

ADDRESSING THE LEAK: FINDINGS FROM INDIA'S LARGEST SURVEY AND POLICY GAPS IN LIFECYCLE REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT

Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol (MOP37)

Monday, 3rd November 2025 | 18:00 to 20:00

CR-14, United Nations Office at Nairobi



Background

Countries across the Global South are experiencing rapid economic growth and urbanisation, leading to a sharp rise in cooling demand. This growth has a direct impact on refrigerant consumption and emissions, making effective refrigerant management a key priority for climate and sustainability.

Refrigerant leakage across manufacturing, servicing, and disposal continue to be a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. This problem is worsened by weak regulations, informal servicing networks, and limited recovery and recycling infrastructure, issues that are common in many developing countries.

To understand the scale and nature of this challenge, iFOREST conducted one of India's most extensive surveys across the refrigerant supply and servicing chain in seven major cities. The findings expose substantial gaps in current Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM) practices and underscore the urgent need for systemic interventions, including regulation, financing, capacity building, and infrastructure development.

These insights from India provide valuable lessons for other Global South nations seeking to establish circular refrigerant management systems. A transition towards sustainable cooling depends on creating a circular refrigerant economy, where refrigerants are safely recovered, recycled, and reused. This requires collaboration across government, industry, and international stakeholders to strengthen policies, build capacities, and enable financial mechanisms for implementation.

Objective

This side event at MOP37 aims to present findings from iFOREST's survey on refrigerant management in India and spark a broader dialogue to explore the policy, institutional, and financial mechanisms needed to implement LRM in India and beyond, offering insights for countries across the Global South that face similar market and capacity constraints.

The session will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and technical experts to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in establishing a robust circular refrigerant management system for developing countries, aligning with their climate and cooling goals.

Key Themes to be Discussed

- Insights and lessons from refrigerant management survey in India
- Common gaps in refrigerant lifecycle management across the supply and servicing chain
- Policy and regulatory reforms required for effective LRM implementation
- Institutional mechanisms for recovery, recycling, and reuse systems
- Financial and market mechanisms to enable circular refrigerant management
- Opportunities for technology cooperation and capacity building across developing countries
- Building capacity and awareness for safe refrigerant handling and recovery
- Global experiences and best practices to accelerate LRM adoption in the Global South

Session Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker
6:00 – 6:30	Refreshments and Networking	
6:30 – 6:45	Initial Remarks	Dr Chandra Bhushan President and CEO, iFOREST
6:45 – 7:00	LRM Presentation	Ganesh S. Deshmukh Senior Program Associate, iFOREST
7:00 – 8:00	Panel Discussion and Audience Questions	Panel Speakers: 1. Ms Elvira Nigido, Group Sustainability Compliance Manager, A-Gas 2. Mr Leslie Smith, Director, Renewable Energy Division & National Ozone Officer, Grenada 3. Mr Mass Goote, Founder - Carraway Strategies 4. Dr Omar Abdelaziz, Assistant Professor, The American University in Cairo and TEAP Member 5. Dr Sukumar Devotta, Professor of Eminence, Anna University and Former Director, CSIR and NEERI and TEAP Member Moderator: Dr Chandra Bhushan President and CEO, iFOREST