

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER
(16 SEPTEMBER 2026)

GES MESSAGE

In 1994, the United Nations' General Assembly proclaimed the 16th of September as the "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer" to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol. Since 16 September 1995, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated every year under a specific theme.

The theme for this year's celebration is: "Global action for a cooler planet". It underscores the global efforts to protect the ozone layer while addressing climate change through sustainable cooling solutions. It also highlights as to how development priorities can be achieved by promoting energy efficient technologies, strengthening industrial capacity, and supporting innovation across the cooling sector.

As a background note, global concerns started in the 1980s when scientists discovered a hole in the ozone layer, attributable to the release of chemicals known as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) used in aerosols, refrigerators, air-conditioners, cleaning agents and fire extinguishers. Consequently, on 16 September 1987, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted to regulate the production and consumption of ODSs. Since then, the Protocol has been amended several times, including through the Kigali Amendment in 2016, with a view to adapting to emerging global challenges.

This year, to commemorate the 10 years of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change will hold a series of activities starting from 16 September 2026 both in Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

Activities planned in Mauritius are as follows:

- (i) As main activity, a one-day workshop will be held to enhance the capacity of members of the press and students in the field of Journalism and Mass communication, on ozone layer protection;
- (ii) Radio Talks and Television programmes in Bhojpuri and Creole on ozone layer protection, during the week 14-18 September 2026;
- (iii) Training of technicians in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector on the safe use and handling of natural refrigerants;
- (iv) Customs training on monitoring and prevention of illegal trade of substances controlled under Montreal Protocol; and
- (v) Launching of a video competition for youth aged 15-20 years in November 2026 inviting participants to showcase actions to protect the ozone layer, promote climate-friendly practices, and present innovative ideas for a sustainable future.

The following activities will be organized in Rodrigues:

- (a) a tree-planting activity, in collaboration with community leaders and non-governmental organisations, on Thursday 17 September 2026; and
- (b) some 100 youths (aged 13 to 18 years old) will be sensitised at La Ferme Community Centre on Friday 18 September 2026.

Besides the above, a number of projects are being implemented in consultation with the key ministries, training institutions, academia and private sector.

On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, we encourage everyone to shift to climate friendly technologies in their refrigeration and air-conditioning systems and help to build a cooler planet.

Happy International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2026.