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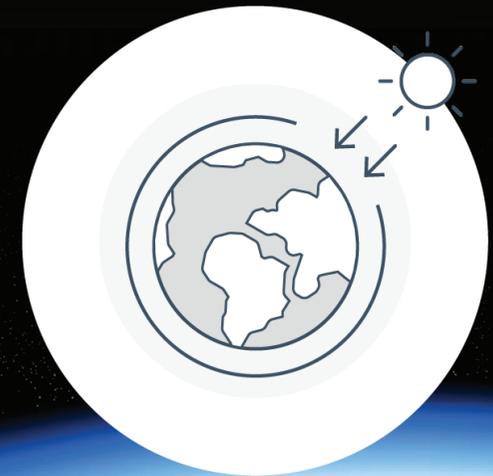


KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

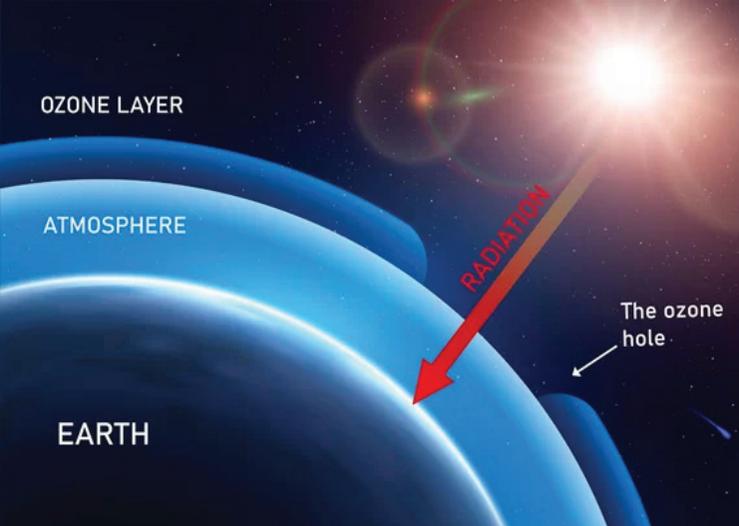
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
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PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER



Inspiring New Hope



PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

The ozone layer is a gaseous shield that surrounds and protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet sun rays, this ensures protection and conservation of life on the planet. Between 1970's to 1980's, scientists discovered that the ozone layer is continuously developing a hole that enables the harmful ultraviolet sun rays to accumulate on Earth, this threatens the survival of human life and other life forms (United Nations Environment Programme, 2024; Palit, 2024).

Consequently, the scientific revelation of a hole in the ozone layer motivated the development of a global environmental agreement known as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The development of the Montreal Protocol took place in Montreal, Canada on the 16th of September in 1987, hence the commemoration of this day is observed on the 16th of September each year (World Meteorological Organisation, 2022; UNEP, 2024).

As part of Advancing Climate Action, the Montreal Protocol promotes the fight against Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). According to the World Meteorological Organisation (2022), examples of these substances include the following, among others:

- Chlorofluorocarbons in short CFCs;
- Carbon Tetrachloride;
- Halons & Methyl Chloroform.

These ozone depleting substances are commonly found in many items or products that humans use, such as solvents, aerosols, refrigerators, air-conditioners, etc. (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2024).

SIGNIFICANCE OF OZONE DAY:

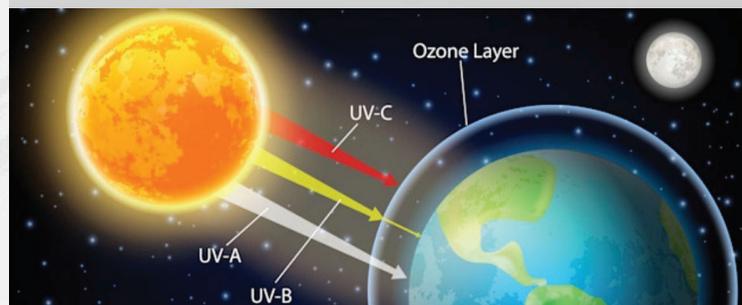
Solutions to Climate Change: Ozone Day offers the global community an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate climate actions. Fortunately for South Africa, on the 23rd of July 2024, the President of the Republic of South Africa signed the Climate Change Bill into Law.

This Act is expected to strengthen South Africa's response to Climate Change which is interconnected with ozone depletion (Centre for Environmental Rights, 2024).

Advocates for ozone healing: The commemoration of this day serves as an encouragement to role players to take action that will heal the ozone layer. Also, it raises awareness to the global community to defend their environmental rights and take responsibility.



WORLD
**OZONE
DAY**



CONSEQUENCES OF OZONE DEPLETION

- **Human health:** Damaged ozone layer enables increased exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays that can damage eyes, cause skin cancer, heat stroke and other health complications induced by heat;
- **Disruption of food security:** Increased ultraviolet rays that heat up the surface of the earth contributes to droughts which affect food security;
- **Loss of biodiversity:** Animals are being lost as a result of extreme heats, more especially those that live in cooler environments such as the African Penguins and Polar Bears, as water bodies are heating up and glaciers are melting. A similar case with plants that are susceptible to extreme heat they cannot grow properly and even die.
- **Damaged infrastructure:** Infrastructure made from natural and synthetic materials gets damaged by extreme heat. Infrastructure made from wood, plastics and rubber are more prone to damage.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO REDUCE OZONE DEPLETION:

- Buy aerosol that do not contain CFC's. They are usually written "ozone friendly" on the container labels;
- Avoid using pest and disease control substances that contain Methyl bromide;
- The Montreal protocol phased out the use of CFC's on air conditioners and refrigerators. However, there are old air conditioners and refrigerators that still use CFC's. These should be serviced regularly and disposed of the right way. If possible, buy new refrigerators or air conditioners with stickers that indicate that they are energy efficient;
- Reduce, reuse and recycle waste to limit disposal at landfill sites. Waste at landfill sites emit ozone depleting gases into the atmosphere, thus zero-waste to landfills can reduce waste gaseous emissions;
- Reduce use of own vehicle, opt for public transport whenever possible. Walking or cycling is also encouraged, and buying electric vehicles if possible;
- Plant as many indigenous trees as possible to capture carbon.