

Sudan's REDD+ Readiness Assessment

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CBOs	Community-based organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations ^[1] _[SEP]
DP	Development Partner
ER	Emission Reduction
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility ^[1] _[SEP]
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FNC	Forest National Corporation
FREL/FRL	Forest Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level ^[1] _[SEP]
GAPAs	Gum Arabic Producer Associations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHGi	Greenhouse Gases Inventory
GHGs	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCENR	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution ^[1] _[SEP]
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ^[1] _[SEP]
LMS	Land Monitoring System
LPG	liquified petroleum gas
LU	Land use
LUC	Land-use change
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MTR	Mid-term review

NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGOs	Non – Governmental Organisations
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRSC	National REDD+ Steering Committee
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Product
PMU	Programme Management Unit
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/ Quality Control
RAF	Readiness Assessment Framework
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
R-PACKAGE	Readiness Assessment Package
R-PP	REDD Readiness Project Proposal ^[1]
SAWA	Sawa Sudan for Development and Humanitarian Aid
SECS	Sudanese Environment Conservation Society
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFPs	State Focal Points
SFS	Sudanese Forestry Society
SLMS	Sustainable Land Monitoring System
SNC	Second National Communication
TAC	Technical Multi-Sector Advisory Committee
TORs	Terms of References
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
WB	World Bank

Executive summary

The primary objective of Sudan's REDD+ Readiness project is to strengthen the country's capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) strategy. Sudan's R-PP was approved in 2014, accordingly Sudan became a participant to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and eligible for receiving readiness support to implement its REDD+ Readiness Project Proposal (R-PP). The FCPF first grant agreement of USD 3.8 million was signed in March 2015, and completed by the end of 2018. During the implementation of this readiness support, Sudan achieved remarkable progress in meeting all the requirements of the readiness phase as included in the first grant agreement. In line with the FCPF requirements, a mid-term review was conducted successfully in the beginning of 2017. As a result, in March 2018, an additional grant agreement of USD 5 million was signed between the World Bank and the Government of Sudan to consolidate and complete a successful readiness preparatory phase for the country.

The national REDD+ Program Management Unit (PMU) has the overall responsibility of coordinating the implementation of the readiness program. The PMU is hosted in the Forest National Corporation (FNC) headquarters and has focal point offices in the 18 States of Sudan. These management arrangements are also supported by the National REDD+ Steering Committee (NRSC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of representatives of high-level officials and technical experts, respectively. Members of these committees represent all REDD+ related institutions, including government, research, academia and civil society.

The Readiness Assessment Package (R-Package) is a major milestone and comes at the transition stage from REDD+ readiness preparation to piloting performance-based activities. The R-Package is an important requirement by the FCPF for assessing progress, strengths and weaknesses, and seeking objective feedback from relevant national and sub-national stakeholders involved in Sudan's REDD+ process. Sudan is preparing its R-Package at an advanced stage of its readiness preparation to benefit from the outcomes and feedback of the self-assessment to improve and consolidate its readiness preparation. The implementation of Sudan's readiness program is scheduled to be completed by December 2019, per the additional grant agreement.

This readiness assessment is not merely a review of the progress made in the implementation of the two FCPF grant agreements. In fact, it is an assessment of the progress Sudan has made in achieving the objectives of the REDD+ readiness preparation, based on the approved R-PP and the international requirements as described in the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework (RAF), in particular the assessment criteria. Therefore, Sudan's R-Package report compiles feedback on the following:

- Results of the assessment of the progress made in the readiness preparation;
- Results of the national multi-stakeholder self-assessments;
- Insights on significant achievements made and lessons learned in all sub-components;
- Identification of remaining gaps and areas that require further development in all sub-components;
- Next steps and planned activities for transitioning to the implementation phase.

Results of multi-stakeholder self-assessment

The objective of the self-assessment sessions was to provide a platform for consideration and open discussions among the stakeholders involved on the progress made to date across all the sub-components of the readiness proposal in line with the FCPF RAF assessment criteria. The self-assessment process was conducted during the period 23 December 2018 to 7 January 2019. In total, 74 representatives of nine stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessments, of which 43 percent were women. A total of five sessions were organized for the different stakeholder groups to perform their self-assessments. The self-assessments by two development partners were solicited through a dedicated form which was sent to relevant representatives of the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Participating stakeholders have been clearly informed that this readiness assessment is an assessment of the readiness preparation of Sudan's REDD+ readiness program as a whole and is not a review of the progress in the implementation of the two FCPF grant agreements.

Overall, Sudan's REDD+ program made significant progress in meeting the readiness preparation objectives as specified in the R-PP and as described by the criteria of the FCPF RAF. This result is confirmed by both the review of the status of the implementation of the planned activities under the two FCPF grant agreements and by the results of the self-assessments undertaken by the nine stakeholder groups. The main readiness outputs required under the nine sub-component have been either completed or are planned to be finalized by December 2019, which corresponds to the envisaged date for completing the implementation of the additional grant agreement. Table 1 below shows the results of the overall assessments of the progress made in the implementation of the readiness activities, and the multi-stakeholder self-assessment.

Table 1: Sudan's overall progress made in the readiness preparation

Components/sub-components	Progress in the implementation of the FCPF two grants agreements	
	Completed	To be completed by December 2019
1.A. National REDD+ Management arrangements	REDD+ management arrangements established and well-functioning at the national and sub-national levels	Technical and institutional capacity-building support
1.B. Consultation and participation and outreach	Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms are in place; the process well established	Improvements continue in institutionalizing the process of consultation and participation of stakeholders
2.A. Assessment of LU and LUC drivers, forest law, policy and governance	Assessment of land use, land tenure and drivers has been completed in line with the readiness objectives	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of land change using remote sensing by a fellow of the Internship program • Assessment of impacts of mining on deforestation
2.B. REDD+ Strategy options	Selection of priority options has been completed, following the process and other requirements described in the RAF assessment criteria	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic valuation • Landscape restoration • REDD+ mainstreaming • Gender mainstreaming • Private sector engagement
2.C. REDD+ implementation framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of benefit-sharing mechanism completed • FGRM completed • Recommendations for policy and legislation reforms prepared • Information sharing is ongoing 	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National registry and a system for monitoring REDD+ activities • National REDD+ Pilot Emission Reduction Program Designs
2.D. Social and environmental impacts during REDD+ readiness and implementation	SESA and ESMF completed through comprehensive consultation following the World Bank, UNFCCC and national guidance	Additional activity on enhancing SESA
3. Develop a national FREL/FRL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale, scope and methodology have been decided • Data collection and processing is underway 	Finalization, validation and submission to the UNFCCC by October 2019
4.A. National Forests Monitoring System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFI completed except inaccessible sample unit which is being address using remote sensing • Procurement of data, systems and software necessary for the NFI completed • Methodology development completed • Assessment of the institutional and technical capacity completed 	NFMS planned to be completed by October 2019 Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire monitoring equipment and trainings • Desertification monitoring, equipment and trainings • GHGi and reporting process for AFOLU sector • REDD+ Information tracking system
4.B. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Procurement completed; work has just commenced. The plan of work is in line with the readiness objectives	Planned to be completed by August 2019

Comparing the results of the assessment of the progress made in the readiness preparation at the time of the R-Package with the results of the assessment during the mid-term review (January 2017), shows significant progress made in the implementation of the R-PP and in meeting the international readiness objectives as represented by the FCPF RAF. Table 2 below compares the results of the assessments of the readiness preparation during the mid-term review and the R-Package times.

Table 2: Comparing progress made in Sudan’s readiness implementation during the MTR and R-Package

Components	Sub-components	MTR	R-Package
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1.A. National REDD+ management arrangements	Green	Green
	1.B. Consultation, participation and outreach	Green	Green
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	1.A. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policies and governance	Green	Green
	2.B. REDD+ strategy options	Yellow	Green
	2.C. Implementation framework	Orange	Yellow
	2.D. Social and environmental impacts	Orange	Green
3. Reference Emission Level/Reference Level	FREL/FRL	Red	Green
4. Monitoring System for Forests, and Safeguards	4.A. National forests monitoring system	Yellow	Yellow
	4.C. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Red	Yellow

Next steps activities

Immediate next steps for Sudan’s readiness program is to complete the outputs and activities planned under the additional FCPF grant agreement (see annex IV) in line with the planned timeframe. In addition, the readiness self-assessment has indicated under each of the nine sub-components of the R-PP a number of gaps and areas that require further development by the readiness program (see section 8 on next steps). Some of these gaps and areas for further development are necessary for Sudan to meet the readiness objectives in line with the FCPF RAF. Therefore, these activities will receive highest priority in the remaining time of the readiness implementation (December 2019).

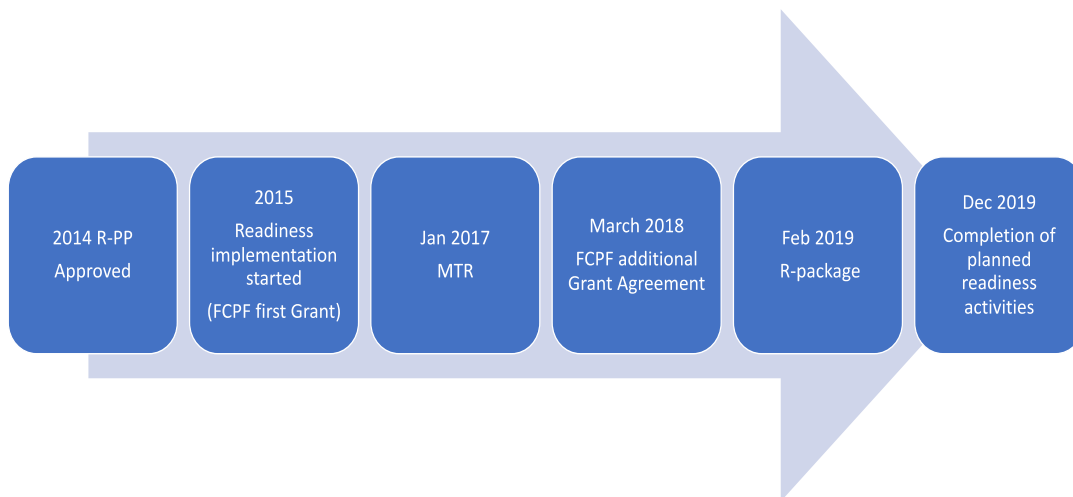
1 Introduction

1.1 Country context and FCPF support

Sudan, motivated by its national development interests and global climate change obligations, has been actively involved in the global REDD+ process. In 2013, Sudan prepared its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) which was coordinated by the Forest National Corporation (FNC). The preparation of the R-PP involved experts from all REDD+ related institutions such as the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Animal Resources, Rangeland Administration, Wildlife Administration, the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity, the Agricultural Research Corporation, the University of Khartoum, and the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS), which is largest NGO in Sudan with about 100 branches established in the different states. With the approval of Sudan’s R-PP in 2014, Sudan became a participant to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and eligible for receiving readiness support to implement its R-PP. The FCPF first grant agreement of USD 3.8 million was signed in March 2015 and completed by the end of 2018. During the implementation of this readiness support Sudan achieved remarkable progress in all the requirements of the readiness phase included in the first grant agreement. In line with the FCPC requirements a mid-term review was successfully conducted in the beginning of 2017. As a result, in March 2018, an additional grant agreement of USD 5 million was signed between the World Bank and the Government of Sudan to consolidate and complete a successful readiness preparatory phase for the country. For a timeline on the milestones of Sudan’s readiness process, see the figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Key milestones on Sudan's readiness process

Readiness process in Sudan



1.2 REDD+ readiness preparation

The primary objective of Sudan's readiness is to strengthen Sudan's capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) strategy. Specific objectives include (1) institutionalizing the national REDD+ program at the national and sub-national levels through establishing fully functioning REDD+ management arrangements, and build technical and institutional capacities; (2) raising awareness and establishing effective mechanisms for stakeholder participation and consultation; (3) establishing a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system capable of serving national development objectives and international reporting requirements; (4) establishing a forest reference emission level or forest reference level (FREL/FRL); (5) developing a national forest monitoring system (NFMS); (6) information and monitoring system for non-carbon benefits, social and environmental safeguards and information and knowledge management sharing platforms. The national REDD+ Program Management Unit (PMU) has the overall responsibility of coordinating the implementation of the readiness program. The PMU is hosted in the Forest National Corporation (FNC) headquarter and has focal point offices in the 18 States of Sudan. These management arrangements are also supported by the National REDD+ steering committee (NRSC) and the technical advisory committee (TAC), comprise of representatives of high-level officials and technical experts, respectively. Members of these committees represent all REDD+ related institutions, including government, research, academia and civil society.

1.3 Purpose and approach of the readiness assessment

The Readiness Assessment Package (R-Package) is a major milestone and comes at the transition stage from REDD+ readiness preparation to piloting performance-based activities. The R-Package is an important requirement by the FCPF for assessing progress, strengths and weaknesses, and seeking objective feedback by the main stakeholders involved in the process. Sudan is preparing its R-Package at an advanced stage of the implementation of the activities proposed in its R-PP to benefit from the outcomes and feedback of the self-assessment, and to improve and consolidate its readiness preparation. According to the additional grant agreement, Sudan's Readiness program is expected to be completed by December 2019. The R-Package will be submitted to the FCPF and presented to the Participants Committee for assessment by February 2019. The scope of the R-Package encompasses all major readiness preparation activities, i.e. REDD+ organizations, consultations and stakeholder engagements, strategy preparations, the establishment of reference level and monitoring systems, and other cross-cutting issues such as governance, gender mainstreaming and environmental and social safeguards. The objectives of this work as specified in the terms of reference include the following:

- To synthesize and consolidate the findings of analytical studies carried out during the readiness preparation process, including methodologies. The studies so far include the following:
 - Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
 - Grievance and redress mechanism;
 - Land use and land tenure;

- Communication strategy;
- Benefit-sharing;
- Development of an MRV and reference level;
- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA);
- Development of the REDD+ strategy;
- Development of the REDD+ implementation framework;
- To assess progress made by Sudan on REDD+ Readiness through multi-stakeholder consultation workshops at district, national and regional levels;
- To prepare an R-Package report on the basis of criteria and diagnostic questions in the R-Package Assessment Framework.

Accordingly, this readiness assessment is not a review of the progress made in the implementation of the two FCPF grant agreements. Rather, it is an assessment of the progress Sudan has achieved in its REDD+ readiness preparation, based on the outputs described in its approved R-PP and the international requirements and guidelines as provided in the FCPF RAF, in particular the assessment criteria. Therefore, Sudan's R-Package report compiles feedback on the following:

- Results of assessment of progress made the readiness preparation;
- Results of the national multi-stakeholder self-assessment;
- Insights on significant achievements made and lessons learned in all sub-components;
- Identification of remaining gaps and areas that require further development in all sub-components;
- Next steps and planned activities for transitioning to the implementation phase.

1.4 Report of the self-assessment process

In line with the FCPF Assessment Framework, Sudan undertook its readiness self-assessment applying the assessment criteria and diagnostic questions, as appropriate. The self-assessment process was conducted during the period 23 December 2018 to 7 January 2019. In total, 74 representatives of nine stakeholder groups have participated in self-assessment process, of which 43 percent are women. Participants include PMU staff, state focal points, members of the Technical Advisory Committee, the Steering Committee, and the Technical Working Groups, as well as representatives from 10 civil society organizations and two development partners(see figures 2-4). Table 3 below presents the stakeholders groups that participated in Sudan's REDD+ readiness self-assessment and the sub-components that each group considered. A comprehensive list of all participants is contained in annex I.

Table 3: Stakeholder groups that participated in the readiness self-assessment

Stakeholder group	No. of representatives	Gender		Readiness sub-components
		Women	Men	
PMU ¹	8	4	4	All sub-components
SFPs ²	21	5	16	All sub-components
TAC ³	3	1	2	Sub-component 2
NRSC ⁴	9	4	5	Sub-component 2
TWGs ⁵	20	11	9	Sub-components 2, 3 and 4
CSOs ⁶ forums	11	6	5	Sub-component 1.B
DPs ⁷	2	1	1	Sub-components 1.A, 3 and 4
Total	74	32	42	

Five sessions have been organized for the different stakeholder groups to perform their self-assessment of Sudan's REDD+ readiness program. The self-assessments by the development partner were solicited through a dedicated form which was sent to relevant representatives of the World Bank and FAO, respectively. The objective of the self-assessment sessions was to provide a platform for consideration and discussions among the stakeholder on the progress made to date across all the sub-components of the readiness proposal against the FCPF RAF assessment criteria. The organization of the sessions included the following:

- A presentation on the progress made to date on the implementation of the readiness activities as described in the FCPF two grant agreements to ensure that all stakeholder groups are fully aware of all readiness activities, including in other components outside their mandate.
- A presentation on the self-assessment process which explained the context, the rationale, the objectives, advantages, methodologies and expected results.
- A dedicated form was provided to the participating stakeholders to write down the results of the self-assessment. The form is based on the criteria and diagnostic questions in the RAF, and provides space for scoring against the assessment criteria using color coded score ranges for each of the progress indicators (traffic lights). These codes range from 0-100, where each of the range represents a specific color. A score ranging 100-81 is represented in green, 80-51 is represented in yellow, 50-21 is represented in orange, and 20-0 is depicted in red. The score ranges are qualitative and enable aggregation of results across the stakeholder groups. The form also provides space for noting significant achievements and lessons learned, as well as gaps and issues that require further development. A sample form that was used for the self-assessment is contained in annex II.

