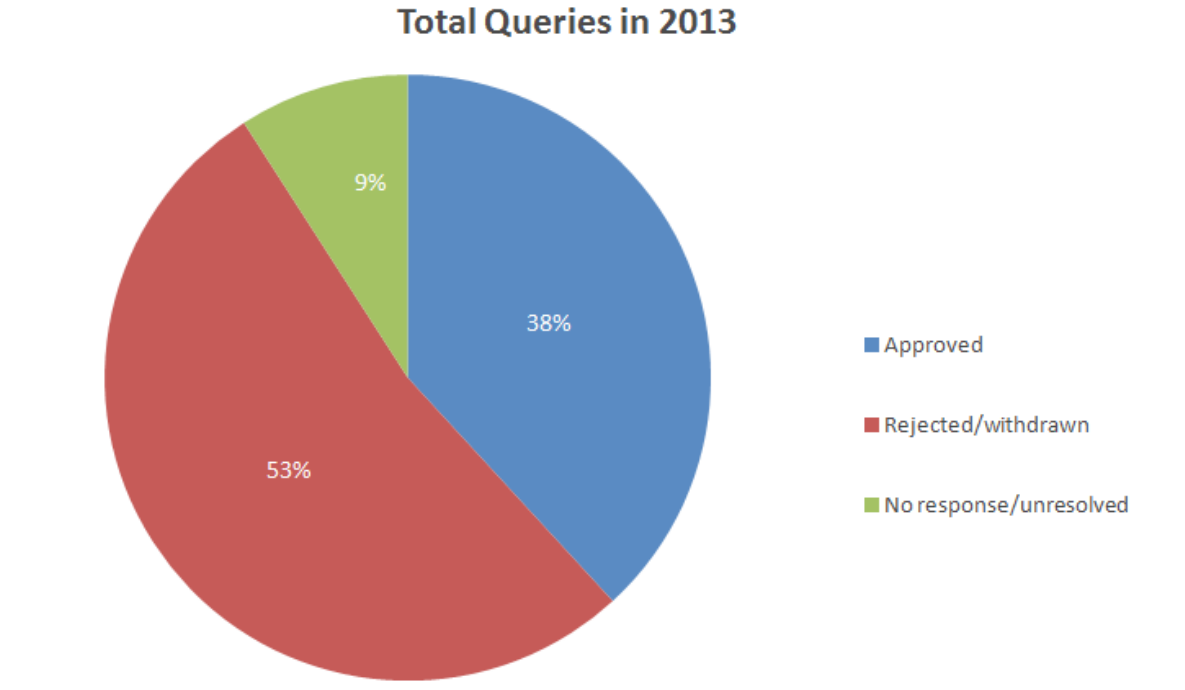
http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7532-e-2012_HS_Codes_for_ODS.pdf

Ozone Depleting Substances Smuggling and Concealment Case Study Handbook: Available only on request

