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# 4<sup>th</sup> SAPPHIRE PSC Meeting – Remarks on Midterm Review and related topics

1 March 2022



## Mid-term Review

- The MTR is currently underway over 3 months from January to 30 March 2022
- The consultant Mr Ivica Trumbic has been recruited and will be contacting FPs and other stakeholders over the next 2-3 weeks
- He will then produce a draft MTR Report that will be distributed to FPs for approval before finalisation by end March 2022
- MTR is important as it will guide the way forward with the remainder of the SAPPHIRE Project, including providing guidance on a potential no-cost extension.

## Possibility of a no-cost extension

- The current operational 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 and 2021
- As expected, although some progress was been made with project activities in 2020 and 2021, many were slowed down or had to be postponed
- In light of these challenges, part of (approx. 45%) of the approved budget for 2021 and from previous years has not been spent and will need to be re-allocated to 2022 and beyond
- These uncertainties have implications on the overall timeframe of the project to ensure all activities can be completed

## The possibility of a new call for proposal to effectively utilize unspent project funding

- It is proposed that underspending in previous years could be addressed through a new call for proposals
- The call could be directed to existing demonstration projects that have shown good progress, or
- New demonstration projects that satisfy project requirements, or
- Projects that directly address 'building back better' after the Covid-19 pandemic
- A similar approach has been initiated by the WIOSAP project to address underspending in 2020 and 2021

# Requirements for reporting on co-financing

## SAPPHIRE FINANCING PLAN

**GEF Trust Fund or LDCF or SCCF or other vertical fund - USD 8,766,500**

**(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP - USD 8,766,500**

**(2) PARALLEL CO-FINANCING (all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP)**

**Governments USD 311,040,044**

**Other In-kind - USD 6,759,450**

**Total co-financing - USD 317,799,494**

**Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2) USD 326,565,994**

# What kinds of projects can be declared as co-financing?

- Non GEF-funded projects and programmes.
- Projects or programmes that would contribute to the outcomes of, or have synergies with and compliment the SAPPHIRE project.
- In-kind support from routine government-funded operating budgets for activities such as staff time, facilities, transport, communications etc.
- We need to update and revise the original commitments made by countries prior to SAPPHIRE Inception.
- The PCU will continue to engage with Focal Points to provide this information for the mid-term evaluation, or if not by then, shortly thereafter.

# Request to the PSC

- *To provide the necessary support to the MTR Consultant as he engages with the PSC and other stakeholders during March 2022*
- *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 October 2023 to December 2024 may be necessary?*
- *To note and consider the suggestion of a new call for proposals to address underspending in previous years*
- *To take note of the requirement for countries to report on co-financing on a regular basis and in particular as part of the MTR*

**THANK YOU**