¹ PMU: Programme Management Unit

² SFPs: State Focal Points

³ TAC: Technical Advisory Committee

⁴ NRSC: National REDD+ Steering Committee

⁵ TWGs: Technical Working Groups (SESA, FREL/FRL and NFM)

⁶ CSO: Civil society organizations

⁷ DP: Development Partners

- Stakeholders were divided into breakout groups (e.g. state focal points) or worked as one group, according to the size of the groups or their mandate in the readiness implementation. Each group was asked to assign a chair to steer the discussions and a rapporteur to report the results of the self-assessment of its group.
- Diagnostic questions have been translated and explained by the consultant during the self-assessment session. Additional clarifications were provided during the self-assessment session upon requests from the stakeholders. Clarifications were mostly sought due to the fact the some questions suggesting readiness systems, such as the benefit-sharing mechanism, the ESMF and the FGRM are fully operational and are already being tested in the REDD+ implementation phase which may not be the case for Sudan.
- Therefore, the stakeholders were asked to also take into consideration the readiness activities that are planned to be completed by the end of the additional grant agreement (December 2019). For this reason, a presentation on the progress made in the implementation of the two grant agreements was necessary to inform the stakeholders on completed as well as ongoing readiness activities to be completed in December 2019.
- The guidance provided by the consultant and followed by the stakeholders in their self-assessment was to start by discussing the progress based on the diagnostic questions provided for each criterion – normally 1-3 questions per criteria – and to build a common understanding on whether the progress made met these criteria. Then, the group collectively agreed on a single score using the scoring ranges and provided its feedback on significant achievements made, lesson learned, gaps and issues that require further development within or beyond the remaining time of Sudan’s readiness program implementation (December 2019) in bullet format.
- The outcomes of the self-assessment by the different stakeholder groups have been collected, combined and analyzed. The results are presented in the tables 4-7 below.

Table 4: Component 1. Readiness Organization and Consultation

Sub-components	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups		
		PMU	SFPs	CSOs
1.A. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Accountability and transparency			
	Operating mandate and budget			
	Multi-sector coordination mechanism and cross-sector collaboration			
	Technical supervision capacity			
	Funds management capacity			
	Feedback grievance and redress mechanism			
1.B. Consultation Participation, and Outreach	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders			
	Consultation processes			
	Information sharing and accessibility of information			
	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes			

Table 5: Component 2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Sub-components	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TAC + SC	TWGs
1.A. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policies and governance	Assessment and analysis				
	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement				
	Links between drivers barriers and REDD+ activities				
	Action plan to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance				
	Implications for forest law and policy				
2.B. REDD+ strategy options	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options				
	Feasibility assessment				
	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies				
2.C. Implementation framework	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations				
	Guidelines for implementation				
	Benefit sharing mechanism				
	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities				
2.D. Social and environmental impacts	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues				
	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts				
	Environmental and Social Management Framework				

Table 6: Component 3. Reference Emission Level/Reference Level

Sub-components	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TWGs	DP
FREL/FRL ⁸	Demonstration of methodology				
	Use of historical data and adjusted for national circumstances				
	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines				

Table 7: Component 4. Monitoring System for Forests and Safeguards

Sub-components	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TWGs	DP
4.A. National forests monitoring system	Documentation of monitoring approach				
	Demonstration of early system implementation				
	Institutional arrangements and capacities				
4.C. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues				
	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing				
	Institutional arrangements and capacities				

Figure 2: Self-assessment session with CSOs



⁸ FREL/FRL: Forest Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level

Figure 3: Self-assessment session with PMU members



Figure 4: Self-assessment session with the state focal points



2 Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation

2.1 Sub-component 1.A. National readiness management arrangements

According to the FCPF RAF, the readiness preparation of national REDD+ management arrangements need to meet a number of criteria such as ensuring accountability, openness and transparency, a clear and relevant mandate and predictable and sustainable resources. Having multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms is further required to ensure that REDD+ is integrated in plans and policies, and influencing broader sectoral frameworks such as of natural resource management. Furthermore, management arrangements should have technical and financial management capabilities to supervise multi-sectoral readiness activities, and an FGRM that can operate at national and subnational levels with transparency and impartiality to address stakeholders complaints and grievances.

2.1.1 Assessment of progress

In Sudan, the national REDD+ management arrangements are well established, with excellent technical and managerial capacities to fully exercise the range of functions required to successfully implement the national REDD+ program. The PMU was established in early 2015 and consists of a coordinator, a technical adviser, procurement and finance sections, a monitoring and evaluation office, and a communication, project management, and public relations office. At the sub-national (state) level, REDD+ management arrangements consist of REDD+ focal point offices in each of the 18 states of Sudan. The Forest National Corporation hosts the REDD+ management arrangements and provides financial, technical and logistical support to its offices at the national and state levels. The REDD+ arrangements are also supported by a national REDD+ steering committee, a technical advisory committee, a safeguards specialist and five working groups. The steering committee includes high level and political members representing institutions related to REDD+ and led by the Minister of Agriculture and Forests. The committee is operating with clear responsibilities to provide political oversight and guidance to the national REDD+ process and has organized over three meetings so far; according to its mandate it is supposed to meet twice a year (see figures 5 and 6).

The technical advisory committee consists of technical experts from REDD+-related government institutions in addition to research institutions, academia and civil society organizations. The committee has a clear mandate to provide technical support to the PMU on all REDD+ related issues including activities under the FCPF grant agreements. To date, it held more than 11 meetings, the PMU keeps the reports of all meetings. PMU has also established 5 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on safeguards, SESA, land-use, land tenure, FGRM, FREL/FRL (taskforce) and MRV. These TWGs provide specialized technical inputs required to achieve the main readiness outputs under their specified mandate. So far, these TWGs held about 20 meetings and work closely with the PMU and the consultants teams conducting the different studies under components 2, 3 and 4 of the readiness program. The PMU itself organized over 30 meetings in performing its functions and overseeing the implementation of the readiness activities. Having all these meetings and having the level of commitment demonstrated by the members of these bodies is a clear indication of the high level coordination among REDD+ related institutions and full functionality of the national REDD+ management arrangement. State Focal points also have established coordination committees at their state level, comprising of representatives from relevant REDD+ institutions to ensure cross-sectoral coordination. The progress and financial

records of the PMU clearly indicate that the resources allocated under the first FCPF grant have been fully dispersed and all the planned activities have been implemented within the planned timeframe of the first grant agreement. Furthermore, the reports show that 60 percent of the procurements have been completed as planned for in the additional grant (started March 2019). See annex II for an overview of the national REDD+ management arrangements.



Figure 6: REDD+ Steering Committee meeting



Figure 5: Technical Advisory Committee meeting

The FNC hosts the REDD+ institutions and provides offices and other needed facilities to its staff at both national and sub-national levels. FNC further provides financial resources to support salaries of the staff members allocated to the REDD+ management arrangements, which include some members of PMU and SFPs. This contribution from the Government of Sudan ensures the sustainability and formal integration of the REDD+ process in the national institutions and development processes. The PMU staff and SFPs are mostly seconded from FNC staff. Generally, they have received good training and working experience, and have been exposed to extensive capacity building activities on all REDD+ related issues, including direct training program and learning by doing through their involvement in all readiness technical studies and other REDD+ related activities. As an example, the state focal points and experts from the REDD+ related institutions participate in the consultation meetings and validation workshops of all the studies and technical work conducted by national and international consultants. SFPs have been consulted in the preparation of the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), FGRM, FREL, SESA/ESMF, and have participated in hands on training in South-South Knowledge Exchange programs to some REDD+ participating countries in Africa

The readiness capacity-building support program implemented so far covered about 189 experts from the PMU core staff, state focal points, and experts from FNC and other participating institutions and stakeholders. Of these experts, 92 were men and 97 were women. The program covers areas such as human resource management, strategic planning, leadership and management skills, safeguards, SESA, NFI, remote sensing and GIS. The PMU has also implemented capacity-building support through exchange visits to some African REDD+ countries, including Ghana, Ethiopia and Niger, in which about 13, 16 and 8 representatives, respectively, participated including members of state focal points, TAC, NRSC, staff members from the PMU and high level officials from the FNC participated. The procurement specialist also attended a specialized training

on procurement in Rwanda. Recently, a joint climate change workshop has been conducted in collaboration with the World Bank and the REDD+ readiness and Sustainable Natural Resource Project, which included the participation of stakeholders from all relevant institutions involved in Sudan's REDD+ (see figure 7). In 2018, in the implementation of the readiness activities, the World Bank conducted two technical backstopping missions to monitor progress and provided technical support to the management arrangements (see figure 8).

Figure 7: Regional exchange workshop on designing and implementing the REDD+ strategy and emissions reduction program, Khartoum, September 2018



Figure 8: World Bank mission, September 2018



The readiness programme has also developed a Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism (FGRM) in line with available guidance of the FCPF RAF and building on experiences of other REDD+ countries. The general objective of the FGRM is to contribute to the detection, prevention and resolution of conflicts, and to contribute to building an enabling environment for transforming conflicts into one of peaceful coexistence and community cohesion. FGRM specific objective is to contribute to the timely resolution of grievances and conflicts related to REDD + in an effective manner in order to maximize support throughout the REDD+ implementation. The FGRM, builds on existing traditional and formal systems of grievance and complaints redressing and accordingly it has a structure that goes from local, state, to national levels with defined institutional arrangements. It also includes a system for receiving, acknowledging, registering and providing information to individuals and communities. Sudan already has some successful models in place of complaints mechanisms that have been set up using mobile phones, computers and internet as a means for accessing and channeling information from the local level to the national level. The FGRM Unit Database Registry has been designed to receive and register complaints/grievances within the sites allocated for the implementation of the FGRM (local, state, national). The database is managed by the REDD+ MRV unit at the national level as part of an existing REDD+ Monitoring System. The REDD+ grievance office acts as the central point of contact for every type of REDD+ related grievance that is submitted. The grievance office will receive grievances in official office hours, once received, grievances will be logged into a central registry. The grievance office provides information to the complainant to confirm that the grievance has been officially registered and how the case will be handled. The FGRM capacity development and awareness raising support will continue till December 2019, to ensure building sufficient capacity to operationalize the mechanism. Also, according to the TORs of the planned ER programmes, the role and functions of the FGRM will also be considered in the design of these programmes.

2.1.2 Results of the self-assessment

During the self-assessment sessions, two stakeholder groups considered the progress made against the six assessment criteria and the seven diagnostic questions of the FCPF RAF, for sub-component 1.A, national REDD+ management arrangements. Stakeholders discussed progress made in the national REDD+ management arrangements to build a common understanding on achievements made, gaps and areas that require further development. Then, using the progress indicators and the specified scale, stakeholders provided their self-assessment scoring. The overall outcome of the aggregated inputs by the three stakeholder groups participating in assessment of this sub-component resulted in a green color code, indicating that significant progress was made in achieving of the readiness objectives. Table 8 below shows the results of the self-assessment of the stakeholders of sub-component 1.A. against the six assessment criteria. However, SFPs marked the criteria on accountability and transparency, as yellow, indicating further development is required. This, as they explained, is mainly attributed to SFPs' expressed need for support in programme management, improve planning of activities, and predictability of financial resources for implementation of the activities within their mandate. With regard to the yellow ranking of the criteria on technical supervision capacity, the SFPs feel they need more technical capacity building in order to be able, at their states, to supervise technical operations of the systems and mechanisms created by the readiness preparation such as FGRM, ESMF, BSM. This is understandable given the fact that these mechanisms are still new and not yet fully operational and there are planned activities on capacity building and awareness raising to address these capacity gaps.. However, SFPs confirmed that they have clear mandate, responsibility, and excellent working relationship with the PMU and related institutions at their respective states. The SFPs assessment, below, of

significant achievements, gaps, and issues that require further development, provides more detailed explanation.

Table 8: Sub-component 1.A. National REDD+ management arrangements

Overall assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups	
		PMU	SFPs
Significant progress	Accountability and transparency	Green	Yellow
	Operating mandate and budget	Yellow	Yellow
	Multi-sector coordination mechanism and cross-sector collaboration	Green	Green
	Technical supervision capacity	Green	Yellow
	Funds management capacity	Green	Green
	Feedback grievance and redress mechanism	Green	-

As part of the self-assessment, stakeholders provided the following views on significant achievements made and lessons learned:

- REDD+ management arrangements are well integrated in FNC; a process is underway to integrate the REDD+ program in the national budget of FNC and to develop a resources mobilization plan.
- The government is effectively meeting its financial contribution to the readiness process. Government contribution in supporting the implementation of the first FCPF grant agreement has been fully provided and dispersed as planned. The government is committed to continue to meet its financial contribution to support the implementation of the additional FCPF grant agreement.
- An effective team work approach was accomplished through the management arrangements implemented by the PMU, including through frequent involvement of experts from the technical advisory committee, the technical working groups and other experts from research and academia in supporting its work.
- Capacity on financial management, including procurement has been built, demonstrated by the fact that funds from the first FCPF grant have been fully committed and dispersed within its planned timeframe, and about 60 percent of the procurement from the additional grant has been completed.
- Vertical coordination has been enhanced through the establishment of sub-national level institutions at each of the 18 states of Sudan. These institutions consist of dedicated offices, focal points with clear mandates, adequate capacities and cross-sectoral coordination committees, which enable better functioning and involvement with sub-national stakeholders, authorities and local people.
- Partner institutions, e.g. state-level institutions related to the REDD+ process are very cooperative and engaged in the readiness activities implemented at the state level. They

support the readiness studies by providing relevant data and actively participate in the readiness consultations.

- The focal points in all 18 states are fulfilling their tasks, including awareness raising, capacity-building, data collection, supporting consultants and technical teams in conducting the different readiness studies and activities, organizing consultations and participation of stakeholders and reporting to the PMU. The state's focal points have successfully supported and supervised readiness activities such as the NFI in their respective states.
- Financing management capacity of the state's focal points where effective and efficient in meeting the tasks required under the readiness implementation at their respective states.
- Launching an internship program to enable young researchers to engage in the REDD+ program and undertake research and studies on specific issues in line with the objectives of national REDD+ readiness program (see figure 9).
- Consultations on the development of FGRM cover good representation of likely impacted communities in hotspot REDD+ states, where there is a history of conflicts and disputes related to the forest land use, and hence provided relevant input to the development of the FGRM.

Figure 9: Internship program meeting, November 2018



With respect to gaps and areas that require further development in the readiness preparation of the national REDD+ management arrangements, stakeholder groups discussed the following aspects in their self-assessment:

- Technical and institutional capacities of the REDD+ management arrangements need to be further strengthened, particularly at the state level and in areas such as program management (managerial capacity) and communication skills. Technical skills encompass areas related to REDD+ implementation such as FREL/FRL, NFMS, ESMF, FGRM, benefit sharing as well as financial management systems of development partners and skills

for coordinating the implementation of national REDD+ strategy, including emission reduction programs.

- Predictability of financial resources for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy and related activities need to be improved. International economic sanctions on Sudan hinder access to international climate finance, and negatively affect the government's ability to provide further financial support to the REDD+ program. This in turn affects the financing predictability and sustainability for the REDD+ program in Sudan. Therefore, more efforts need to be exerted to raise financial and technical support from development partners.
- Building on the successful work undertaken during the readiness preparation phase, there is need to further strengthen the coordination and collaboration with all relevant institutions involved in the preparation for the REDD+ implementation phase. The institutional links, networks, coordination mechanisms and working relationships with the state level institutions should be further strengthened. This should include the continued provision of capacity-building support to strengthen the management arrangements in the new technical areas of phases 2 and 3 of the REDD+ program.
- The communication and awareness raising program needs to continue to fully inform all potential users of the FGRM, particularly at the local level to address potential impacted communities. Capacity-building is needed to strengthen the institutional arrangements to operationalize the FGRM. Testing of the mechanism will help to further develop it and ensure its effectiveness.
- Planning for the implementation of readiness and future REDD+ activities at the states need to be improved through establishing annual planning processes and through the provision of predictable financial resources to enable timely implementation of state level readiness activities, particularly at local levels. Due consideration should be given to the states with higher potential for REDD+ implementation.

2.2 Sub-component 1.B. Consultation, participation and outreach

2.2.1 Assessment of progress

The main objectives of the readiness preparation activities under this sub-component is to ensure a broad, inclusive and effective consultation and participation of all relevant stakeholders and resource custodians in the formulation of the REDD+ strategy, particularly forest-dependent communities, including women. It further aims to ensure meaningful participation in decision-making during the readiness implementation phase and beyond by empowering stakeholders to ensure equitable access to REDD+ information and benefits by all related stakeholders. Therefore, the FCPF RAF requires stakeholder participation in the REDD+ program to be continuous through institutional mechanisms that are effective and gender sensitive, and that ensure access to and sharing of information through user-friendly and appropriate means.