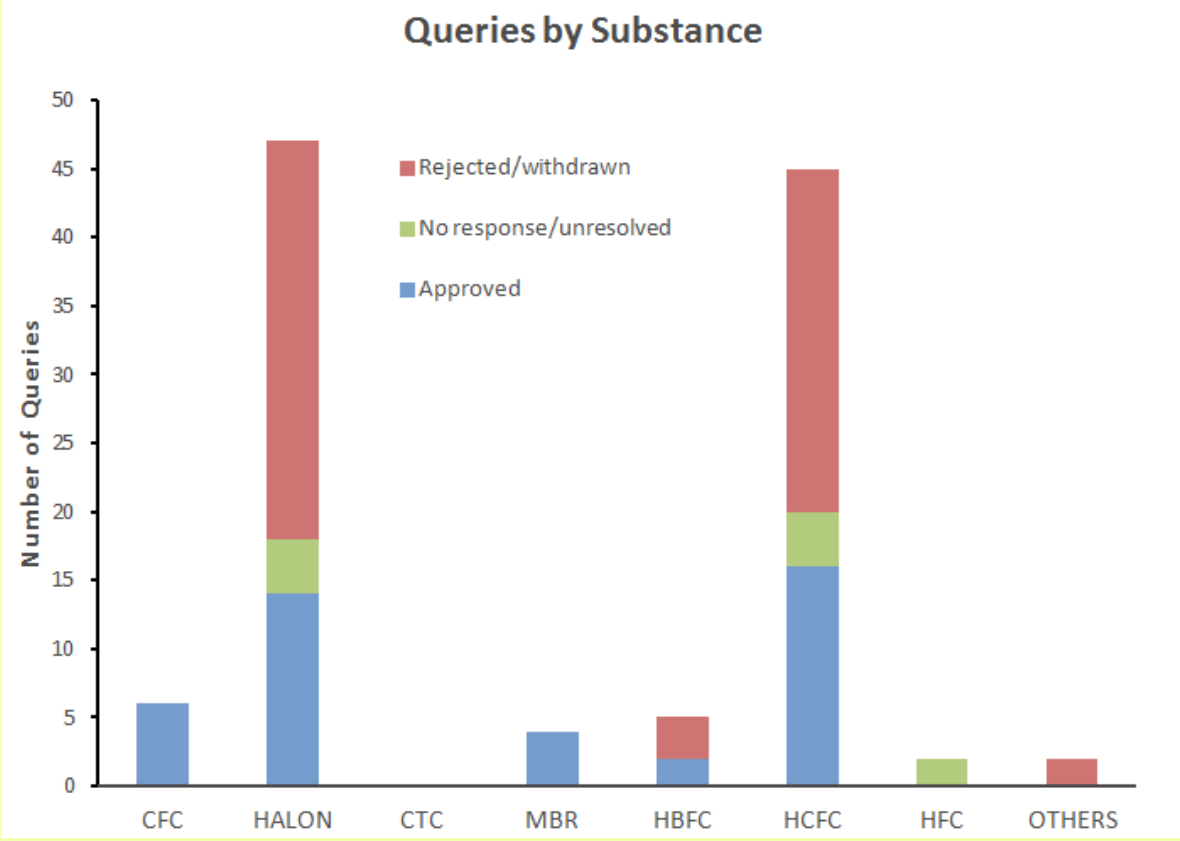
Link to Customs page on OzonAction website:

