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Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting of the MedProgramme Child Project 4.1

Athens, 6 March 2024

Conclusions and recommendations

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Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” (GEF ID 9684) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607)

On 6 March 2024, the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project 4.1 “The Mediterranean Sea large marine ecosystem environment and climate regional support project” (GEF ID 9686) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607) was held in Athens. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU.

Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a. The SCM took note of work progress achieved to date of the MedProgramme’s Child Project 4.1 and expressed its concern over delayed recruitment of the knowledge management/communications expert and the gender expert. The SCM urged MedPCU to expedite this process through UNOPS.
- b. The SCM welcomed the appointment of the Midterm Evaluation Consultant by UNEP Evaluation Office and committed to providing the necessary information and data as required.
- c. The SCM appreciated the efforts and progress made in 2023 for the development of the Knowledge Management System. In this regard, the SCM endorsed the proposal for the public launch of the platform at the Annual Stocktaking Meeting (April 2024), and requested prior access to countries and executing partners in order to provide their feedback prior to the official launch. The SCM requested the MedPCU to share login details to be forwarded to the Child Project 4.1 Focal Points. The MedPCU requested that feedback is provided no later than 1 April 2024.
- d. The SCM requested that MedPCU organizes and conducts training session(s) on the use of the Knowledge Management Platform no later than mid-2024.
- e. The SCM requested that the MedPCU undertake further analyses based on information provided in the Knowledge Platform in order to monitor and report on programme level results linking outcomes and indicators of different Child Projects. The SCM noted the relevance of the ongoing mid-term evaluation to support this effort.
- f. The SCM took note that the current completion date of CP4.1 precedes end dates of other Child Projects. The MedPCU pointed out that CP4.1 is expected to continue in parallel with other ongoing Child Projects. To this end, the SCM agreed to extend CP4.1 and requested MedPCU to make a proposal for the duration of extension taking into consideration budget forecast and workplan with an appropriate end date to be determined based on logistical considerations and inputs from the midterm evaluation. The MedPCU is requested to report back on the end date of CP4.1 upon conclusion of the midterm evaluation.
- g. The SCM reviewed the work plan of CP4.1 for the year 2024 and noted that activities for knowledge, communications and gender are not yet detailed, pending development of those action plans by the respective experts being recruited. The SCM requested that the annual workplan be updated with these actions when available and shared with the countries. The SCM approved planned activities subject to incorporating the above mentioned recommendations.
- h. The SCM requested MedPCU to integrate gender action plans of the individual Child Projects into the annual project work plans and monitoring frameworks.
- i. Regarding the proposed budget revisions (depicted in document: UNEP/MED WG.581/3), the SCM reviewed the proposal of the Secretariat/MedPCU to reallocate:

- i. Remaining funds of USD 3300 (CW) and USD 65,282 (IW) under budget lines description “Other consultants for knowledge management/coordination” to budget line “Regional consultant for knowledge management.”
- ii. A total of USD 92,128 under IW budget line description “Publication, translation, dissemination and reporting” to budget line “Travels to attend PSC and ASM (Stakeholders from Countries).”
- iii. A total of USD 20,000 under IW budget line description “KM Strategy - Data Protocol, Analysis and Management” to budget line “Grant to IP – Other IP”.
- iv. Noted that the budget forecast and the proposed revisions require further time for review. The SCM requested an additional one week to provide feedback and agreement to the proposed budget revisions, with a silent approval procedure.
- v. For future SCM meetings, the MedPCU Finance and Budget Officer is requested to provide summary analysis of budget spending and expenditures, including presentation of proposed budget revisions in a simplified format.
- j. The SCM confirmed that the Implementing Agency has the authority to approve in line with GEF and UNEP financial rules,¹ the re-categorization of individual budget lines within the Umoja classes as proposed by the Executing Agency, countries and project partners, provided that there is no re-purposing in the total amount, substantive activities and component totals.

¹ GEF rules provides a limit of no more than 10%