The REDD+ PMU has finalized its communication strategy in 2018 to effectively inform and support the active participation of stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness. A communication officer

was appointed at the PMU to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Communication materials are regularly produced and updated information is continuously being communicated through the REDD+ program website and social media. The state focal points, under the guidance and support of the PMU, have implemented a consultation programme in the 18 states of the Sudan, covering state and local levels stakeholders. The programme includes workshops, meetings, in addition to a raise awareness activities using TV and radio, covering the general issues of REDD+ programme. This programme was part of the consultation plan, developed in 2018 by the PMU, based on the FCPF guidelines. The FNC general directorate of extension and information is actively involved with the REDD+ PMU and supports communication, awareness raising and capacity-building activities in the 18 states of Sudan. A series of awareness raising and consultation workshops on Environmental and Social Safeguards have been conducted in the 18 states, involving 305 stakeholders – 206 men and 99 women. Furthermore, in June 2018, awareness and consultation activities on the REDD+ general knowledge, priorities and benefits have been implemented in the central sector, covering stakeholders from the White Nile, Gezira, Blue Nile and Sinnar states, in which about 90 women and 219 men have participated (see figures 10 - 13). More than 12,000 pieces of REDD+ knowledge materials and visibility packages have been produced and distributed, including caps, mugs, pens, notebooks and T-shirts. Moreover, the PMU has initiated an internship program to generate new knowledge by supporting postgraduate students from five universities to carry out targeted research, of which currently four students are supported under this initiative.

All the studies conducted by consultants under sub-component 2 of the national REDD+ strategy, have contributed to strengthening the stakeholder consultation and participation. As an example, the SESA consultation and participation was based on a plan drawn from Sudan's RPP, communication strategy, drivers of deforestation study, the draft REDD+ strategy, and the stakeholder mapping report produced as part of the SESA process. The steps in the consultation and participation process, followed FCPF principles and guidelines for stakeholder engagement. The objectives of the SESA consultation and participation include informing stakeholders on REDD+ and the SESA; verifying the findings of the drivers study and the proposed solutions/strategy options; obtaining stakeholders views on the potential positive and negative social and environmental impacts of the strategy options and on alternative mitigating measures to reduce the negative impacts and enhance the positive ones of proposed strategy options. The SESA consultations focused in the areas where deforestation and forest degradation are significant (the so-called "hotspots") and where the REDD+ strategy options will potentially be implemented. The people living in those areas, are likely to be most affected by the REDD+ strategy and subsequent activities and were therefore defined as the key stakeholders to be consulted on the proposed strategy options and their potential social and environmental impacts. Accordingly, the consultations focused on stakeholders most directly impacted by the proposed strategies such as forest dependent communities, pastoralists, farmers, gum collectors, charcoal and firewood sellers, etc. Other relevant stakeholders were also consulted including legislators, FNC staff, administrators, CSOs, and others.

The participation and consultations on the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy covered all the states of Sudan. The aim was to address the rights, priorities and stakeholders aspiration to deliver significant environmental, financial and social benefits. A wide spectrum of stakeholders went through intensive consultations. These included among others: Federal and State Legislatures, Federal Line Ministries, Regulators, State Governments, Local Communities, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector Forest Products Entrepreneurs, Individuals, Research and Academic Circles

together, and the consultancy teams undertaking different relevant studies under the Sudan Readiness Project, REDD+ PMU staff, REDD+ technical working group (TWG) and FCPF of the World Bank. Consultations took the form of briefings, group discussions, and individual interviews. Such discussions were conducted in State capitals, Line Ministries, with communities and premises of some stakeholders, see annex (V), on stakeholders consultation in the preparation process of the national REDD+ Strategy.

It is also important to report that feedback from these series of consultations activities carried out by the teams of consultant, PMU including members of TAC and national experts, has contributed to shaping outputs of these studies, and making them more relevant in the context of Sudan national circumstances. Examples include the identification and prioritization of the key drivers, the strategy options, identification of REDD+ related benefits, social and environmental safeguards, existing types of disputes, complaints and grievances, etc. Some of the feedback has informed some additional undertakings by the REDD+ programme, such as the inclusion of activities to address deforestation in the mangrove forests at the Red Sea coast. The current activities on gender mainstreaming, is also another example of the feedback from the stakeholder consultation process.

The REDD+ PMU has established platforms to institutionalize stakeholders' participation and consultation processes at both national and state levels. At the national level, the platform for civil society organizations consists of members from all active relevant civil society organizations. The main function of the platform is to organize continuous communication and consultation with civil society representatives on matters related to the implementation of the REDD+ program, in addition to capacity-building and awareness raising activities on REDD+. Given their important role in the REDD+ process, a sub-national platform has been established for gum Arabic producers. This includes representatives of the gum Arabic associations, including local people and forest dependent communities across the 12 states that are covered by the gum Arabic belt in Sudan. People living in the gum Arabic belt are estimated at 7 million. The gum Arabic platform is active and has implemented a number of activities and events, on awareness raising and consultation on benefit sharing and SESA. Gender mainstreaming in REDD+ programme has been highlighted in the mid-term review as one of the important areas that require further development in Sudan's readiness preparation. Accordingly more attention was given to gender in the planning of REDD+ readiness activities. Currently the participation of female in the REDD+ institutions and activities is about 40%, see table (9) below. In addition, a consultancy contract agreement was made with the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society, which is the largest NGO in Sudan with about 100 branches established in the different states, to undertake the implementation of the component on gender mainstreaming, under the additional Grant Agreement.

Table 9:Female participation in some REDD+ readiness institutions and activities

Members/participants	Total	male	female	% of female
National REDD Steering Committee	15	4	11	26%
Technical Advisory Committee	10	4	7	40%
Technical Working Groups	26	10	16	38%
Validation workshops of SESA/ESMF, BSM, others	351	178	173	51%
Consultations and participation in 18 states	7189	2276	4976	32%
Internship program (post graduates)	6	3	3	50%
Strategy consultations	501	222	279	44%

Figure 10: Awareness raising campaign on REDD+ local communities, Gedaref State, July 2018



Figure 11: Awareness raising campaign on REDD+, North Kordofan State, July 2018



Figure 12: REDD+ State consultation with women, January 2017



Figure 13: CSOs and private sector workshop



2.2.2 Results of the self-assessment

In their self-assessment of the progress achieved to date under this sub-component, stakeholders used the four assessment criteria and nine diagnostic questions specified in the RAF for this sub-component. The results of the assessment show an overall result of color green, indicating significant progress achieved in meeting the required outputs under this sub-component. Table 10

below shows the detailed results of self-assessment conducted by the three stakeholder groups that participated in the assessment of this sub-component. The yellow marking of some of the criteria such as Participation and engagement of key stakeholder and consultation process is because of the understanding among two of the stakeholders group participated in the self-assessment of this sub-component that although the mechanisms for participation and consultation have been established, however, consultation and participation is continuous process goes also beyond the readiness phase. The SFPs also indicated the need for further work at the sub-national and local level to build awareness and regular communications.

Table 10: Sub-component 1.B. Consultation, participation and outreach

Overall assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups		
		PMU	SFPs	CSOs
Significant progress	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	Yellow	Yellow	Green
	Consultation processes	Yellow	Green	Green
	Information sharing and accessibility of information	Green	Yellow	Green
	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	Green	Green	Yellow

Furthermore, stakeholders also provided their assessment of what they considered to be significant achievements and lessons learned in achieving the readiness preparation objectives under this sub-component. These include:

- The REDD+ program has succeeded in strengthening and fully engaging the FNC general directorate of extension and information, which is now leading the preparation of REDD+ communication messages and conducting consultation and participation events at the state and local levels. This is considered an important step in integrating REDD+ consultation and participation objectives in national institutions.
- Local languages have been used in the consultation process with local communities. Training on REDD+ has been conducted to representatives of a number of active media representatives in Sudan. Sub-national media was used to raise awareness and to deliver REDD+ messages prepared by the FNC extension officers.
- The Sudanese Environment Conservation Society has been contracted to implement gender mainstreaming activities. Currently, on average, the participation of women in the consultation and participation events is about 40 percent.
- SAWA, a Sudanese civil society organization, is successfully implementing awareness and capacity-building projects targeting local communities in REDD+ hotspot states based on a grant provided by the FCPF.

- A communication strategy has been developed and a communication officer has been appointed based on the recommendations of the mid-term review, which is now leading the implementation of readiness activities under this sub-component. The REDD+ program is using all available practical means of information sharing such as a dedicated website, social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp groups and YouTube, tailored publications, TV programs, newspaper articles, and stakeholder workshops (see figure 14).
- Progress in the implementation of the REDD+ Readiness is regularly reported and communicated through reader-friendly published materials. Outcomes of consultations, particularly the recommendations resulting from stakeholders consultations, in most cases are published in reports and brochures and shared with stakeholders. Furthermore, with the assistance of a consultant, the REDD+ program is currently working on editing and translating all available relevant materials such as technical reports of the different studies into the Arabic language.
- The preparation of the readiness mechanisms such as the benefit sharing mechanism, ESMF and FGRM have all been informed by the outcomes of the consultations conducted by the consultants and the PMU, e.g. identification and prioritization of strategic options, key social and environmental impacts and major grievances and complaints.
- All the studies and processes leading to the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy followed a consultative approach involving relevant stakeholders at the national and state levels. The outcomes of these consultations have been integrated in the outcomes of the studies and the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy.
- The REDD+ program has established CSOs platforms such as the platform of the gum Arabic producers at the state level and the national platform for CSOs. Both represent important mechanisms for regular engagement of stakeholders from civil society organizations. The REDD+ program also maintains a roster comprising civil society organizations related to Sudan's REDD+ program.
- Consultations and awareness raising campaigns on the REDD+ readiness program have been successfully conducted targeting REDD+ related stakeholders in all 18 states, including CSOs, such as the platform of the Gum Arabic Producer Associations (GAPAs), which represent all gum producers in the country, covering about 3200 GAPAs with a total of over 7 millions gum Arabic producers that cover 2.5 million hectares of gum garden.
- Participation of the focal points and other REDD+ partners from different ministries and institutions in workshops, seminars, and exchange visits in some African REDD+ countries to exchange knowledge and experiences have been accomplished.

Figure 14: REDD+ awareness and information sharing materials



The gaps and areas that require further development to ensure the successful REDD+ readiness implementation as identified by the stakeholders, include the following:

- State level platforms need to be fully established and ensure the organization of regular stakeholder consultations and engagements. The established fora need to be permanent to ensure continuous and effective participation and engagement of the relevant stakeholders. In particular, the Civil Society Organizations platform needs to be further supported to organize its meetings and engagement with the REDD+ program more regularly.
- Support is required for the FNC general directorate of extension and information to fully integrate REDD+ in its ongoing and future plans and activities. Its technical, technological and institutional capacities need to be further strengthened to ensure effective information sharing during the REDD+ implementation phase.
- More work on consultation and participation is needed to reach out to forest dependent communities and people at the local level. The REDD+ program should discuss means and ways to address the needs of local communities and provide some incentives and alternative opportunities to their livelihoods that dependent on forest resources. More work

is required to motivate community leaders to enhance their engagement in REDD+ activities.

- There is a need for establishing a network for REDD+ communication, linking key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels, using appropriate communication technologies such as mobile phones to ensure continuous consultation and information sharing.
- The REDD+ program needs to continue to further improve its mechanisms for access and information sharing to effectively cover key stakeholders, particularly local people and forests dependent communities that are likely to be impacted positively or negatively by REDD+ activities. In addition, targeted activities for women on readiness consultation and participation, communication and information sharing activities at the state level need further financial and technical support.
- Strengthening of sub-national level CSOs has positive impacts at the state and national levels. CSOs are useful mechanism for enhancing consultation, participation and information sharing on REDD+, particularly at state and local levels. However, the CSOs need to be further empowered and provided with capacity-building activities and relevant information materials to play a more active role in the national REDD+ program. This also includes further defining the role of CSOs in the MRV system and supporting regular meetings of the CSOs forum, as it provides very useful feedback.
- To enable GAPAs to manage their gum garden in a sustainable manner, they should be further supported, including through building their capacities and raising their managerial skills on technical, financial and social issues.
- Women's participation in general, particularly decision-making, needs to be further strengthened both at national and state levels, including through existing women CSOs and through supporting the establishment women CSOs in states that do not have active CSOs.

3 Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

The outputs envisioned under this component contribute directly to achieving the main objectives of the readiness preparation, which is the development of a socially acceptable and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy. The national REDD+ strategy provides the overall guidelines for the implementation of REDD+ activities. The planned outputs include a number of activities, studies, analytical work and consultations that have been implemented as part of the first grant agreement such as: (1) studies on land use and land tenure; (2) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, governance, barriers and measures to address them; (3) strategic options for the REDD+ strategy; (4) preparation of a benefit-sharing mechanism; and (5) a study on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). There are also additional activities and studies being implemented as part of the additional grant agreement considered as critical elements for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy. These include: (1) Forest Landscapes Restoration Assessment and National Restoration Strategy; (2) mainstreaming REDD+ in national development policies and legislation; (3) gender mainstreaming and consultations; (4) private sector engagement in reforestation initiatives; (5) study on forced deforestation effects of mining on the forestry sector; (6) national REDD+ pilot program designs for three jurisdictions; and (8) cross-country knowledge sharing and training through South-South exchanges. In addition, there is also ongoing work on economic valuation of forests and a study on enhancement of the SESA.

The additional studies are expected to provide inputs to inform the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy on important areas that have not been covered in the studies implemented under first grant agreement. The study on the economic valuation of forest includes a structured overview of the economic value of forests in Sudan; critical analysis of the drivers of deforestation and related land use issues; and assess strategic options to address deforestation and forest degradation. The study on private sector engagement in the REDD+ process, targets Sudanese private sector that is directly or indirectly involved with and has influence on the forestry-related business. This includes businesses based on forestry and forest-product supply chains, agribusiness, mining, energy companies operating in forests, informal, small- and medium-sized producers and relevant community-based enterprises. The study is expected to assess barriers and define options for enhancing private sector engagement in REDD+, in addition to recommendations on building an enabling environment to enhance private sector engagement in REDD+. The objective of the study on mainstream REDD+ into national development is to assess and identify strength, weakness, opportunities and threats to the implementation of strategic options to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as identified by the REDD+ strategy, identify entry points for the integration of REDD+ in the national development planning, institutions, policies and legislation. All the studies are planned to be completed by Aug/Sept 2019.

The preparation of the national REDD+ strategy is underway. Its second draft has been submitted by the national consultant team and is subjected to review by the PMU and the international consultant. The national REDD+ strategy is planned to be finalized by December 2019.

3.1 Sub-component 2.A. Assessment of land-use and land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

3.1.1 Assessment of progress

The objective of the readiness preparation on the assessment of land-use and land tenure is to analyse the status of land and land tenure systems in Sudan in the context of REDD+ readiness in order to support the preparation and implementation of a sound national REDD+ strategy. The assessment should cover recent as well as historical land use, including traditional systems, as well as land tenure titles in relation to natural resources and livelihood rights. The assessment needs to further assess all relevant factors for sustainable land use practices in Sudan, including institutions, policies and legislation.

A study on land use, land tenure, forest law, policy and governance was finalized in line with the agreed terms of reference and following an approach involving consultations with all relevant stakeholders at the sub-national and national level, as well as a validation workshop. The report covers information on the historical development of land use and land tenure in Sudan. The pressures on land use and land tenure include social and demographic, environmental, economic and political drivers. The land governance and administration includes legal and institutional frameworks, traditional systems of land use and land tenure and their implications on forest land use, as well as evolutions of current forest policies and legislation. The outcomes of the study were used for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy.

The main objectives of the readiness preparation for the assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is to analyse the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to prioritize key direct and indirect drivers and major barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement, in order to be addressed by the programs and policies developed under the national REDD+ strategy.

The study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was conducted through a comprehensive study, including technical desk review and field work. The methodology followed involved literature review, field surveys, interviews and group consultations in 10 states, including states recognized as hotspots in terms of deforestation and forest degradation. Comprehensive consultations have been conducted to prioritize the key drivers, barriers and options to address the identified drivers. More than 700 people, including, political and local leaders, representatives of local communities and CSOs, government officials and representatives of research and academia have participated in the interviews, consultations and validation of the study outcomes.

3.1.2 Results of the self-assessment

Five stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessment of this sub-component. Their overall scoring against the five assessment criteria indicates that significant progress has been achieved in meeting the readiness objectives under this sub-component for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy. Table 11 below shows the results of the stakeholder self-assessment of this sub-component. The PMU marked the criteria on “action plan to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance” as (yellow) work in progress because addressing these issues goes beyond the REDD+ readiness and cut-across number of the institutions and therefore is difficult to specify a timeframe of when it will be addressed. However, the study on LU, LUC, drivers, governance was aimed to understand the historical and current land use and tenure, including traditional systems, in order to inform the Preparation of the national REDD+ strategy on how REDD+ programme fits within the current context and have provided recommendations on necessary changes that requires in policies legislation framework. The REDD+ programme as indicated under sections 6 and 8, its next steps in dealing with land tenure issues, where it is stated that “

There is need to share the results of the land use and land tenure study with policy makers in related institutions, including parliament for mainstreaming REDD+ consideration in related policies and legislation. This needs to be complemented with further consultations with stakeholders particularly at the sub-national level on the issue of land use and land tenure and their implication on related policies and legislation, e.g. forests.