www.unep.org/ozonaction/Topics/Customs/tabid/6402/Default.aspx

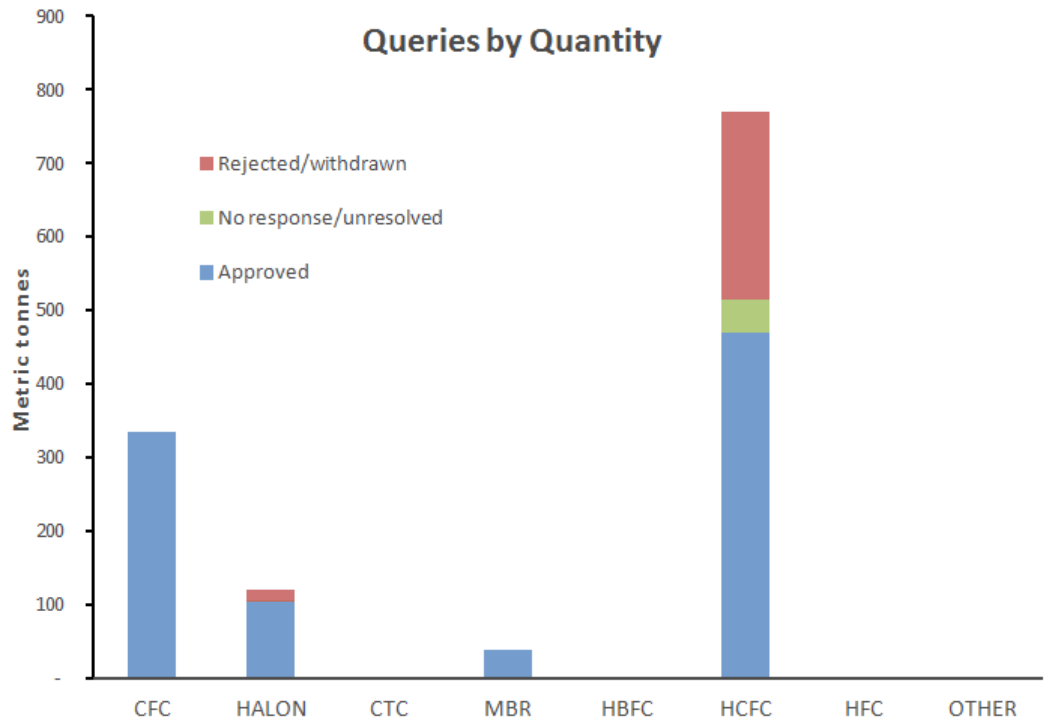
iPIC in 2013 at a Glance



In 2013, there were 111 queries reported through iPIC. A significant proportion (38%) were approved and the trade proceeded. However, more than half (53%) of the cases were rejected, preventing illegal or unwanted trade of around 273 metric tonnes of ODS.



By examining the 2013 iPIC enquiries by substance, it is apparent that the majority of enquiries were related to halons (42%) and to HCFCs (41%). It is interesting to note that halons were the substance with the highest rejection rate following iPIC consultations: 62% of intended shipments of halons were rejected or withdrawn.



In terms of quantities, HCFCs accounted for 61% of all ODS screened, with 257 metric tonnes of illegal/unwanted trade in HCFCs prevented following iPIC consultations. It is also interesting to note that more than three years after the phase-out of CFC production and consumption, there is still a significant quantity of CFC trade screened through iPIC. CFCs, halons, CTC and some other ODS which have already been phased out are permitted to be traded only for specific exempted uses.

Examples of *iPIC* Cases in 2013

The records from iPIC consultations and details on how these were ultimately concluded by the ODS licensing authorities can provide useful insights to strengthen and encourage the effective operation of the licensing system. Some examples from 2013 are included below:

Shipping/fishing vessels

A shipping vessel under the flag of a small autonomous European country (non-EU) intended to purchase 57kg of reclaimed HCFC at a port in Europe. The licensing authority of the exporting country sent a query to the contact point in the importing country (where the ship is registered) and was informed that such a purchase was considered to be an import to the country. Additional information was provided that in their respective national system, vessels cannot apply for licences; it is the ship owner that must request for the licence. The focal point further added that they did not receive any import application from the vessel nor from the owner. The import was prevented

Quota allocation

A shipment of two metric tonnes of HCFCs from an EU exporter was requested, however, this was not approved by the national authorities of the importing Central Asian country as they had already reached the maximum limit for the year's import quota. In a similar case, a member state of the European Union applied for a licence to export some 6.8 metric tonnes of R-22 to a neighbouring non-EU country. The shipment was not allowed as it was discovered after consultations that the importing country had already reached its import quota for 2013.

CFCs

Total phase-out of CFCs was achieved in all countries by 2010 but consumption of CFCs are still allowed for certain specific exempted/critical applications (see chart above). A total of 335 metric tonnes was exported mostly to Europe from a major CFC-producing country in Asia. All transactions reported through the iPIC system show that the trade was legal

and the proper import/export licenses were in order.

UNEP assistance

Assistance provided by UNEP regional focal points has proved useful in following up with concerned trade partners in resolving specific cases. For example, UNEP assisted a major exporting country in Asia in enquiring about the status of a licence request for a shipment of 80 metric tonnes of HCFC-141b. The national authorities of the importing country informed that no application had been received from the local importing company, and thus could not issue an import licence until the company completes the registration procedure according to their national regulations and applies for a permit.

Non iPIC members

It is important to note that consultations do not need to be restricted to iPIC countries. Some particular Caribbean offshore territories of an EU country recently acquired a different status and became independent countries and others became special municipalities of that EU country. During the transition, an exporting company from a significant Asian HCFC-producing country applied to export 14 metric tonnes of virgin HCFC-22 to this territory. However, considering the new status of the former territories as independent countries, they were not considered to be Parties to the Beijing Amendment of the Montreal Protocol and furthermore, are considered to be developed countries. The trade was therefore not permitted.

