

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA1223
Printed On: 10/16/2017

Reporting Period: 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TFOA1223

Congo Forest Carbon Partnership Facility - Additional Financing FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000242041 - Julian Lee
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Congo
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - GEN07
Grant Start Date / End Date	12/08/2015 to 06/30/2018
Original Grant Amount	5,200,000.00
Grant Amount	5,200,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	3,171,668.88 as of 06/30/2017
Disbursed 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017	1,884,946.91
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Components, Outcome, Execution, Program(FCPFR), Disbursements.

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OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments

Grant Objectives:

To reinforce the Republic of Congo's capacities to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and to inform the development of a national reference emissions level for REDD+.

Overall progress from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

Overall progress has been moderately satisfactory. The National REDD+ Strategy was validated in FY17-Q1, however this version did not take into account important feedback. There is thus agreement that its quality still needs to be improved, and the Bank is currently providing active guidance to do so before it forms a formal basis for submission of the associated REDD+ Investment Plan. Following significant delays, CN-REDD finished the development of the SESA and associated safeguards frameworks. CN-REDD is currently incorporating comments from World Bank safeguards specialists. The national reference emissions level was submitted to UNFCCC in FY16, and refinements have been taking place throughout FY17 with the joint support of FCPF and UN-REDD/FAO. Its update is expected for FY18-Q2. Preparatory work for the REDD+ registry took place with Bank support for draft TORs, however the procurement process has been delayed. In parallel, given the complexities involved in designing the transaction module of the registry, a decision was taken to model this module on a version being designed in DRC. The development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism has been progressing slowly and has required substantive Bank support. It is, however, now expected to be finalized by FY18-Q2. Lastly, the design of principles for a benefit sharing mechanism has been progressing slowly, but is expected to be completed in FY18-Q3 with proactive Bank support.

Overall progress from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

Deficient prioritization of key activities, procurement, and management of staff continue to represent bottlenecks to implementation, delaying several key activities and reducing their effectiveness. Following a change of staff at the project's fiduciary agency, the effectiveness of support from the procurement and financial management specialists has decreased compared to FY16, adding an additional complication.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

The \$5.2 million grant became effective on December 31, 2015, and constitutes the second of two FCPF REDD+ readiness grants.

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up Bank project/loan/credit/grant

Comment on follow up:

In addition to the FCPF Carbon Fund, the Forest Investment Program, the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the Central African Forest Initiative are all lined up to provide REDD+ investments that will operationalize the preparation work carried out under this grant.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

Not applicable.

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OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-stakeholder Consultations

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: CN-REDD is functional and equipped.
Actual Output: CN-REDD is fully staffed, however some key services have been substantially delayed (e.g. internet). REDD+ workshops continue.

Contribution to the design of a national REDD+ strategy

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: National REDD+ infrastructure: Strategy, SESA, ESMF
Actual Output: National REDD strategy draft, SESA and six safeguards frameworks

Informing the national reference scenario for REDD+

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: None planned
Actual Output: Reference scenario submitted to UNFCCC, updates in progress

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

See summary provided in Overview.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P124292 - CG - FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development, and Environment - CN-REDD
Contact: Georges Bounzdanga
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Phone: +242 06 66 67 321
Website:
Email: bouzgege@yahoo.fr

PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

1. Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those funded by Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those f

UN-REDD has ended most of its activities, but coordination continues with FAO, which still is providing limited support for MRV. Financing from FIP, DGM, CAFI, GEF, GCF and IDA is being coordinated to maximize success of the FCPF Carbon Fund-led Emissions Reductions Program and the wider REDD+ agenda.

2. Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.

Not applicable.

3. Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant.

An in-depth financial transaction review was carried out in FY17 across the Bank portfolio in Republic of Congo to identify strengths and weaknesses in financial management. CN-REDD was included in this effort, and the final report containing recommendations will be shared with the client shortly.

The Bank team is providing hands-on support on numerous technical activities to ensure quality delivery (safeguards instruments, national REDD+ strategy, FGRM, benefit-sharing plan, etc.). The team is also working closely with CN-REDD to monitor advancement of its activities.

4. Describe progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the Grant. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach?

CN-REDD has prepared the SESA and six safeguards frameworks (ESMF, IPF, PF, IPPM, PCRMP, RF) with the help of an international consultant. As part of this process, CN-REDD organized extensive consultations. After an initial review by the World Bank's safeguards specialists, CN-REDD is working on final versions of the documents. The SESA is in accordance with the Common Approach.

5. Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

Yes.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, disclosure of information, and the FGRM related to this Grant.

CN-REDD uses the national CSO and indigenous peoples platform, CACO-REDD, for regular consultations and to share information. In addition, it has placed increased emphasis on consultations in the departments, including during preparation of the SESA and safeguards instruments, FGRM, benefit sharing plan, etc. CN-REDD's Documentation Centre has been available for public disclosure of key documents since January 2013. A panel of experts is preparing the FGRM, which is in advanced stages, and is currently being consulted upon.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	1,286,721.97	1,286,721.97
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	2,001,803.15	715,081.18
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	3,171,668.88	1,169,865.73
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00