Table 11: Sub-component 2.A. Assessment of land-use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policies and governance

Overall assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TA C +SC	TWGs
Significant progress	Assessment and analysis	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green
	Links between drivers barriers and REDD+ activities	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
	Action plan to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	Yellow	Green	Green	White
	Implications for forest law and policy	Green	Green	Green	Yellow

Guided by the assessment criteria, stakeholders highlighted a number of progress elements, which they considered to be significant achievements or lesson learned. These include the following:

- Excellent assessments of land use and land tenure have been conducted by the REDD+ readiness program, covering historical data, trends and traditional customary systems which provided recommendations that informed the preparation of REDD+ strategy. A fellow member from the REDD+ internship program is currently working on an assessment of land-use change using remote sensing technology. The outcome of the land use and land tenure assessment has been useful in informing the SESA, as well as preparing the ESMF and the REDD+ national strategy.
- The outcomes of the study on land use and land tenure include a set of recommendations on reforms to the forest policy and legislation as well as in related sectors, such as the agriculture and rangeland sectors.
- The assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation builds on the work undertaken during the preparation of the R-PP and involved extensive stakeholder consultations in 10 key states with high potential for implementation of REDD+ activities, including local people and forest dependent communities. The outcomes of the drivers analysis has been shared with relevant stakeholders and was published for information.
- There is a forest policy in place addressing the agriculture expansion as one of the top priority driver of deforestation in Sudan. This policy requires that 10 percent and 5 percent

of the areas of rainfed and irrigated agriculture, respectively, be converted to forests. To better understand the impacts of this policy, an on-going study on the quantification of the contribution of each priority driver in causing deforestation and forest degradation is being conducted.

- The analysis of drivers also covered the barriers to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing forest carbon stock, the outcomes of which have been included in the strategic options of the national REDD+ strategy.

The gaps and issues that require further development in relation to sub-component 2.A. on land-use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policies and governance, as identified by the stakeholders, include the following:

- REDD+ needs to implement the main outcome of the land use and land tenure assessments, including through working with other relevant national and state institutions, as some of these recommendations go beyond the REDD+ program. There is a need to develop land use maps and implement reforms to the current policies and legislation to reflect the development in land use and land-use change. However, the assessment does not cover some natural resources related legislation and policies such as rangeland and wildlife policies.
- There is need to share the results of the land use and land tenure assessments with policy-makers in related institutions, including the parliament. Further consultations with relevant stakeholders, particularly at the sub-national level are needed on the issue of land use and land tenure, and their implication on related policies and legislation, e.g. on forests.
- The assessment of the contribution of individual drivers in causing deforestation and forest degradation needs to be improved to better inform the priorities and action plans in the REDD+ strategy. The outcome of the drivers analysis needs to be further disseminated and shared through appropriate means with other relevant institutions and stakeholders for their consideration and actions, as part of their policies, legislation and development planning. Moreover, further analysis is required to cover factors specific to the unique states or regions that are impacted by the identified drivers.

3.2 Sub-component 2.B. REDD+ strategy options

3.2.1 Assessment of progress

The objectives of the readiness preparation for this sub-component is to select and prioritize the strategy options based on the comprehensive assessments of drivers, including as identified in sub-component 2.A and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Strategy options were initially identified through technical work and consultations with relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national level, with a focus on the states that are rich in forest resources. The aim was to identify strategic options such as programs, policies and measures addressing drivers and barriers already identified in the drivers study. The tasks involved in-depth analyses of strategic options to address deforestation and forest degradation as well as other

REDD+ activities, as appropriate. The study resulted in listing the main options to address the key priority drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Sudan. The main strategy options were also subjected to further technical analysis in terms of feasibility, social, environmental impacts and political dimensions. Special attention was also paid to ensuring that the identified options are consistent with existing sectoral policies, programs and the national development context. The consultation on the strategy options was inclusive, stakeholders from all REDD+ related institutions were actively involved and most inconsistency cases have been discussed are related to definition of land use and mandate of institutions. The case of rangeland overlapping with forest land use in particular was discussed in length, however, forest law secures rights of access for grazing resources even inside reserved forest areas. Most of the issues related inconsistency have been addressed in the elaboration of the strategy options and in particular their categorization into the five related sectors, as described below. In addition, consultations with stakeholders were conducted during the preparation of the REDD+ strategy to identify the priority options to be included in the REDD+ strategy. The field consultations covered key stakeholders in 10 states considered as hotspot in terms the extend of deforestation and forest degradation, table 9 above shows the number of stakeholders participated in these consultations. The priority options have also been assessed by the SESA team in terms of their environmental and social impacts.

The priority strategic options are planned to be addressed across five sectors, namely forestry, agriculture, livestock, energy and mining. The following are examples of the identified strategy options:

For the forestry sector:

- Improvements of the forest policies and acts to accommodate environmental and socio-economic variables together with REDD+ program requirements of benefit sharing, community empowerment, livelihoods, poverty alleviation and food security;
- Review and revision of national forest programs, including redefining designated functions of forest ecosystems, as appropriate;
- Refine and improve silviculture, including management, production and marketing of gum Arabic producing trees and other gum producing trees, including by implementing and replicating the community rehabilitation and development of the gum Arabic belt in North Kordofan State.

For the agriculture sector:

- Enhance agricultural productivity and available alternative income generating sources for rural communities through a combination of interdependent activities and measures such as applied research, technology promotion, targeted funds and institutional reforms.

For the livestock sector:

- The recommended interventions in the livestock sector to reduce deforestation and degradation include enhancing sustainable management and improvement of rangelands and forest lands to reduce deforestation and forest degradation; promote livestock compound feed industry; encourage cultivated fodder production and other sources of fodder outside the forestry sector; and promote intensive mixed livestock production systems, e.g. agro-silvo-pastoral systems.

For energy:

- Adopt environmentally-friendly energy policies that promote renewable energy such as use of liquid petroleum gas (LPG), ethanol, solar and wind energy; support of the private sector investment to locally produce and disseminate solar cook stoves; and encourage the private sector to invest in ethanol biogas digesters and biogas cookers;
- Increase the use of fuelwood and building poles hauled from forest areas of surplus and run on sustainable forest management principles, inclusive of production, consumption and usage to address the needs of refugee and host communities' for energy and shelter.

For mining:

- Revision of national investment legislation to encompass environmental concerns, including reviewing and clarifying contradictions in land use policies, legislations and activities; harmonize and reconcile policies, legislations and activities of selected land use entities to encompass environmental and climate change concerns; revise national investment legislation to encompass environmental concerns.

3.2.2 Results of the self-assessment

The stakeholders considered the strategic options under this sub-component, which represent the main building blocks of the national REDD+ strategy. Stakeholders assessed progress achieved in the selection and prioritization of the strategic options against the three assessment criteria and associated diagnostic questions of FCPF RAF. The overall assessment of the aggregated inputs of the stakeholders indicates significant progress has been achieved by the readiness program in meeting the readiness objectives of this sub-component. Table 12 below shows the detailed results of the self-assessment:

Table 12: Sub-component 2.B. REDD+ strategy options

Overall assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TAC +SC	TWGs
Significant progress	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
	Feasibility assessment	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	Green	Green	Green	Yellow

Guided by the assessment criteria, the stakeholder groups identified the following significant achievements made and lesson learned in the implementation of the activities under this sub-component:

- The strategy options have been defined based on the selected five priority drivers. The selection and prioritization process of the strategy options was done through an extensive consultative process involving the participation of all relevant stakeholders at the national

and sub-national level. Representatives from the 10 states that are considered to be hotspots for deforestation and forest degradation have participated in the selection and prioritization of the options.

- Emission reduction potentials of the options have not been estimated, however, three emission reduction programs are planned to be developed based on the selected options. The preparation of the emission reduction programs includes the establishment of baselines and estimation of emission reduction potential.
- The main inconsistencies between the strategy options and policies and programs of the related sectors have been identified and addressed as part of the analysis of the priority drivers and the strategic options. The assessment covered policies of relevant sectors such as rangelands, and provided suggestions and recommendations on how to address these inconsistencies through intensive consultations.
- The selected strategy options are considered to be consistent with, and supportive of the national development priorities as well as supportive to the interests and livelihoods of the forest-related communities.
- The integration of the national REDD+ strategy options into national and sub-national policies and development plans of related sectors is considered to be a continuous process of the readiness program and beyond. This involves the consultation and participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the different readiness activities including the identification of the priority drivers and strategic options as well as the assessment of policies, plans, and institutional and legal frameworks of the relevant sectors.

The stakeholder groups also defined gaps and areas where further development is required by the readiness program. These include the following:

- The readiness program needs to implement the activities planned under the additional grant agreement, including the studies on private sector engagement in the REDD+ program, impacts of mining on deforestation and forest degradation and landscape restoration. These are considered to be important for the preparation the national REDD+ strategy, and for meeting the readiness preparation objectives.
- Potential emission reduction of the selected options have not been estimated, although the national GHGs inventory conducted recently in the context of the preparation of Sudan's third national communication to the UNFCCC covers the land use, land-use change, and forestry sectors.
- A cost-benefit analysis is planned to be conducted as part of the additional FCPF grant and is currently under implementation. In this context, there is a need for more capacity-building and training activities on feasibility assessments and GHG estimation of REDD+ strategy options.
- Further work is required to align the strategy options with the national development objectives and circumstances. This can be achieved through further consultations at the

sub-national level to also cover the remaining states that have not yet been covered by current activities.

- REDD+ policies need to be fully integrated in the overall national development planning. Some natural resources related policies such as rangeland and wildlife do not fully support the REDD+ implementation and therefore need to be analyzed and reformed. To address this gap, activities under the additional grant are addressing means and ways to facilitate mainstreaming REDD+ into national development and planning processes at the national and state levels.
- Vertical and horizontal coordination needs to be improved among natural resource related institutions. It is important for REDD+ readiness to strengthen coordination between the established committees at the state level to ensure the implementation of the strategy options across the related sectors and to address inconsistencies with development policies and strategies.

3.3 Sub-component 2.C. REDD+ implementation framework

3.3.1 Assessment of progress

According to the FCPF RAF, the readiness preparation requirements under this sub-component include the adoption of legislation or regulation, guidelines for implementation, benefit-sharing arrangements, a national registry and a system for monitoring REDD+ activities.

Sudan's REDD+ readiness program, in line with the R-PP, aims to integrate REDD+ into the national development context and in particular into the forestry and related sectors. This is obvious from the management arrangements that are integrated into FNC, with mechanisms to ensure the active participation and engagement of related institutions and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the REDD+ program.

The studies and assessments conducted in the context of developing the national REDD+ strategy have resulted in number of recommendations regarding policies, legislation and institutional reforms rather than adopting separate legislations or regulations on REDD+. The benefit-sharing study recommended the operationalization of a mechanism, including defining the benefits, the beneficiaries and arrangements for benefit-sharing to be integrated in the existing policies and institutional frameworks. The ESMF defines arrangements for addressing social and environmental impacts resulting from the REDD+ implementation. The FGRM also constitutes arrangements that ensure REDD+ impacted communities and beneficiaries have the ability to file complaints and receive feedback thereon to ensure that the REDD+ program addresses their needs and concerns. All these REDD+ mechanisms such as SESA, ESMF, BSM, and FGRM are included in the current draft of the national REDD+ Strategy. However, since the strategy is still under preparation, further work is required to define the interlinkages and processes of how these will work in coherence and in a complementary manner towards achieving the objective of the REDD+ strategy and protect the social and environmental safeguards.

The national REDD+ strategy provides the overall guidelines for REDD+ activities implementation. The vision of the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) is to work in synergy with and contribute effectively to the National Development Strategy of Sudan that is aimed at achieving a green prosperous country by 2030, while maximizing carbon and non-carbon benefits

through improved sustainable natural resources management (SNRM). The strategy has been completed in line with the original TORs and is under review now. However, additional activities have been decided under the additional Grant Agreement to further inform and elaborate the strategy in areas such as economic valuation, landscape restoration, impacts of mining on deforestation, integration into national development process as well as other important outputs on resources mobilization and capacity building in relation to preparation of funding proposal and access to climate finance are all planned to be completed by Aug 2019.

Also as part of the additional Grant Agreement, three emission reduction programmes (ER) are being developed. The National REDD+ strategy already suggested three areas for ER programmes (1) the Gum Arabic Belt (central Sudan covering 12 states), (2) the Montane Watershed Ecosystems (Western Sudan) and (3) the Sustainable Forest Management Emission Reduction Programme in Riverian Ecosystem (Blue Nile, Sinner and Gezira States). The work on developing the ER programme already started and planned to be completed by Aug/Sept 2019, which is before the REDD+ strategy is finalized. The overall objective of the assignment on ER programmes is to support the FNC in designing and developing at least two Emissions Reduction Programs (2 Jurisdictions) as grounded in the National REDD+ Strategy. In other words, to develop pilot programmes/projects for implementation, based on the strategic options, identified in the REDD+ national strategy, to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and their associated emissions. The task involved selection of pilot areas based on agreed criteria and consultations, assessment of forest carbon stock change (emissions/removals), priority drivers and options, environmental and socioeconomic benefits and risks, dependent livelihoods systems including special groups (local people, women, etc), gender, disputes and complaints, etc. The design of the ER programme will include baseline net emissions/removals (forest reference level), *ex ante* estimates of emission reduction potential, define objectives, key components and activities, safeguards measures, and MRV.

The studies and activities implemented under the readiness program so far have generated a wealth of information such as data on land use and land tenure, stakeholder mapping, and carbon and non-carbon benefits. Although the national REDD+ monitoring system is planned to be established under the additional grant agreement by August 2019, the PMU has developed multiple means for sharing and disseminating available information on this matter to relevant stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels as well as to the general public.

3.3.2 Results of the self-assessment

Four stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessment of this sub-component and discussed the progress made in the REDD+ implementation framework against the four assessment criteria and its associated diagnostic questions of the FCPF RAF. The collective result of the assessment indicates a yellow outcome, suggesting the readiness has progressed well under this sub-component, however, further development is needed in order meet the readiness requirements in the context of national policies, legislation and institutional framework. Table 13 below shows the results of the self-assessment of this sub-component.

Table 13: Sub-component 2.C. REDD+ implementation framework

Overall Assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TAC +SC	TWGs
Progressing well, further development required	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
	Guidelines for implementation	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
	Benefit-sharing mechanism	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange

As the stakeholders discussed the achievements under this sub-component, there was a confusion on how the implementation framework as described under this sub-component relates to the management arrangements, ESMF, FGRM, the benefit-sharing and the institutional arrangements suggested in the draft national REDD+ strategy. However, after a lengthy discussion, the stakeholders decided to assess the outputs achieved by the readiness program, which they considered in relation to the implementation framework as described in the assessment criteria and the diagnostic question of the FCPF RAF. In doing so, the stakeholders identified the following achievements made and lessons learned:

- There is no intention in Sudan’s REDD+ program to have a separate legislation dedicated to REDD+. However, based on the outcomes of the activities and consultations on land use, land tenure, drivers and the strategic options, it was recommended to reform the current forest policies and legislation as well as to other related sectoral policies and legislation to integrate the outcomes of the REDD+ program.
- Mainstreaming of REDD+ into existing legislation, policies and plans of related sectors is an ongoing process that has already commenced through the consultation and engagement of experts and stakeholders in the various parts of the REDD+ readiness stage, such as the identification of drivers, prioritization of strategy options, development of the ESMF and the preparation of the REDD+ strategy.
- Although a proposal for a new forest law is being developed since 2015 which takes in to account REDD+ considerations, it has not yet been finalized and submitted to relevant authorities for consideration and adoption.
- Sudan’s REDD+ implementation framework consists of a benefit-sharing mechanism, FGRM and ESMF in addition to the management arrangements which provide official procedures for approval of REDD+ implementation activities, as required.
- The process to develop the benefit-sharing mechanism involved a wide range of stakeholder consultations with all relevant stakeholders from the states of Sudan with high REDD+ implementation potential. The mechanism has been prepared in line with the available guidance and experience of other REDD+ countries. A joint awareness raising

program on benefit sharing, safeguards and FGRM has been implemented covering stakeholders from all the states of Sudan.

- The national monitoring system is currently under preparation which has been designed to ensure public access. As it is not yet finalized, information and data is currently available as part of the SESA study, the development of the ESMF and the NFI. Information on location and ownership is available from the land use and land tenure assessment. A significant part of the information to be shared on REDD+ are available and being developed by the ongoing readiness activities.