Fire Fighting

Trade in halons amounting to some 120 metric tonnes was processed through the iPIC system in 2013, where almost 90% of the trade was approved. A particular shipment containing 14 metric tonnes of reclaimed halon 1301 from an Asian exporter was approved by the EU after receiving confirmation from the national authorities of the exporting country that the company has the proper facilities to refine halon gases up to the necessary purity. An export certificate was issued.

Feedstock

There were several cases regarding trade in ODS for feedstock use.[5] The majority of these shipments were approved, however there was one case where the request to export around 16.5 metric tonnes of HCFC-22 was rejected due the lack of a proper licence.

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Recommendations

In the nine years in which informal Prior-Informed Consent mechanism has been operating, it has grown from a modest initiative with only a small number of participating countries in the Asia-Pacific region into a much larger global tool.

The effectiveness of iPIC can be progressively improved by being more widely adopted and utilised:

- As of 2014, there are 106 members of iPIC. However, for iPIC to become even more effective, it is necessary that more countries actively participate. All countries, both developed and developing, which are not already members of iPIC are strongly encouraged to join iPIC.
- Countries that have been active members in the past but have not recently updated their iPIC data are encouraged to do so.
- At the 24th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol all Parties were invited to consider participation in iPIC as a means to improve information about their potential imports of controlled substances with the aim of reducing the difference between reports of imports and exports of ODS and helping to identify illegal trade (Decision XXIV/12).
- Countries with only a small number of shipments of ODS per year could consider initiating iPIC consultations for all licence requests.
- Exporting countries may wish to consider sending automatic notifications for all export licences issued, even where an iPIC consultation is not entered into.
- It is important to use iPIC to screen potential shipments of ODS for exempted uses; used, recycled, and reclaimed ODS; ODS intended for destruction as well as ODS-containing products and equipment.
- iPIC can play an important role in initiating consultations between iPIC members and non-members - now an increasingly common occurrence. Details of the necessary contact information can be found on the OzonAction and Ozone Secretariat websites.
- UNEP's regional iPIC focal points can provide valuable assistance and support to follow-up with specific consultations.

Useful links

- For more information on iPIC please see the OzonAction website:
  www.unep.org/ozonaction/ipic
- iPIC online (for iPIC members)
  http://62.160.8.45/IPIC/Account/Login
- List of designated Ozone Officers (available from the OzonAction website):
  www.unep.org/ozonaction/InformationResources/Contacts/tabid/6549/Default.aspx
- Designated ODS licensing focal points (available from the Ozone Secretariat website)
  http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/ozone_data_tools_focal_points_licensing_systems.php

References/footnotes

1. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior-informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade - www.pic.int ; Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal) - www.basel.int
2. Montreal Protocol Decision XIX/12 - Preventing illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/19mop/MOP-19-7E.doc
3. Montreal Protocol Decisions XX/15 - Difficulties faced by Iraq as a new Party - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/MOP-20-9E.pdf and XXI/24 - Difficulties faced by Timor-Leste as a new Party - http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-8E.doc
4. Montreal Protocol Decision XXIV/12 - Differences between data reported on imports and data reported on exports - http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop/mop-24/final-report/PreSession%20Documents/MOP-24-10E.pdf
5. 'Feedstock' is a controlled substance that undergoes transformation in a process in which it is converted from its original composition except for insignificant trace emission

UNEP Regional iPIC Focal Points

Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
Ms Kakuko Nagatani
Policy & Enforcement Officer
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Phone : +662 288 1679
Fax : +662 280 3829
Email : kakuko.nagatani@unep.org

Africa (ROA)
Mr Patrick Salifu
Regional Network Coordinator
UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
Room X231
PO Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya

