

Recovering the Ozone Layer

I read in the [UN News](#) that we are on our way to a healthy Ozone Layer by 2040, over the Arctic by 2045 and over Antarctica by 2066.

Words from UN News

Photography by Olivia Wilson / Liceria Co.

The Earth's ozone layer is on track to recover within four decades. a UN-backed panel of experts said on Jan 9th 2023 at the American Meteorological Society's 103rd annual meeting.

In a report published every four years on the progress of the Montreal Protocol, the panel confirmed the phase-out of nearly 99 per cent of banned ozone-depleting substances.

The Montreal Protocol was signed in September 1987 and is a landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the consumption and production of nearly 100 man-made chemicals, or 'ozone-depleting substances' (ODS).

The overall phase-down has led to the notable recovery of the protective ozone layer in the upper stratosphere and decreased human exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun.

The Montreal Protocol has already benefited efforts to mitigate climate change, helping avoid global warming by an estimated 0.5°C.

Over the last 35 years, the Protocol has become a true champion for the environment. The assessments and reviews undertaken by the Scientific Assessment Panel remain a vital component of the work of the Protocol that helps inform policy and decision-makers.

"UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that the restoration of the ozone layer was "an encouraging example of what the world can achieve when we work together".

The discovery of a hole in the Ozone Layer was first announced by three scientists from the British Antarctic Survey, in May 1985. According to the Panel's report, if current policies remain in place, the layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by 2040."