In order for Sudan to develop a REDD+ implementation framework that meets the readiness requirements, the stakeholders identified the following gaps and areas that require further development:

- The work that is planned to be undertaken under the additional grant on mainstreaming REDD+ into related national legislation, policies and planning processes should address barriers, define entry points and identify gaps and capacity needs.
- The proposal of the new forest legislation which takes into account REDD+ considerations needs to be further reviewed to address issues such as benefit-sharing, genetic resources and FGRM.
- Carbon rights and their benefit sharing need to be defined and elaborated as well as REDD+ financing modalities, particularly for the REDD+ implementation phase. These are also important to support the preparation of the REDD+ strategy.
- The REDD+ implementation framework needs to ensure building trust of local communities on the REDD+ programs to gain their support in the implementation phase. In this context, further work is required to raise awareness of sub-national level stakeholders, particularly local people and forest dependent communities. The REDD+ implementation framework should also define roles and provide incentives for the related institutions, including the national REDD+ partners, to effectively participate in the REDD+ program and support its implementation framework.
- The benefit-sharing mechanism needs to be tested and consulted upon at the sub-national level to cover the states that have not been targeted yet.
- The development of the geo-referenced data and monitoring system is part of the additional grant agreement which is expected to be finalized by June 2019. In operationalizing and managing the geo-referenced system, a range of capacity-building activities are required to ensure the accessibility of all relevant REDD+ stakeholders. In addition, there is a need to add other means to the monitoring system to ensure access by all REDD+ stakeholders, particularly at the sub-national level as internet services do not cover all parts of Sudan.
- Although a growing body of information is being developed under the readiness program, a registry or system for regular monitoring of REDD+ activities needs to be developed according to the planned activities under the additional grant agreement.

3.4 Sub-component 2.D. Social and environmental impacts

3.4.1 Assessment of progress

According to the FCPF RAF, the REDD+ readiness preparation requires countries to assess the social and environmental safeguards using available guidance on the SESA. This is important to ensure that the national REDD+ strategy integrates measures addressing likely social and environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities. In addition, based on the SESA outcomes, countries are also required to develop an environmental and social management framework (ESMF) for managing environmental and social risks and potential impacts relating to the REDD+ implementation.

In the context of preparing its national REDD+ strategy, Sudan conducted a SESA. The process of conducting the study involved the assessment of potential environment and social impacts of the implementation of the proposed REDD+ strategic options. It also involved an assessment of the policy, legal and institutional framework, and stakeholders mapping and consultations. Comprehensive consultations were held over a six-week period in April, May and June 2018 in 12 states. This involved conducting 65 meetings and 2 workshops involving 1,073 stakeholders of which 735 were men and 338 women (see figures 15 and 16). The ESMF report was prepared based on the guidance from the World Bank and national guidelines, and is subject to review by experts and relevant stakeholder.

Figure 15: Workshop on Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+, Central sector (4 states), January 2018



Figure 16: Workshop on Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+, Darfur sector (5 States), February 2018



The SESA study focused mostly on the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as on the priority strategy options as outlined in the previous sub-components. The consultant team that conducted the SESA held further consultation with relevant stakeholders to verify the identified drivers and strategic options, covering the five sectors of forestry, agriculture, livestock, energy and mining. The five categories of strategy options have been analyzed in terms of their environmental and social risks and benefits.

The forestry options showed potential impacts and risks related to community livelihoods, ecosystem disturbances, land tenure-related conflicts, capacities, market structure and information. The options related to the agriculture sector have potential risks on land degradation, pollution of soil and water, ecosystem disturbances, unequal benefit sharing between the actors along the value chain, reduced crop diversity, health impacts related to the misuse of chemicals and exclusion of women from land rights. The options related to the energy sector need to address the affordability of improved stoves for some households, reduction of quantities of firewood sold leading to the loss of income and livelihood. For hydroelectricity, the impacts on ecosystems, surrounding agriculture, flooding of areas and resettlement were identified. The strategy options related to the livestock sector need to address the risk of negative impacts on pastoralists and marginalizing the poorest communities. The options for the mining sector could not be analyzed due to the small amount of information made available. However, the SESA and ESMF reports have included strategy options for addressing deforestation and forest degradation resulting from mining, please see these options in section 3.2.1 above. Both reports noted these options are not well defined, covering wide range of issues including urban development, policies, research and education. Therefore, recommended that the mining strategy options need to be clarified, and reformulated to point out the impact it would have on avoided deforestation and forest degradation before it can be environmentally and socially screened. There is a study planned in the additional Grant Agreement on the assessment of impacts of mining on deforestation, which will provide the information required to complete the E&S assessment. There is also a study on advancing the SESA in the additional Grant Agreement, which will address the mining issues. Both studies are planned to be completed before the end of 2019.

The SESA consultant mapped out the suitability of each option in the various regions where stakeholders have been consulted, and provided feedback for designing the national REDD+ strategy and its future implementation.

Regarding the ESMF, an extensive review of the enabling regulatory framework has been conducted to assess whether current policies, laws, regulations and institutional arrangements support the implementation of the REDD+ program in line with internationally recognized environmental and social safeguards. The ESMF was then developed based on the outcome of this assessment and the SESA study. The ESMF consists of processes and institutional arrangements to screen projects, manage environmental and social impacts under the safeguard unit, as well as providing capacity-building activities related to environmental and social safeguards to ensure the sustainability of future REDD+ activities in Sudan. The proposed safeguards unit, will be located within the REDD+ PMU at FNC and initially consist of a safeguard leader and two specialists on environmental and socio-economic issues, respectively. The unit will undertake environmental and social management functions as well as the other safeguard functions.

3.4.2 Results of the self-assessment

In their self-assessment, stakeholders considered the progress achieved under this sub-component guided by the readiness requirements as described in the three assessment criteria and the associated diagnostic questions of the FCPF RAF for this sub-component. The result of the collective assessment by the stakeholders indicates significant progress made in conducting the SESA and in developing the ESMF in line with the readiness requirements. Table 14 shows the results of the self-assessment against the FCPF RAF assessment criteria. The SFPs assessment in relation to the criteria on the ESMF, is mainly related to need for further capacity and awareness development to ensure effective operation of the ESMF at the sub-national level as explained in their assessment of gaps and issues require further development below.

Table 14: Sub-component 2.D. Social and environmental impacts

Overall Assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TA C +SC	TWGs
Significant Progress	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues				
	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts				
	Environmental and Social Management Framework				

The stakeholders identified the following elements as significant achievements and lessons learned:

- The SESA study covered the environment and social aspects, governance, policies, legislation and institutional arrangements. In addition, a mapping of stakeholders using

GIS was conducted, which was considered to be a very useful activity for planning the consultation and assessment of potential social and environmental impacts.

- The strategic environmental and social impact assessments were based on the UNFCCC and the World Bank safeguards, as well as on extensive consultations with relevant national stakeholders.
- The priority REDD+ strategy options have been assessed during the SESA study for their environmental and social impacts with the objective of informing both the preparation of the strategy and the ESMF. This has resulted in a good understanding of the likely social and environmental impacts of the strategy options that have been identified.
- The SESA and the strategy teams have worked together in tandem to support the preparation of the strategy and the development of the ESMF. As a result, likely social and environmental impacts have been identified and elaborated for inclusion in the REDD+ strategy.
- The ESMF has been developed based on the guidelines of the World Bank and the national guidelines developed by the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, as well as through extensive consultation with the SESA TWG and key stakeholders.

Stakeholder groups involved in the self-assessment of this sub-component identified the following gaps and issues that require further development:

- There is a need to continue to build the capacities of the state focal points and other relevant stakeholders at the state level on the assessment of social and environmental impacts and the operation of the ESMF during the REDD+ implementation.
- There is also a need to continue to raise awareness and to disseminate information on the outcomes of the SESA study, the functions of the ESMF and its role in ensuring the protection of environmental and social safeguards during the REDD+ implementation.
- The ESMF needs to be tested and updated accordingly as planned for under the additional grant agreement, to ensure that there is sufficient expertise in the REDD+ implementation framework and management arrangements to deal with social and environmental impacts, particularly at the state level.

4 Component 3: Development of Forest Reference Emission Level/Reference Level

4.1.1 Assessment of progress

The readiness requirements for the forest reference emission level, forest reference level (FREL/FRL) is to demonstrate that a clear methodology has been followed, based on a stepwise approach, as appropriate, as well as technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with the UNFCCC and IPCC guidelines. In case a sub-national FREL/FRL is established, a plan of additional steps, data needs, and the relationship between the sub-national and the evolving national FREL/FRL should be elaborated. Furthermore, the use of historical data, taking into consideration national circumstances, needs to be fully justified and documented.

The establishment of a FREL/FRL is part of Sudan's R-PP, however, has only been supported under the FCPF additional grant agreement. The rationale was to first complete the implementation of the NFI to generate reliable data of national emission factors that can be used to develop the FREL/FRL. Sudan's REDD+ program assigned the preparation and establishment of the FREL/FRL to FAO on 12th June 2018. FAO started by providing training and capacity-building activities to national experts on the construction of the FREL/FRL, covering relevant experts from all related government institutions. FAO assigned two national consultants to support the preparation of the FREL/FRL. A taskforce consisting of 10 experts from the FNC, the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, the Remote Sensing Authority and the University of Khartoum has been established for the preparation of the FREL/FRL, to build the capacities of the relevant national experts and to institutionalize the process of preparation and updating of the FREL/FRL in national institutions. A consultation workshop was organized, in which the scale and scope of the FREL/FRL has been discussed and approved by the participants. Currently, work is underway on the development of the activity data using remote sensing as well as on the collection of data on emission factors based on the NFI sources. The FREL/FRL is planned to be finalized by June 2019 and submitted to the technical assessment of the UNFCCC in January 2020.

In establishing its FREL/FRL, Sudan follows the UNFCCC provisions that Parties may elaborate a subnational Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FREL), as an interim measure, while transitioning to a national FREL/FREL and that a step-wise approach to national FREL/FRL development may be useful, enabling Parties to improve their FREL/FRL by incorporating better data, improved methodologies and, where appropriate, additional pools. Therefore, the scale as planned and agreed, consists of three distinct areas encompassing the forest land of Sudan has been defined for three potential subnational FREL/FRL to be constructed in sequential manner. Accordingly Sudan proposes its first subnational FREL/FRL to be constructed in a region consisting of three States namely, Blue Nile, Sennar and Gadaref States which covers an area of 158,951 km² (Blue Nile: 45,844 km², Sennar: 37,844 km², Gadaref: 75,263 km²). The area of the first FREL/FRL represents about 9% of the country total area and about 15% of the total forest area in Sudan, see figure 17 below.

Figure 17: Forest region defined for the Sudan’s first subnational FREL/FRL:

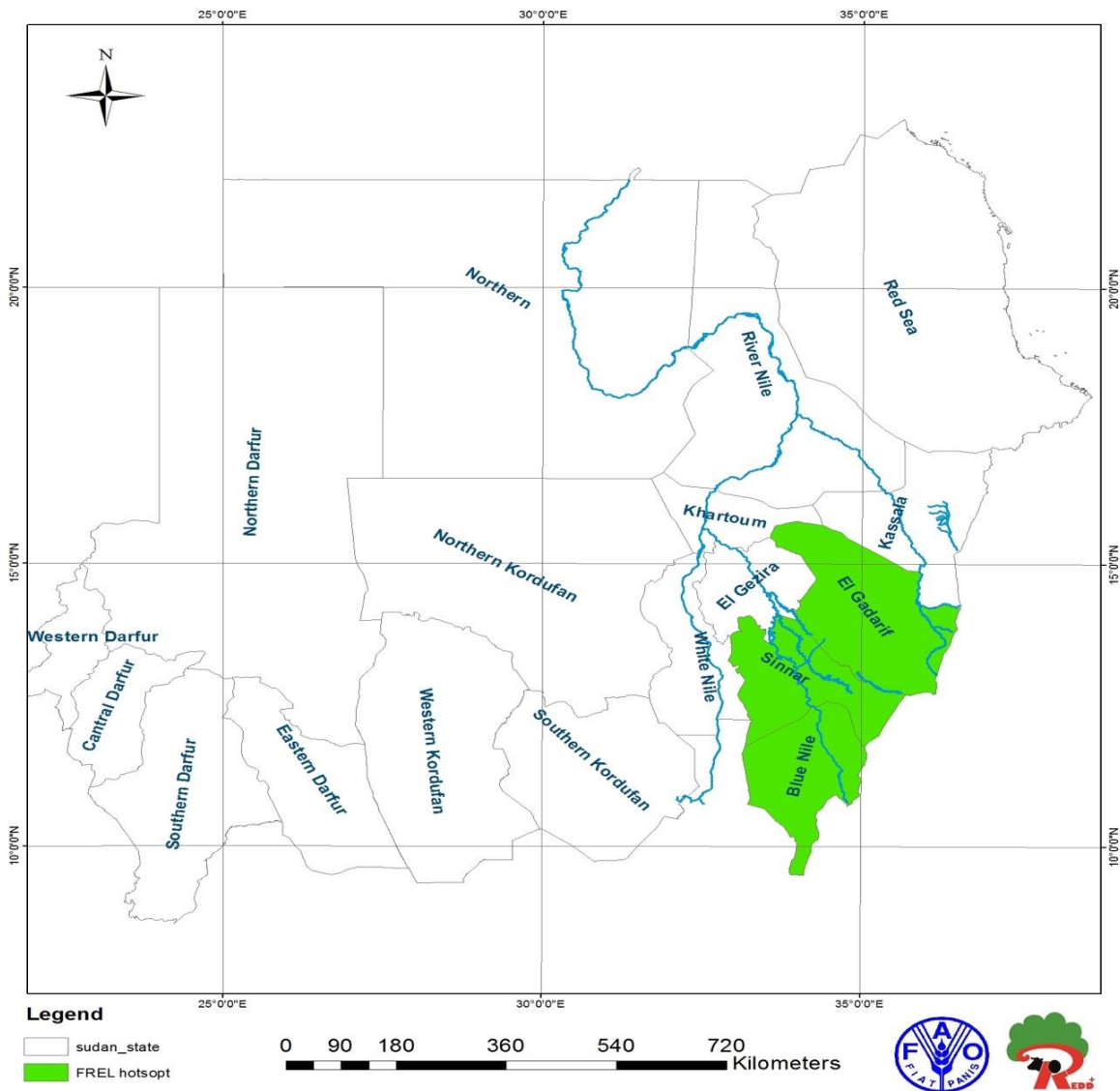


Figure 1. The proposed Region for Sub National FREL in Sudan

On the scope of the FREL/FRL, the UNFCCC does not mandate any activities, pools or gases to be included in the FREL/FRL, however, Parties are required to include in their FREL/FRL significant pools and gases, and activities listed in the UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and to justify omission of any significant pool, activity. According to Sudan Second National Communication to the UNFCCC (2013), forests and grasslands conversions (= deforestation) accounts for all CO₂e emissions from the Land Use Change and Forestry (LUCF) sector. Causes of deforestation include mechanized farming, unsustainable biomass extraction (energy), overgrazing, construction, fires. DoD report (2018), highlighted the region of the 3 targeted states,

as a hotspot area of deforestation, because it includes 50% of mechanized farming area, a major supplier of biomass energy, hosting large number of animal resources. In addition the region encompasses vast areas of degraded (abandoned) mechanized farming as a result of mal-cultivation practices and climate change, these constitute a large potential for enhancements of forest carbon stock (afforestation and reforestation) and the forest policy requires conversion of 10% of rainfed agriculture areas to forests. Forest degradation is also a priority for REDD+ in Sudan, however, currently there is no data that can be used to assess forest degradation. The NFI inventory, which is being finalized now, established permanent sample plots and part of NFMS, these expected to provide, in future, reliable source of data that can be used in combination with remote sensing data to assessing forest degradation and improving data on forest carbon stock change in general. In terms of pools and gases, the preparation of the first subnational FREL will include only above and below ground biomass pools and CO₂ as main gases to be included in the FREL estimation.

Sudan considered the preparation of the first sub-national FREL/FRL as very important to develop and institutionalize the knowledge, capacity and expertise in the country. This is with the view that after the first FREL/FRL is completed and undergo the UNFCCC technical assessment, Sudan will be in a position to improve and complete the remaining two sub-national FREL/FRLs and combine them into a national FREL/FRL. This also takes into consideration that by the end of 2019, REDD+ readiness will finalize the establishment of the NFI and MRV system, which will generate reliable data, particularly through the permanent sample plots system created, regular measurement cycles and adequate remote sensing capabilities.

4.1.2 Results of the self-assessment

Four stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the readiness activities leading to the construction of Sudan FREL/FRL. Their self-assessment was guided by the three criteria and associated questions of the FCPF RAF. The discussion of the groups was mostly centered around the decisions made on the scale, scope and methodological approach for the construction of Sudan’s first FREL/FRL, and the plan for the work to be concluded in time for submission to the UNFCCC technical assessment by January 2020. The overall result of the aggregated inputs indicated that Sudan has made significant progress in meeting the readiness requirements for this component. Table 15 below shows the results of the self-assessment conducted by the stakeholder groups.

