

To: Mr. William Infante
UN Resident Coordinator
Serbia

Date: 06 February 2012

From: Ms. Sophie de Caen
Director
MDG-F Secretariat

Subject: No-cost extension request: MDGF-2068 – “*Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development*” –
Development and Private Sector- Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

We are pleased to inform you that, as per your request, the MDG-F Secretariat has granted the Joint Programme “*Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development*” a no cost extension of six (6) months. Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 04 December 2012. Please note that this is a one-time only extension intended to allow the Joint Programme to complete its activities and achieve its expected results. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent funds within the agreed timeframe (04 December 2012) will have to be reimbursed to the MDG-F.

II. Recommendations

We acknowledge and agree that the main reasons for this no-cost extension include the consolidation of pilot experiences, results and lessons learned from the implementation of the programme, benefiting from a larger timeframe including the tourist season. Also, the extension will allow for a better assessment of results obtained through the Grant Joint Fund.

We count on the joint programme’s team commitment to continue the revision and implementation of the improvement plan that responds to the recommendations brought up by the mid-term evaluation, including the completion of a clear analysis of the beneficiaries of the programme; proper monitoring and assessment of results of the grants programme in a joint manner; and a proper and comprehensive assessment of capacity building efforts beyond the completion of input activities.

III. Monitoring and Reporting

Quarterly color-coded annual work plans, and biannual monitoring reports should continue to be prepared and submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat. Please be reminded that each Joint Programme is responsible for conducting its final evaluation prior to the closure of the programme and sharing the final report with the MDG-F Secretariat.

We would highly appreciate it if you could forward this memo to all participating UN agencies to the joint programme, and each participating UN agency should forward the memo to their corresponding

HQs. Further information on the closure of programmes is available on the revised “MDG-F Joint Implementation Guidelines” uploaded on the MDG-F website (www.mdgfund.org).

With best wishes.

cc.:

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Ms. Kori Udovicki, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNDP, New York

Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator and of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP New York

Ms. Deborah Landey, Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordinator Office (DOCO)
MDG-F Secretariat