Europe and Central Asia (ECA)
Mr Halvart Koeppen
Regional Network Coordinator
UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
15 rue de Milan
75441 Paris Cedex 09
France
Phone : +33 1 4437 1432
Fax : +33 1 4437 1474
Email : halvart.koppen@unep.org

Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)
Mr Marco A. Pinzon
Regional Network Coordinator
UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Avenue Morse, City of Knowledge.
Clayton, Building 132
Panama City
Panama
Phone : +507 305 3154
Fax : +507 305 3105
Email : marco.pinzon@unep.org

West Asia (ROWA)
Mr Khaled Klaly
Policy & Enforcement Officer
UNEP Regional Office for West Asia
Villa No: 2113 - Road No: 2432
Block: 324
Al Juffair
P.O. Box 10880, Manama
Bahrain
Phone : +973 17812763
Fax : +973 17 825110/1
Email : khaled.klaly@unep.org

About the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, countries worldwide are taking specific, time-targeted actions to reduce and eliminate the production and consumption of man-made chemicals that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield.

The objective of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODS), which include CFCs, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and HCFCs. One hundred ninety seven governments have joined this multilateral environmental agreement and are taking action.

The UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) to enable them to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With our programme's assistance, countries are able to make informed decisions about alternative technologies, ozone-friendly policies and enforcement activities.

OzonAction has two main areas of work:

- Assisting developing countries in UNEP's capacity as an Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, through a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP).
- Specific partnerships with bilateral agencies and Governments.

UNEP's partnerships under the Montreal Protocol contribute to the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

For more information

Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head
OzonAction Branch
UNEP DTIE
15 rue de Milan, 75441 Paris CEDEX 09, France
Tel: +331 4437 1450, Fax: +331 4437 1474
Email: ozonaction@unep.org
Web: http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/

About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) helps governments, local authorities and decision-makers in business and industry to develop and implement policies and practices focusing on sustainable development.

The Division works to promote:

> sustainable consumption and production,
> the efficient use of renewable energy,
> adequate management of chemicals,
> the integration of environmental costs in development policies.

The Office of the Director, located in Paris, coordinates activities through:

> **The International Environmental Technology Centre** - IETC (Osaka, Shiga), which implements integrated waste, water and disaster management programmes, focusing in particular on Asia.

> **Sustainable Consumption and Production** (Paris), which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns as a contribution to human development through global markets.

> **Chemicals** (Geneva), which catalyzes global actions to bring about the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide.

> **Energy** (Paris), which fosters energy and transport policies for sustainable development and encourages investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