Table 15: Component 3: Reference Emission Level/Reference Level

Overall Assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TWGs	DP
Significant Progress	Demonstration of methodology	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow
	Use of historical data and adjusted for national circumstances	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	Green	Green	Green	Green

The stakeholders provided their views on the significant achievements made and lesson learned that can be drawn from the progress made to date in the implementation of the activities under this component. These include the following:

- Initial elements of the national FREL/FRL were agreed, covering forest definition, scope and scale. An introductory workshop was organized in April 2018 which resulted in the creation of a Forest Reference (Emission) Level roadmap. Subsequently, two national consultants were contracted and a technical working group was created to ensure the viewpoints and interests of different stakeholders are considered in the establishment of Sudan's FREL/FRL.
- Informed discussions were held to decide on the strategic timing of the FREL/FRL submission, resulting in the agreement to submit the FREL/FRL in January 2020 in order to ensure full alignment with the UNFCCC decisions, including with respect to consistency with GHGi reporting since data is currently still being collected and preliminary estimates would soon be outdated. Another reason for submitting the FREL/FRL in January 2020 is to ensure the FREL/FRL meets donor requirements, such as the accuracy assessment of the emission estimates as reflected in the scorecard for the results-based payments pilot program of the Green Climate Fund.
- In the development of Sudan's FREL/FRL, historical data on change is planned to be used. Furthermore, the FREL/FRL aims to ensure full transparency and documentation in line with the UNFCCC guidelines. Documentation was discussed with the FREL/FRL taskforce and has also been addressed in the training of experts. FREL/FRL preparation also uses the most recent methodological guidance of the IPCC.
- The Remote Sensing team, with the support of FAO, is working on the activity data of the FREL/FRL in line with the agreed reference period. Furthermore, reclassification of the Africover 2010 map has been carried out in order to meet the forest definition with a review of the classes of interest.

The stakeholders identified the following gaps and areas that require further development in order to meet the readiness requirements under component 3:

- The FREL/FRL construction will be completed during 2019, leading to FREL/FRL design at the sub-national or national level. The capacity of the technical working group will be strengthened to enable the provision of inputs into the FREL/FRL construction.
- The draft FREL/FRL submission will be reviewed and validated through a national workshop with a broad stakeholder participation that will be organized to familiarize the stakeholders with the proposed FREL/FRL and receive their feedback. Once the comments from the validation workshop are received, the final version of the FREL/FRL will be produced and submitted to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. The developed capacity during this process will enable national experts to update and strengthen the country's submission to the UNFCCC.

- The FREL/FRL plan should consider that activity data, emission factor data and associated methodologies need to be improved. Over time, there is need to move to higher tier methodologies.
- Awareness raising and capacity-building activities, including through trainings is needed for more national experts, including within the FNC and other relevant institutions. Such trainings and capacity-building activities should cover more advanced methods and tools for the establishment of the FREL/FRL, including the IPCC guidelines for the estimation of GHGs emissions/removal and remote sensing tools used in developing historical data, e.g. from Landsat images.

5 Component 4: National Monitoring System for Forest and Safeguards

According to its R-PP, Sudan plans to develop a national forest monitoring system to support the national REDD+ program in the context of its national circumstances, development priorities and objectives of the forest and forest-related sectors. This also includes the provision of technical and institutional capacities on forest cover monitoring, remote sensing, geographic information system, data management, assessment of carbon stock changes and GHGs estimation. Furthermore, a central database and archiving system including the provision of information on REDD+ safeguards needs to be established, and data for satellite and/or aerial imagery types for Sudan needs to be collected, thereby ensuring the characteristics of these data are assessed in terms of spatial and temporal coverage, cloud cover, spatial and spectral resolution, and image registration. Activities under this component also cover the adoption of national definitions for forest and other related types of land uses for the use of national forest monitoring, FREL/FRL and MRV system, as well as the development of national emission factors and other parameters and activity data for estimating GHGs for REDD+ and for GHGs inventory reporting of land-use change and forestry inventory.

5.1 Sub-component 4.A. National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

5.1.1 Assessment of progress

According to the FCPF RAF, through technical consultations and official approval, REDD+ countries are required to select, adopt and implement a suitable methodology for the establishment of a NFMS consistent with the national circumstances and in line with international guidance. Such a methodology should cover the following aspects:

- Combine remote sensing and ground-based assessment of forest carbon stock, with best possible resolution, coverage and accuracy, and that can be improved over time;
- Demonstrate adequate capacity to monitor the implementation of the REDD+ priority activities, including assessment of changes in forest areas and associated carbon stocks compared to the FREL/FRL, displacement of emissions and results achieved;
- Clear role of experts and stakeholders in the NFMS including data collection and verification of results;
- Institutional arrangements with a clear mandate, transparent means for sharing data and information, and resources required for the operation and maintenance through the provision of trainings, hardware and software and dedicated budget.

The PMU started the implementation of the activities under this sub-component by establishing an Ad Hoc Working Group on MRV to provide technical inputs on how to develop the NFMS. A manual for conducting the national forest inventory and establishing the NFMS has been prepared by the working group and has been subjected to wide consultations involving all relevant stakeholders, including from FNC, other government institutions, universities, research institutions, and NGOs. Given FAO's comparative advantage and experience in working with other REDD+ countries on the NFMS, the FNC and FAO-Sudan signed an agreement to develop Sudan's NFMS.

FAO prepared a technical report, “Support for the Design of a MRV System in the Framework of REDD+ Readiness in the Sudan – Institutional Arrangements and Gap Analysis”, and organized a national forum to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the report. 44 participants attended the workshop representing various government entities, including state level focal points, NGOs, academia and research institutes. The agreed methodology combines remote sensing and ground surveys based on stratified systematic sampling regime, in which the density of sampling units increased towards the southern part of the country where most forest lands are found. FAO provided technical support to FNC to strengthen its capacity in remote sensing and in the development of change assessment maps. FAO’s remote sensing experts developed a classification approach for forest change detection in Sudan, in particular for the development of change assessment maps for the reference time 2010-2017 using a classification method comprising three classes, namely forest stable, forest non-stable and forest loss. In addition, FAO was engaged in validating data collection of that map using Landsat and sentinel-2 satellite images, as well as the validation of a total of 900 points for the accuracy assessment of historical data. Building on the capacity-building activities on the National Forest Inventory received in December 2017, in which nine field crews participated, FAO provided further capacity-building activities for an increased number of field crews, covering training on the methodology for field data collection, the use of the field equipment such as tablets for data entry, GPS and Vertex (Laser Range Finder), as well as on the use of Open Foris Collect Mobile to ensure rapid and quality data collection. By the end of June 2018, 482 sampling units, representing 80% of the total sample units, have been measured by NFI field crews of FNC. FAO and FNC teams have also completed data-entry of the measured sample units into a centralized electronic system. In addition, the NFI established permanent sample plots, which will be measured continuously according to specific measurement protocol, still to be decided, as part of the establishment of the MRV system, to be completed by Oct 2019. The FAO, in accordance with the agreement of the NFMS, will also develop the remote sensing capability of the FNC and the Remote Sensing Corporation to ensure that, the NFMS will continue to use the combination of ground survey (NFI) and remote sensing in assessing forest carbon stock changes in future.

FAO, in cooperation with the Range and Pasture General Directorate of the Ministry of Animal Resources, organized a training course for 33 national experts on the use of Open Foris tools, especially Collect and Collect Mobile to support the NFMS. In addition, letters of agreement were signed between FAO and the Faculties of Forestry of the University of Khartoum and the University of Kordofan to implement the Quality Control and Quality Assessment of the NFI data. In this respect, a five-day training was conducted at the University of Khartoum and the University of Kordofan on the methodology of the NFI. A visibility package for the NFI has been designed and a first tranche of communication materials, including caps, mugs and bags, were distributed. Furthermore, forest definitions have been prepared, technically validated by national experts and endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Institutional arrangements for the MRV system have been assessed at the national level, in terms of technical capacities, needs for software and hardware and data managements facilities. Procurement of all required tools, equipment and material has been completed by FAO. The preparation of the NFMS is planned to be completed by October 2019.

5.1.2 Results of the self-assessment

Four stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessment of this sub-component. The assessment of progress was based on the three criteria and associated diagnostics questions of the FCPF RAF. The discussions were mainly focused on the sampling methodology used in the ground-based

forest inventory, the technical capacity in relation to carbon stock monitoring, remote sensing and the institutional capacity required to keep the NFMS operational. The overall result of the aggregated inputs by the four stakeholder groups indicate that the readiness program has progressed well. However, further development is required in order for Sudan to meet the readiness requirements under this sub-component. Table 16 below shows the results of the self-assessment undertaken by the each of the four stakeholder groups.

Table 16: Sub-component 4.A. National Forests Monitoring System

Overall Assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups			
		PMU	SFPs	TWGs	DP
Progressing well, further development required	Documentation of monitoring approach				
	Demonstration of early system implementation				
	Institutional arrangements and capacities				

The four stakeholder groups discussed the progress under this sub-component in terms of significant achievements made in meeting the readiness objectives and lesson learned that can be drawn from Sudan to further inform the national readiness program and possibly the international REDD+ community. Accordingly, the following issues were put forward by the stakeholders:

- The methodologies used have been consulted upon and agreed by national experts and include remote sensing and ground-based survey, to ensure good covering and cost effectiveness. The design includes permanent sample plots to ensure regular measurements and data collection and supporting the MRV system. The parameters and data to be collected include parameters to monitor the main carbon pools of living biomass.
- Procurement of data management systems and software necessary for the NFI and mapping, in addition to purchase of remote sensing data and equipment for remote sensing processing, storage and archiving was completed.
- Development of the forest map was undertaken as part of the detection change assessment which analyses two time periods, i.e. 2005-2010 and 2010-2015, respectively. The change assessment aims to detect areas of deforestation and afforestation for the period considered. The development of an SLMS is the consolidation of the change detection assessment for the identified period.
- A field manual was produced and the overall methodology approach document is being updated as a working document. Field equipment was procured for field crews and field crews were trained to conduct measurements throughout the country.
- A Quality Control procedure was prepared and staff from the University of Khartoum and the University of Kordofan were trained to carry out the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC work).

- A data management system (Open Foris) was established at FNC and data entry and data control is nearly completed at the time of this report.
- According to its design, the system should have the capacity to monitor the implementation of the REDD+ strategy activities in Sudan and assess emissions and removals through the NFI in all forest geographical areas, which means also its ability to assess cases of displacement of emissions.
- FAO conducted a study and consultations on the institutional arrangements for the NFMS covering mandates, the technical and institutional capacities required, as well as means for data and information sharing.

In terms of remaining gaps and areas that requiring further development to meet the readiness requirements under this sub-component, the stakeholder groups identified the following issues:

- The NFMS system is still under development by FAO. The system needs to be completed and tested, and supported by continuous technical and institutional capacity-building activities in areas such as NFI operation and management, field measurements, remote sensing, and data collection, analysis, archiving and management. Gaps also include the timely availability of the remote sensing data and upgrading of data and software.
- There is a need to review, address and improve the representation of the sample plots. Currently, the sampling percentage is low as some sample units are not accessible for either security or topography reasons. Alternative approaches using remote sensing are being developed to address inaccessible samples. There was not sufficient support and supervision to the measurement teams in the fields in some areas which requires a QA/QC check. Furthermore, there remain gaps due to insufficient training, insufficient time and delays in addressing difficulties related to funding and logistics.
- The accuracy assessment will be intensified in order to produce more accurate maps and ground truth activities will be undertaken in this process. The training on mapping methodology and accuracy assessment will be intensified and involves experts from relevant institutions in the MRV process, particularly those at the sub-national level.
- Subnational institutional mapping, gap analysis and capacity needs assessments for the NFMS and MRV in three selected states is planned to be conducted in 2019. This assessment will include policy requirements to support state level and national level institutions in the implementation of the MRV and NFMS. The assessment will propose institutional arrangements, including recommendations to enhance coordination mechanisms amongst the relevant institutions involved and capacity-building activities to address the gaps identified.
- The FAO report on institutional arrangements need to be updated after the finalization of the NFI and FREL/FRL to further address the institutional linkages and to benefit from additional consultations.

5.2 Sub-component 4.B. Design of information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

5.2.1 Assessment of progress

According to the FCPF RAF, the readiness requirements to be met under this sub-component include the following components:

- Identification of relevant non-carbon benefits, including social and environmental safeguards and capacity-building needs to address the REDD+ implementation phase;
- Development of a system for monitoring, reporting and information sharing on non-carbon benefits and safeguards;
- Institutional arrangements with mandates to perform tasks related to the system on monitoring non-carbon benefits and safeguards, in addition to the identification of the resources for training activities, as well as hard- and software;
- The establishment of the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards which are planned to be conducted as part of the additional grant agreement.

The terms of reference for this sub-component was prepared in line with the guidance in the FCPF RAF for establishing the information and monitoring system. Contractual arrangements were finalized with national consultants during the preparation of this R-Package report. According to the terms of reference, this work is planned to be completed by August 2019. The safeguards working group supported the work under this sub-component. A series of awareness raising and consultation workshops on environmental and social safeguards have been conducted by the safeguards specialist and the PMU on a sectorial basis and following a cluster of states approach, thereby covering all relevant stakeholders in 18 states. In total, 261 participants have been engaged in these events, of which 191 were men and 70 women.

The technical report submitted by the selected national consultant team provides a logical approach for developing the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards. The consultants propose a stepwise approach to developing a dedicated system for monitoring positive and negative environmental and social impacts, and the multiple benefits resulting from the implementation of Sudan's REDD+ strategy. In doing so, each step consists of technical work, both desk and field research, followed by consultations with key stakeholder. The approach consist of the following steps:

- Scoping and scaling up of the multiple benefit monitoring system;
- Development of a baseline upon which impacts can be measured and reported;
- Defining indicators, parameters and sources, including a minimum set of information required for measuring positive and negative impacts;
- Review institutional arrangements for the implementation of Sudan's REDD+ strategy at the national and sub-national level, and their adequacy and capacity to operate and maintain the multiple benefit monitoring system;
- Designing the multiple benefit monitoring system and its validation.

The technical report further describes the tasks including, development of practical indicators for measuring multiple benefits and social and environmental impacts and safeguards, consistent with the NFMS, SESA, DoD, strategic options of the national REDD strategy and MRV. The process will entail preparation of technical proposals and consultations with key stakeholders at national and sub-national levels and will benefit from the best practice of guidance from global REDD+ programs and countries that have entered into the Emission Reduction programs – Ghana, Ethiopia etc. The institutional arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ strategy and activities at the national and sub-national levels will be reviewed to assess their adequacy to effectively run/operate the monitoring system.

The final output will include proposed system for monitoring safeguards, non-carbon social and environmental benefits and impact of REDD+ activities, governance, etc. The proposed monitoring system should supplement the national MRV and forest database systems. The system should be able to cater to the reporting needs of different international REDD related institutions (e.g. UNFCCC and the World Bank). As per the TOR, the final draft should include (i) assessment of all social and non-carbon social and environmental benefits from forests; and the major beneficiaries in Sudan; (ii) robust indicators for monitoring these benefits and impacts of REDD+ activities in line with UNFCCC safeguard system taking into account the World Bank ESF; (iii) proposal for an effective and implementable monitoring system with a clear work plan, including human resource requirement for implementation.

5.2.2 Results of the self-assessment

Two main stakeholder groups participated in the self-assessment on the progress made in the readiness preparation under this sub-component. The discussion on the progress made focused mainly on the terms of reference, the proposed approach and the feedback from the awareness raising workshops conducted in five clusters comprising all states of Sudan. The overall result of the aggregated assessments of the two stakeholder groups indicate that the implementation of the tasks involved under this sub-component has progressed well and is in line with the timeframe of the additional grant agreement. However, further development is required to complete the identified activities in a manner that meets the readiness requirements as specified above. Table 17 below shows the results of the self-assessment undertaken by the each of the two stakeholder groups.

Table 17: Sub-component 4.B. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

Overall Assessment	Readiness Assessment Framework Criteria	Stakeholder Groups	
		PMU	TWGs
Progressing well, further development required	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues		
	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing		
	Institutional arrangements and capacities		

Given that actual work on establishing the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards has just commenced and is planned to be conducted under the additional grant agreement, there are no significant achievements and lessons learned that can be

drawn from the readiness activities under this sub-component. The PMU members indicated the progress made in the awareness raising campaign that has been conducted covering all the states of Sudan on safeguards as well as on SESA and benefit-sharing. They also indicated that information on non-carbon benefits is being shared and is available to relevant stakeholder through the activities undertaken under the SESA, as well as under the benefit-sharing and safeguards activities implemented at both national and sub-national levels.

On gaps and issues that require further development, the PMU members indicated that establishing the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards is under development and planned to be completed by August 2019.

The establishment of the safeguards system should follow closely the guidance available from the UNFCCC, World Bank and should learn from the experiences of other REDD+ countries. The work should also draw upon the outcomes of dialogues with key stakeholders and the documentation produced during the formulation and implementation of the R-PP, including SESA, and ESMF.

