







4th 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 cofinancing 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 cofinancing administered by UNDP)

Governments USD 311,040,044

Other In-kind - USD 6,759,450 Total co-financing - USD 317,799,494

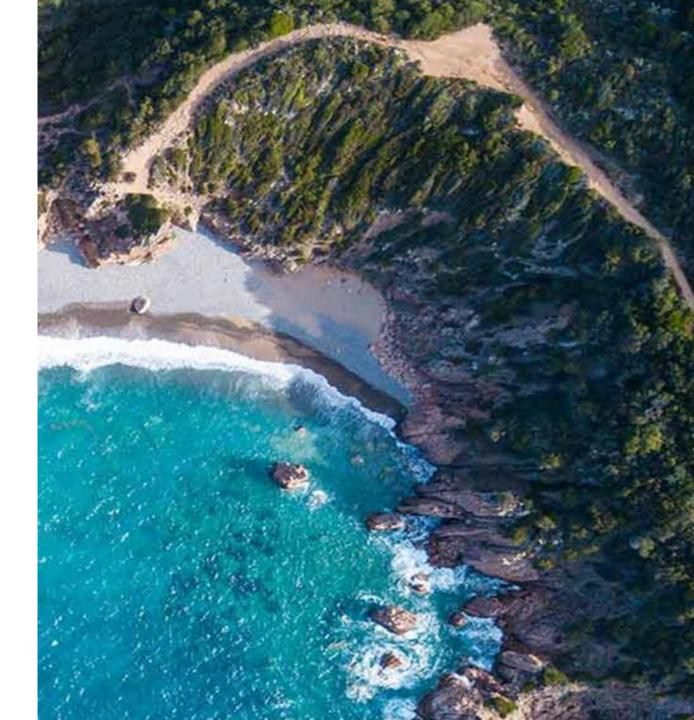
Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2) USD 326,565,994

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 cofinancing on a regular basis and in particular as part of the MTR



THANK YOU