> **OzonAction** (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

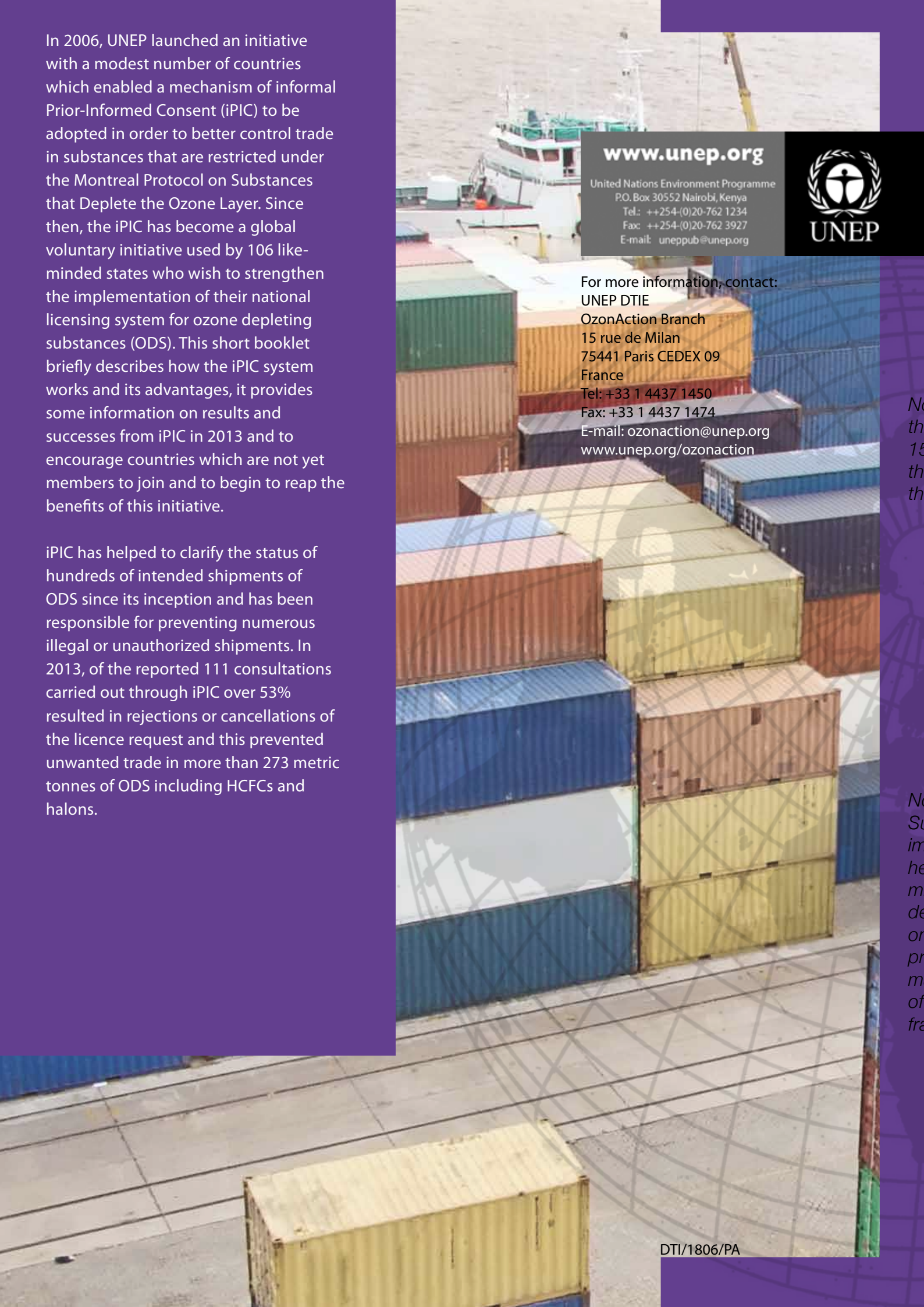
> **Economics and Trade** (Geneva), which helps countries to integrate environmental considerations into economic and trade policies, and works with the finance sector to incorporate sustainable development policies.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of knowledge and information, fostering technological cooperation and partnerships, and implementing international conventions and agreements.

For more information,
see **www.unep.org/dtie**

In 2006, UNEP launched an initiative with a modest number of countries which enabled a mechanism of informal Prior-Informed Consent (iPIC) to be adopted in order to better control trade in substances that are restricted under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Since then, the iPIC has become a global voluntary initiative used by 106 like-minded states who wish to strengthen the implementation of their national licensing system for ozone depleting substances (ODS). This short booklet briefly describes how the iPIC system works and its advantages, it provides some information on results and successes from iPIC in 2013 and to encourage countries which are not yet members to join and to begin to reap the benefits of this initiative.

iPIC has helped to clarify the status of hundreds of intended shipments of ODS since its inception and has been responsible for preventing numerous illegal or unauthorized shipments. In 2013, of the reported 111 consultations carried out through iPIC over 53% resulted in rejections or cancellations of the licence request and this prevented unwanted trade in more than 273 metric tonnes of ODS including HCFCs and halons.



www.unep.org

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel.: ++254-(0)20-762 1234
Fax: ++254-(0)20-762 3927
E-mail: uneppub@unep.org

UNEP

For more information, contact:
UNEP DTIE
OzonAction Branch
15 rue de Milan
75441 Paris CEDEX 09
France
Tel: +33 1 4437 1450
Fax: +33 1 4437 1474
E-mail: ozonaction@unep.org
www.unep.org/ozonaction

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