6 Towards result-based actions

Sudan's REDD+ program intends to develop 2-3 pilot programs and projects in key ecological zones of the country for implementation, based on the strategic options identified in the REDD+ national strategy to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and their associated emissions. This will enable Sudan to start the implementation phase of REDD+ and gain experiences and lessons learned based on the implementation of these pilot emission reduction programs.

Funding for the preparation of the pilot emission reduction program is secured from the FCPF additional grant agreement. The national REDD+ strategy provides for the preparation and implementation of sub-national emissions reduction programs (ER programs) to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in different landscapes in the country. The ER programs will be prepared and implemented as national REDD+ pilot programs for performance-based payments system for REDD+ activities with the view of ensuring equitable benefits-sharing and promoting large-scale positive incentives for mitigation actions in targeted landscapes.

The ER programs will be designed and implemented in a transparent manner, involving stakeholders in the design, implementation and information sharing through stakeholder consultations and through ensuring community participation, including forest-dependent indigenous people. The design of the ER programs, led by the Government of Sudan and supported by the national consultant, will be expected to conform with a range of possible funding sources, including the criteria and indicators from the most recent version of the FCPF Carbon Fund Methodological Framework (2016), guidance from the UNFCCC, the terms of reference and accompanying scorecards of the Green Climate Fund pilot program for REDD+ results-based payments, as well as other funds. In addition, the ER programs will strive to meet the World Bank Social and Environmental Safeguards and also promote UNFCCC/Cancun safeguards for REDD+ as integrated in Sudan's REDD+ ESMF and safeguards, including the application of FGRM, as appropriate. The ER programs will include activities that sustain and enhance the livelihoods of local communities and conserve biodiversity. In this respect, Sudan's ER programs will seek to contribute towards the broader sustainable development agenda including reforestation, livestock, rangeland, biomass energy and mining strategies.

In addition the PMU has also planned to undertake other activities based on the outcomes of the readiness implementation and the national REDD+ strategy, including:

- Raising funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness programme to support activities that complete and consolidate REDD+ readiness preparation, based on the outcomes of the current grant agreement, the readiness assessment and the feedback from the Participant Committee. Also to support the initiation of the REDD+ implementation in Sudan through testing the systems and mechanisms developed by the readiness program and developing a REDD+ pipeline on ER programs and projects to facilitate access to funding to implement the national REDD+ strategy;
- Work with the FNC and relevant institutions to implement reforms to the current policies and legislation to integrate REDD+ into national and sub-national development planning and implementation;
- Work with the FNC general directorate of extension and information to conduct continuous awareness raising activities, particularly at the sub-national and local levels;
- Elaborate and implement targeted technical capacity-building activities in relation to the systems and mechanisms developed by the readiness program, such as the ESMF, the FGRM and benefit-sharing.

7 Overall conclusions

Overall, Sudan’s REDD+ program made significant progress in meeting the readiness preparation objectives as specified in the R-PP and as described by the criteria of the FCPF RAF. This is confirmed by both the review of the status of the implementation of the planned activities under the two FCPF grant agreements and by the results of the self-assessments undertaken by seven stakeholder groups and guided by the RAF assessment criteria. The main readiness outputs required under the nine sub-components are either completed or planned to be completed by December 2019. Table 18, shows the results of the overall assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the readiness activities and the activities that are to be completed by December 2019.

Table 18: Sudan’s overall progress made in the readiness preparation

Components/sub-components Result of the self-assessment	Progress in the implementation of the FCPF two grants agreements	
	Completed	To be completed by December 2019
1.A. National REDD+ Management arrangements	REDD+ Management arrangements established and well-functioning at the national and sub-national levels	Technical and institutional capacity building support
1.B. Consultation and participation and outreach	Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms are in place, the process is well established	Improvements continue in institutionalizing the process of consultation and participation of stakeholders

2.A. Assessment of LU and LUC drivers, forest law, policy and governance	Assessment of land use, land tenure and drivers has been completed in line with readiness objectives	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of land change using remote sensing by a fellow of the Internship program Assessment of impacts of mining on deforestation
2.B. REDD+ Strategy options	Selection of priority options has been completed, following the process and other requirements described in the RAF assessment criteria	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic valuation Landscape restoration REDD+ mainstreaming Gender mainstreaming Private sector engagement
2.C. REDD+ implementation framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of benefit-sharing mechanism completed FGRM completed Recommendations for policy and legislation reforms prepared Information sharing is ongoing 	Additional activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National registry and a system for monitoring REDD+ activities National REDD+ Pilot Emission Reduction Program Designs
2.D. Social and environmental impacts during the REDD+ readiness and implementation	SESA and ESMF completed through comprehensive consultations following World Bank, UNFCCC and national guidance	Additional activity on enhancing SESA
3. Develop a national FREL/FRL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale, scope and methodology have been decided Data collection and processing is underway 	Finalization, validation and submission to the UNFCCC by October 2019
4.A. National Forests Monitoring System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFI completed except inaccessible sample unit, which is being addressed using remote sensing Procurement of data, systems and software necessary for the NFI completed Methodology development completed Assessment of the institutional and technical capacity completed 	<p>NFMS planned to be completed by October 2019</p> <p>Additional activities on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire monitoring equipment and trainings Desertification monitoring, equipment and trainings GHGi and reporting process for the AFOLU sector REDD+ information tracking system
4.B. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	Procurement completed, work just commenced. The plan of work is in line with the readiness objectives	Planned to be completed by August 2019

8 Next steps

Immediate next steps for Sudan's readiness program include the completion of the outputs and activities as planned for under the additional FCPF grant agreement in line with the planned timeframe (see annex IV). In addition, the readiness self-assessment has indicated under each of the nine sub-component of the R-PP a number of gaps and areas that require further development by the readiness program. Some of these identified gaps and areas for further development are necessary for Sudan's REDD+ program to meet the readiness objectives in line with the FCPF

RAF. Therefore, the REDD+ program should accord them the highest priority in the remaining time of the readiness implementation (December 2019). These include:

- Technical and institutional capacities of the REDD+ management arrangements need to be further strengthened, particularly at the state level, in areas such as program management (managerial capacity) and communication skills. Technical skills in areas related to REDD+ implementation such as FREL/FRL, NFMS, ESMF, FGRM, benefit-sharing as well as financial management systems of development partners and skills for coordinating the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, including emission reduction programs.
- The FNC general directorate of extension and information needs to fully integrate REDD+ in their ongoing and future plans and activities. Its technical, technological and institutional capacities need to be further strengthened to ensure effective information sharing during the REDD+ implementation phase.
- The civil society organizations are useful mechanisms for enhancing consultation, participation and information sharing on REDD+, particularly at state and local levels. However, the CSOs need to be supported with capacity-building activities and relevant information materials. They also need to be empowered to play a more active role in the national REDD+ program. The role for CSOs in the MRV system should be defined, as it provides a very useful feedback.
- Civil society organization platforms at the national and state levels need to be further supported to organize their meetings and engagement with the REDD+ program on a more regular basis.
- Women's participation in REDD+ in general, and particularly in the decision-making, needs to be strengthened, both at national and state levels. There is a need to strengthen and better involve women CSOs, where available, and to encourage the establishment of women CSOs in states that do not have active CSOs.
- There is need to share the results of the land use and land tenure study with policy makers in related institutions, including parliament for mainstreaming REDD+ consideration in related policies and legislation. This needs to be complemented with further consultations with stakeholders particularly at the sub-national level on the issue of land use and land tenure and their implication on related policies and legislation, e.g. forests.
- Coordination needs to be improved among natural resources related institutions, between the committees at the states to ensure the implementation of the strategy options across the related sectors and addressing inconsistencies with development policies and strategies.
- The proposal of the new forest legislation needs to be further reviewed to fully take into consideration REDD+ issues, as defined in the outcomes of the readiness programs, such as benefit-sharing, carbon rights, genetic resources, and FGRM.

- Carbon rights and their benefit-sharing need to be defined and elaborated as well as REDD+ financing modalities, particularly for the REDD+ implementation phase. These are also important to support the preparation of the REDD+ strategy and should be integrated into existing policies and legal frameworks.
- The REDD+ implementation framework needs to define the roles of, and provide incentives for the related institutions and other national REDD+ partners to participate effectively in the REDD+ program and support its implementation framework. It should also ensure building trust of local communities on the REDD+ program to gain their support to the REDD+ implementation phase. Resources mobilization for REDD+ also needs to be strengthened based on the work planned under the additional grant agreement.
- There is a need to build awareness and to disseminate information on the outcomes of the SESA study, the function of the ESMF, FGRM and their role in ensuring protection of the environmental and social safeguards during the REDD+ implementation.
- The REDD+ established mechanisms such as ESMF, BSM, FGRM are included in the current draft of the national REDD+ Strategy, however, since the strategy is still under preparation, further work is required to define the interlinkages and processes of how these will work in a coherent and complementary manner towards achieving the objective of the REDD+ strategy and protect the social and environmental safeguards.
- The construction of the FREL/FRL should be finalized, validated and submitted to the UNFCCC for technical assessment before January 2020.
- For the development of NFMS/MRV, including the NFI, institutional arrangements need to be completed as planned by October 2019. There is a need to review the representation of the sample plots, as the current sampling percentage is low. Some sample units are not accessible for either security or topography reasons. An alternative approach using remote sensing is being developed to address inaccessible samples. There was not sufficient support and supervision to the measurement teams in the fields in some areas which requires QA/QC checks and possibly corrective actions.
- The establishment of the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards, is under way and expected to be completed as planned by August 2019.

9 List of literature and references reviewed

1. Sudan Readiness Preparation Proposal, 9 June 2014
2. Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note, On A Proposed Grant, in the amount of 3.8 million USD to the Republic of Sudan, from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), February 2015.
3. Project paper on a proposed additional grant in the amount of USD 5 million to the Republic of Sudan from the FCPF for additional REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support, 2017
4. A Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, June 2013
5. R-Package report of Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana
6. Sudan REDD+ MTR report Feb 2017
7. Sudan REDD+ Annual country progress report, Aug 2018
8. Update progress report of Sudan REDD+ programme, up to Dec 2018
9. REDD+ programme procurement plan
10. Term of References of the studies and activities on Forest Economic Valuation, Impacts of Mining on Deforestation, Preparation Emission Reduction Programme, Forest Landscape Restoration, Information and multiple monitoring system for non-carbon benefits and safeguards
11. Draft National REDD+ Strategy
12. The final report of drivers on deforestation and forest degradation for Sudan's REDD+ Programme
13. Final report of the benefit-sharing 2017
14. Final report on land use, land tenure
15. Final report of SESA, Oct 2018
16. Final report of ESMF, Oct 2018
17. Communication strategy
18. Reports of meetings of the steering committee and the technical advisory committee
19. Field manual for Sudan's national forest resources monitoring and assessment, February 2016
20. Agreements between FAO and the Government of Sudan (FNC) on support to design the MRV system in the framework of REDD+ Readiness in Sudan
21. FAO Progress Report No. 3 on: Support for the Design of the MRV System in the Framework of REDD+ Readiness in the Sudan, April 2018–September 2018

22. Final draft feedback, redress and grievance mechanism for REDD+ Programme
23. TORs for the activity on mainstreaming REDD+ into national development policies and legislation for REDD+ in Sudan
24. Terms of reference for the development of the R-Package, consultation, documentation and report for REDD+ Readiness in Sudan
25. Terms of reference for the study on private sector engagement in REDD+ processes in Sudan
26. REDD+ work plan Oct 2018 -Dec 2019 of the Additional Grant Agreement
27. Note of the internship programme
28. Number of reports prepared by the M&E officers on NRSC, TAC , PMU meetings, workshop and exchange visits
29. REDD+ Sudan website: www.reddsudan.org

10 Annexes

Annex I: List of participants in the stakeholder self-assessment sessions



Stakeholder group 1: Programme Management Unit (PMU) staff

No	Name	Address
1	Sayeda Ahmed Khalil	REDD+ National Corporation
2	Burai Balla Elhasssan	REDD+ Technical Adviser
3	Sahal Mustafa	REDD+ M&E
4	Siraj M. Shareef	Admin project
5	Mohamed Nour Abdelhafiz	REDD+ PMP
6	Mona Abdelrahman Ahmed	REDD+ secretariat
7	Elham Jamel Alla	Communication unit
8	Mutasium Mohamed Seed	Procurement assistant

Stakeholder group 2: State Focal Points

No	Name	Address
1	Adil Ahmed Suleiman	Focal point of River Nile State
2	Ali Abaker Ali	Focal point of East Darfur State
3	Adil Ahmed Elgrashi	Focal point of Kassala State
4	Mona Mohamed Rakhi	Focal point of sectoral Kordofan State
5	Mohamed Abulgasim Ahmed	Focal point of North Kordofan State
6	Areeg Ali Ibrahim	Focal point of Gezera State
7	Abdalla Hagona Abdalla	Focal point of South Kordofan State
8	Yassir Yassin Saif Elden	Focal point of Central Darfur State
9	Jamal Eltayeb Ahmed	Focal point of Blue Nile State
10	Mohamed Awad Mohamed	Focal point of Red Sea State
11	Muzamil Musa Abdalla	Focal point of North Darfur State
12	Mohamed Abdelrahim	Focal point of Gezeria State
13	Adam Mohamed Adam	Focal point of West Darfur State
14	Anwar Haroon Turbo	Focal point of South Darfur State
15	Mohamed Ahmed Mahjoub	Focal point of White Nile State
16	Essam Eldin Abass	Focal point of Northern State
17	Amna Ahmed Osman	Focal point of sectoral Darfur State
18	Nouh Mohamed Abdelgader	Focal point of Gedaref State
19	Hafiz Mohamed Elhabib	Focal point of sectoral Northern State
20	Marwa Mohamed Elhag	Focal point of Sinner State
21	Slawa Elsuni	Focal point of Khartoum State

Stakeholder group 3: Members of the National REDD+ Steering Committee

No	Name	Address
1	Adil Mohamed Ali	Sudanese Society for Environment Conservation
2	Gamaraldin Abdurrahman	College of Forestry and Range Science, Sudan University
3	Asia Abdelrahman Mohamed	Ministry of International Cooperation

Stakeholder group 4: Technical Advisory Committee

No	Name	Address
1	Sara Suliman Elsubeeay	Ministry of Finance
2	Salah Yousif Mohamed	Forests National Corporation
3	Manal Osman	Ministry of Environment
4	Samir Abdalla Bador	Ministry of Mineral
5	Sawsan Abdalla	Forests National Corporation
6	Khidir Elsadig Jaber	Ministry of Wildlife
7	Jamalaldin Yousif Mohamed	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource
8	Khitma Mohamed	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource
9	Abdelmoniem Osman Hassan	Ministry of Livestock And Pasture

Stakeholder group 5: Member of SESA Technical Working Group

No	Name	Address
1	Dr. Tallet .Dafalla Abdlmagid	University of Bahri
2	Dr. Eiman Elrasheed	National Center Research
3	Dr. Abdalla Mirghni Eltayeb	University of Khartoum
4	Mohamed Osman Hussein	Freelance consultant
5	Donia Hassan	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
6	Rehab Ahmed Hassan	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource
7	Elham Abdalla	Ministry of Environment

Stakeholder group 6: Member of FREL Taskforce

No	Name	Address
1	Noh Mohamed Abdelgader	REDD+ focal point geared
2	Mona Abdurrahman Ahmed	REDD+ PMU/FREL team
3	Samia Mando	FNC technical sector
4	Salh Ahmed Elmahi	FNC technical sector
5	Anwar Sideahmed	Remote sensing
6	Elyas Ahmed Elyas	Remote sensing
7	Rehab Ahmed Hassan	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource
8	Safa Burima	FNC technical sector

Stakeholder group 7: Member of MRV Working Group

No	Name	Address
1	Mutasm Fadel Elseed	FNC/MRV
2	Salah Yousif Mohamed	National forests inventory coordination
3	Ameer Mohamed Ahemd	FNC/MRV
4	Hanadi Ibrahim	FNC/MRV

5	Eman Ahmed	FNC/MRV
6	Khalda Abbass	FNC/MRV

Stakeholder group 8: Representatives of Civil Society Organizations

No	Name	Address
1	Mona Hussein Hammad	Sudan Forestry Society
2	Amani Ibrahim Ahemed	Sudan Forestry Society
3	Adam Yousif Hamid	Green creep organization
4	Mona Magdi Mahgoub	ATTS
5	Dr. Sumya Ahmed Zakieldden	University of Khartoum/IES
6	Osman Yousif Hamid	Sudanese Society for Social Afforestation
7	Adil Mohamed Ali	Sudanese Environment Conservation Society
8	Mohamed Salih Farah	Practical Action
9	Abdelrahim Salih	SOS Sahel Sudan
10	Khalda Abuzaid	SAWA Sudan
11	Fatima Ramly	Gum Arabic Producers Forum

Stakeholder group 8: Representatives of Development Partners

No	Name	Address
1	Dora Nsuwa Cudjoe	World Bank
2	Elwathig Mukhtar Hamid	FAO Sudan

