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SAPPHIRE PSC Meeting – Remarks on overall project timeframe and mid-term review

16 March 2021



- The current timeframe for the project is from October 2017 to April 2023.
- COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts on the Contracting Parties and UNEP/NC Secretariat as a whole in 2020
- Mitigation actions were developed and circulated by the Secretariat earlier in 2020
- As expected, although some progress was been made with project activities in 2020, many were slowed down or had to be postponed
- In light of these challenges, the approved budget for 2020 has not been spent and will need to be re-allocated to 2021 and beyond (approximately USD1.2M of the approved USD1.75M has been committed – only 2/3 of approved budget for 2020)

- These uncertainties have implications on the overall timeframe of the project to ensure all activities can be completed
- SAPPHIRE Project Mid-Term Review – Proposed for August/September 2021

Request to the PSC

- *To note the delays in implementation caused by Covid-19 in terms of overall project timeframes and to consider if a no-cost extension from April 2023 to December 2023 is necessary?*
- *To approve the timing of the planned mid-term review.*

THANK YOU