Annex II: Sample of the forms used during the multi-stakeholder self-assessments

Legend for the progress indicators

	Significant progress	100 – 81%
	Progressing well, further development required	80 – 51%
	Further development required	50 – 21%
	Not yet demonstrating progress	20 – 0%

Component 1: Organization and Consultation

Readiness preparatory components	Assessment of results achieved based on the FCPC assessment Framework		Progress indicators <i>Traffic lights</i>	Significant achievements Lessons learned الإنجازات الهامة والدروس المستفادة التي يمكن تستفيد منها دول أخرى	Remaining gaps and further needs الفجوات والمجالات التي تحتاج عمل إضافي لإكمال الجاهزية لتنفيذ برامج الرد
RPP	Criteria	Key issues/questions			
1.A. National Readiness Management Arrangements	1.Accountability and transparency	How are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements demonstrating they are operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner? تقييم التنظيم التنفيذي الإداري لبرنامج الرد من ناحية وضوح المسؤوليات والعلاقات المؤسسية والشفافية في تنفيذ الأنشطة والبرامج		.	
	2. Operating mandate and budget	How is it shown that national REDD+ institutions operate under clear mutually supportive mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets? تقييم وضوح الاختصاصات في التنظيم التنفيذي الإداري للرد ودعمها لتنفيذ فعال لبرنامجها ومدى توفر ميزانيات مستمرة			
	3. Multi-sector coordination mechanism and cross-sector collaboration	How are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements ensuring REDD+ activities are coordinated, integrated into and influencing the broader national or sector policy frameworks (e.g., agriculture, environment, natural resources management, infrastructure development and land-use planning)? هل التنظيم الإداري التنفيذي بضمن تنسيق فاعل في تنفيذ برامج الرد واستيعاب لذلك في التخطيط التنموي في القطاعات ذات الصلة بالرد			

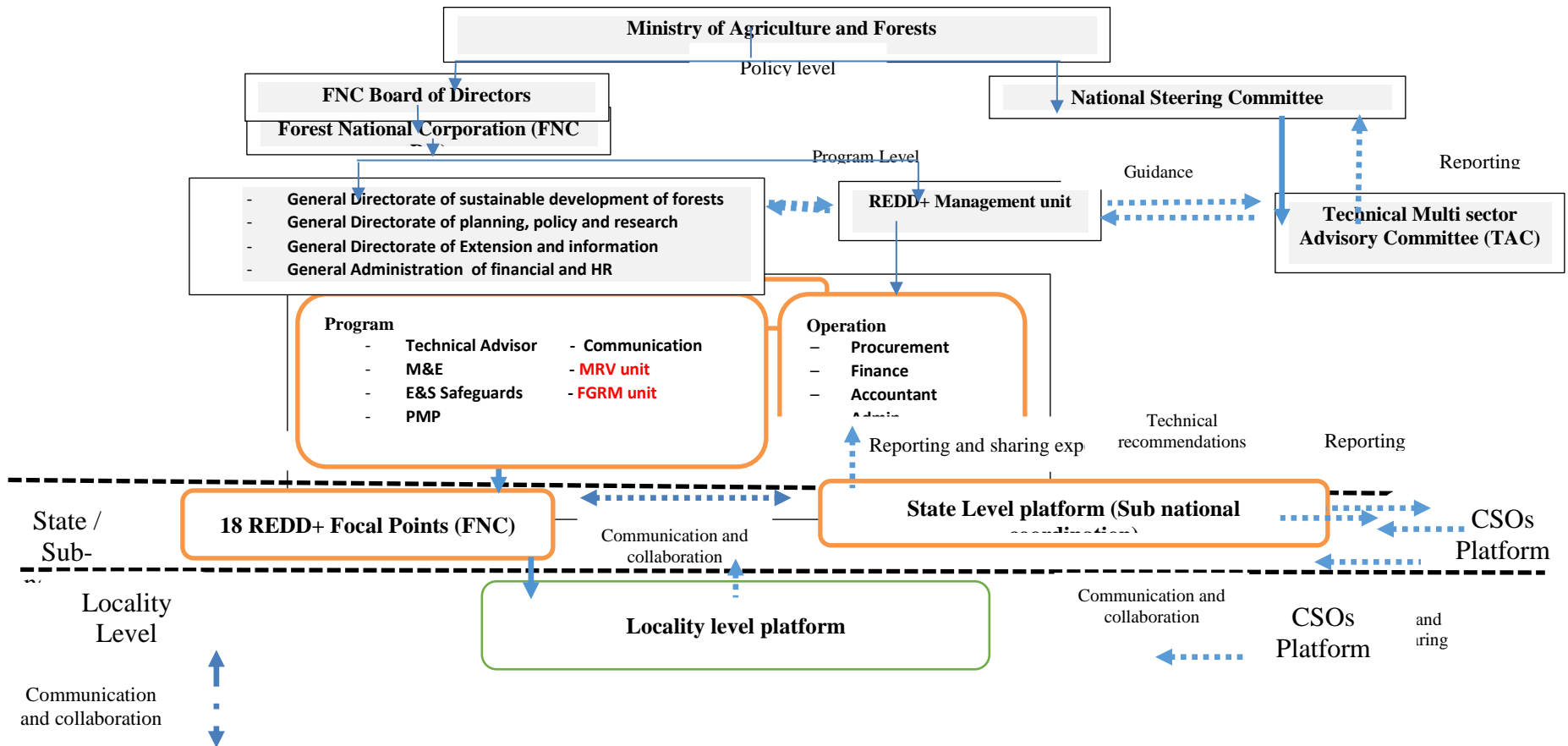
1.B. Information sharing and early dialogue with key stakeholder groups	4. Technical supervision capacity	How effectively and efficiently are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements leading and supervising multi-sector readiness activities, including the regular supervision of technical preparations? هل لدي التنظيم الإداري قدرة وفاعلية في الاشراف علي وقيادة أنشطة الرد التي تشمل قطاعات متعددة وجوانب فنية			
	5. funds management capacity	How are institutions and arrangements demonstrating effective, efficient and transparent fiscal management, including coordination with other development partner-funded activities? هل للتنظيم الإداري التنفيذي قدرة وفاعلية في الإدارة المالية لتنفيذ برامج الرد			
	6. Feedback grievance and redress mechanism	What evidence is there to demonstrate the mechanism is operating at the national, sub- national and local levels, is transparent, impartial, has a clearly defined mandate, and adequate expertise and resources? هل تصميم آلية استقبال ومعالجة الشكاوي والنزاعات يشمل مستوي الولايات والمستوي القومي وهل يؤكد مبادئ الشفافية والحياد هل لها اختصاص واضح وميزانية لتعمل What evidence is there that potentially impacted communities are aware of, have access to, and the mechanism is responsive to feedback and grievances? هل المواطنون المعنيين بهذه الآلية لديهم علم بها وحول كيفية التعامل معها وهل تستجيب لهم بالشكل المطلوب			
	7--Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	How is the full, effective and on-going participation of key stakeholders demonstrated through institutional mechanisms هل هناك آليات مؤسسية تضمن المشاركة الفاعلة والمستمرة لشركاء برنامج الرد What are the participatory mechanisms being used to ensure that Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities have the capacity to effectively participate ماهي الآليات والوسائل لضمان مشاركة المجتمعات المحلية التي تعتمد علي الغابات في سبل كسب عيشها و هل هذه المجتمعات لديها القدرة علي المشاركة الفاعلة في برامج الرد			

1.C. Consultation and participation process	8. Consultation processes	<p>What evidence demonstrates that consultation processes at the national and local levels are clear, inclusive, transparent, and facilitate timely access to information in a culturally appropriate manner? ما الذي يدل على ان المشاركة والمشاورات التي تجري لتنفيذ برامج الرد تشمل الولايات والمركز بصورة شاملة وشفافة لكل الشركاء المعنيين بالرد وتوفر لهم المعلومات في وقتها وبالمستوي المناسب لاستيعابها</p> <p>What evidence is there that the country has used a self-selection process to identify rights holders and stakeholders هل تحديد شركاء برنامج الرد يشمل كل المعنيين علي مستوي الولايات والمركز</p> <p>What evidence is there that consultation processes are gender sensitive and inclusive ما مدي مشاركة المرأة في مشاورات تنفيذ برنامج الرد و الحرص علي مشاركتها</p>			
	9. Information sharing and accessibility of information	<p>How have national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements demonstrated transparent, consistent, comprehensive and timely sharing and disclosure of information هل للتنظيم الإداري التنفيذي للرد آليات منتظمة وشفافة وشاملة في نشر المعلومات حول برنامج الرد ومخرجات تنفيذه في مراحلته المختلفة</p> <p>What evidence is there that information is accessible to stakeholders هل المعلومات حول برنامج الرد متاحة للشركاء</p> <p>What channels of communications are being used to ensure that stakeholders are well informed وتوزيع ووسائل نشر وتوزيع المعلومات حول برنامج الرد للشركاء</p>			
	10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	<p>How are the outcomes of consultations integrated (fed into, disseminated, publicly disclosed and taken into account) in management arrangements, strategy development and technical activities related to reference level and monitoring and information systems development? كيف يستفاد من ويتم استيعاب نتائج المشاورات مع الشركاء في تنفيذ وتطوير برنامج الرد مثل في اعداد استراتيجيات الرد والأنشطة الفنية من دراسات وغيره واعداد نظام الرصد والمتابعة</p>			

The AF grant will support goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for: Operationalization of Communications Strategy & REDD+ Awareness Program and preparation of relevant safeguard instruments⁹; and Consultations for preparation of the R-Package document; Funding for this component will support the REDD+ Unit with staff and operational cost, IT and vehicular connectivity with the state offices and local communities, and upgrading of office facilities This program will hire graduate students from Sudanese universities and support the REDD+ Unit with readiness tasks and assignments. This will facilitate the completion of readiness activities and also give students exposure to the REDD+ readiness process and institutionalize long term understanding and awareness of the REDD+ program for Sudan.

⁹ Note that this SESA element will have an allocated budget of US\$0.50M

Annex III: National REDD+ Management Arrangements



Annex IV: Comparison of Readiness Activities Supported with the Original Grant vs. Additional Funding

Component 1: Support for REDD+ Readiness Management and Institutional Arrangements		
Original Grant Activities (USD 1.25M)	AF Grant Activities (USD 0.79M)	Gaps Addressed with AF
<p><i>Staff & Operations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up and operation of the National REDD+ Management Unit; Set up and operation of the National REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and REDD+ Technical Working Groups; Strengthen sub-national REDD+ institutional structures; Capacity building for REDD+ institutional arrangements 	<p><i>Staff & Operations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff & operational support to carry out AF activities (for the National REDD+ Management Unit, National REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and REDD+, and sub-national REDD+ institutional structures); Vehicle & transportation budget support to the FNC to carry out AF activities; IT Equipment to carry out AF activities; Office space rental and remodeling to help FNC carry out AF activities 	<p>Allocated funds will help fill the FNC's capacity gap associated with carrying out the AF activities by December 31st, 2019.</p>
<p>Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+</p>	N/A	<p>FGRM budget is satisfactory for the remainder of the project.</p>
<p><i>Program monitoring and evaluation (M&E):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant support for preparation of a Mid-Term Review (MTR) 	<p><i>Program M&E:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the FNC to carry out M&E for the AF activities - Consultant support for preparation of R-Package documentation; 	<p>This will address the FNC's M&E capacity gap here, including the additionally funded activities – note that consultant support for the R-package was not included in the original grant</p>
Component 2: Support for National REDD+ Strategy		
Original Grant Activities (USD 0.85M)	AF Grant Activities (USD 1.05M)	Gaps Addressed with AF
<p><i>Technical Studies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including studies on policies, wood-based energy and land tenure and forest governance; In-depth analysis of strategic options to address deforestation and forest degradation; Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and development 	<p><i>Technical Studies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Landscapes Restoration Assessment & National Strategy Report; Mainstreaming REDD+ in National Development Policies and Legislation; Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Comprehensive Workshop Series; Private Sector Engagement in Reforestation Initiatives Report; Study on Forced Deforestation; and on mining SESA Enhancement; 	<p>The additional technical studies will target informational and technical gaps identified from the studies funded under the original grant and will thereby enhance the REDD+ strategy to enable Sudan to prepare for jurisdictional emission reduction programs in targeted regions</p>

of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF);		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on options for benefit-sharing related to REDD+ 		
N/A	<i>Knowledge Sharing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South-South Exchange - Learning and sharing experiences & lessons 	The AF will address Sudan's knowledge gap in understanding how other countries in the region have implemented similar REDD+ activities that serve as the focus of the National REDD+ Strategy. This was not budgeted for in the original grant.
N/A	<i>National REDD+ Pilot Program Designs</i>	This will help Sudan design jurisdictional REDD+ programs in three regions and enable Sudan to justify funding requests (GCF, FCPF etc.) to serve these programs in addition to preparing the requisite safeguard documents per World Bank guidelines. This was not budgeted for in the original grant.
Component 3: Support for Stakeholder Engagement		
<i>Original Grant Activities (USD 0.40M)</i>	<i>AF Grant Activities (USD 0.60M)</i>	<i>Gaps Addressed with AF</i>
<i>Stakeholder Consultations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation and participation for activities to be implemented under the FCPF grant; 	<i>Stakeholder Consultations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF Activities; R-Package Consultations; 	AF will support Sudan's capacity for conducting appropriate stakeholder consultations for the AF activities in cases where this has not been built into the activity budget. This will also support R-package consultations, which were not budgeted for in the original grant.
<i>Communications Platforms:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up and strengthening of civil society platforms; Design of a communications strategy and awareness program; 	<i>Communications Platforms:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalization of Communications Strategy & Awareness Program; 	Original grant was not sufficient for operationalization of the communications strategy and awareness program; AF will thus support this funding gap including targeting of women's groups.
Component 4: Support for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)		
<i>Original Grant Activities (USD 1.3M)</i>	<i>AF Grant Activities (USD 2.06M)</i>	<i>Gaps Addressed with AF</i>
Development a National Forest Inventory (NFI)	N/A	
GHG Inventory Establishment	GHG Inventory Enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalization & deployment of MRV at Regional/zonal level; 	Original grant amount was not sufficient to allocate funds towards this activity, however this will be required by the readiness assessment framework.

	Enhanced remote sensing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire monitoring equipment & trainings; • Desertification monitoring, equipment & trainings; 	Needs for enhanced fire and desertification monitoring were identified during the first phase of the project. AF will address the funding gap associated with equipment and trainings.
Capacity building for forest monitoring activities	N/A	
	Land Use Assessment	
	GHGi & Reporting process for AFOLU sector	Original grant was not sufficient to cover AFOLU, however this will be required by the readiness assessment framework.
	REDD+ Information tracking system	Original grant was not sufficient to cover the information tracking system, however this will be required by the readiness assessment framework.
Component 5: Support for Development of a Forest Reference Emission Level		
<i>Original Grant Activities (USD 0.00M)</i>	<i>AF Grant Activities (USD 0.50M)</i>	<i>Gaps Addressed with AF</i>
N/A	Development of FREL (alignment with UNFCCC requirements)	Original grant was not sufficient to cover the this activity, however this will be required by the readiness assessment framework.
N/A	Validation of the FREL	Original grant was not sufficient to cover the this activity, however this will be required by the readiness assessment framework.

Annex V: Stakeholders consultation in the preparation process of the national REDD+ Strategy

Federal -Line Ministries
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Ministry of Animal Resources; Ministry of Environment Natural Resources and Physical Planning; Ministry of Minerals; Ministry of Petroleum and Gas; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Investment; Ministry of Tourism, Antiquities and Wildlife; Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity; Ministry of Finance and National Economy
State Governments
Kassala, Gadaref, Blue Nile, Sinnar, White Nile, River Nile, Northern, N. Kordofan, S. Kordofan, W. Kordofan, E. Darfur, Central Darfur, N. Darfur, S. Darfur, W. Darfur
Legislature and Regulatory Bodies
National Assembly (Parliament); States Assembly; State Legislatures, Gum Arabic Board; Federal and State Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources
Private Sector and Para-statal Institutions
Sugar Companies; DAL Group, Gum Arabic Processing /Exporting Companies, Firewood/ Charcoal Entrepreneurs; Wood Processing Entrepreneurs; Gezira, N. Halfa Schemes, FNC
NGOs and CSOs
Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS); Sudanese Forestry Society, Sudanese Popular Afforestation Society. Gum Arabic Producer Associations, (GAPAs),
Forest Neighbouring Communities (FC) and Traditional Leadership
FC Blue Nile, Sinner, North Kordofan, South Darfur, Traditional Leadership West Kordofan, Traditional Leadership Blue Nile
Research and Academia
Research and Innovation Authority, Ministry of Higher Education, Gum Arabic Research Chair, Agricultural Research Corporation, Forests and Gum Arabic Research Centre (Soba), Gum Arabic Research Centre (El Obeid), Veterinary Research Centre (VRC), Faculty of Forestry UoK, Faculty Natural Resources Kordofan University.
International Organizations, Donors and Development Partners
FAO, UNEP, WB, UNHCR, IFAD, DIFD, AfDB, Arab Bilateral Development Funds,