		Report to Donor	
Ref.	TF019204	Reporting Period:	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019
Printed On:	02/14/2020	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Approved

Assignment: TF019204

FIJI: FCPF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader:00000188675- Ms. AnisiApproving Manager:00000235980- Ann Jeannette Glauber

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Fiji
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9269 - SEAE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	05/13/2015 to 12/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	5,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,621,039.32 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	1,462,203.24
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:

The development objective of Grant is to assist Fiji to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities by supporting the preparation of its REDD+ strategy through a participatory and inclusive process, the establishment of a national MRV system, and by producing technical work and policy advice to help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices.

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

During the last fiscal year, the project was able to meet important goals in terms of REDD+ Readiness. The biggest achievement during this reporting period is the approval of Fiji#s Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD) to the Carbon Fund, for which the country got unconditional approval, along with the endorsement of the Readiness Package by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Yet the overall implementation of the Grant was further delayed compared to the previous year#s advancement due to staffing change, procurement delays, and focus on the work related to delivery of the ERPD.

To date, the majority of key studies have been completed or are in the process of being delivered. The country completed a study on carbon rights and on the benefit sharing mechanism. While the main objective of the carbon study was to clarify carbon ownership in Fiji in accordance to the country#s legal framework, the study on benefit sharing analyzed the different options that the country has for developing a REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism as part of the ER Program. Study on Benefit Sharing has served as the basis for the drafting the Emissions Reductions Program (ER Program) Benefit Sharing Plan.

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework (ESMF) have been completed. Instruments have been reviewed by the Bank#s Regional Safeguards Advisor (RSA) unit, and thus are in the process of being finalized and of receiving clearance from the World Bank by the end of December 2019.

Study on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and an advanced draft of the Benefit Sharing Plan are close to completion. Expected delivery date of the study on drivers of deforestation is end of January 2020. A draft of the Benefit Sharing Plan has been delivered in December 2019.

The country has made progress on defining the REDD+ strategy options and is in the process of hiring consulting services to this end. Delivery date of REDD+ strategy is December 2019. Progress has also been made regarding the development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), and a Safeguards Information System (SIS). Expected date of completion is January 2020.

Studies on National Forest Inventory and MRV are making good progress and will be completed before the closing date of the Grant in June 2020.

Despite progress and achievements, the project continues to suffer from accumulative delays that are mainly due to domestic procurement process, staff changes, and distraction from the heavy workload preparing and delivering the ERPD. This especially affects activities supported by the additional financing (AF). This is reflected in the ratio of committed amount as a percentage to the total grant amount and the disbursement ratio. The overall committed amount now stands at USD 3 million (55% of the total grant amount including the AF) and disbursement is about USD 2.4 million (41%).

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities: Comment:

Progress regarding activities under each Component during the reporting period is presented below:

Component 1. Institutional Strengthening for REDD+

REDD Steering Committee:

REDD+ Steering Committee meetings has continued to meet regularly on a quarterly basis and additional special meetings have taken place to discuss ERPD draft with the TAP, help identify interventions to address the drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (D&D), discuss the REDD Unit website design, assess the alternative livelihood activities for the Emalu pilot site,

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and discuss the deliverables from studies. With regards to overall REDD+ governance and coordination, the engagement of the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Economy (MoE), FPO, SGO, and GTB through the FPO continues to function smoothly.

REDD+ Coordination Unit:

The REDD+ coordinator was hired in December 2018 for day-to-day project management and coordination with key stakeholders. The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Forest (MoF) was appointed in December 2018 and has since provided strong leadership and support to the Readiness Project and the ERP. Internal review and approval procedures within the MoF have been significantly improved. With regards to overall coordination, the engagement of the Climate Change Department of MoE, FPO, SGO, and GTB through the FPO continues to function smoothly. This helps to pave the way for policy dialogues, budget allocation, and administrative aspects of procurement processes.

Component 2. Development of a REDD+ strategy for Fiji:

REDD+ Strategy:

As mentioned earlier, studies carbon rights and benefit sharing mechanism have been completed. National Forest Inventory, MRV, are making good progress and will be completed before the closing date. An advanced draft of the final report of the DDFD has allowed the identification of the strategic components of the REDD+ National Strategy. These studies are relevant as they are expected to provide technical inputs for the design of the REDD+ Strategy. Fiji is now in the process of hiring a consultant to develop its REDD+ Strategy. The country#s REDD+ Strategy is expected to be finalized by December 2020.

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Development

The SESA and ESMF have been completed together with the accompanying instruments, Indigenous Peoples Project Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Process Framework (PF). SESA consultations allowed the identification of seven potential noncarbon benefits and their monitoring in the context of Fiji. Fiji is now working to develop a Safeguard Information System and monitoring system for non-carbon benefits.

Consultation on key issues addressed under FCPF:

The REDD+ Unit continues to conduct consultation and engage the relevant stakeholders. They have reached out and enhanced the awareness and understanding of REDD+ at the national, divisional and provincial levels. During the design and preparation of the ERP there have been significantly enhanced and active consultation and participation of the key stakeholders through discussion and validation of the relevant key documents, such as draft ERPDs, R-package, Benefit Sharing Study, Carbon Rights Study, and Gender Action Plan.

During the TAP process and country visit there was extensive and active participation of the key stakeholders, which was emphasized by the TAP assessment as a very positive feature. As a result, the ERPD is largely locally driven and has strong government ownership.

In addition, the communication products have continued to be disseminated, including newsletter, informational briefs, video documentary, radio interviews, newspaper articles, souvenirs etc. Both the Communications Strategy and the Consultation and Participation Plan have been effectively used by the REDD Unit and consultants hired to do the analytical studies. The design of the new website is underway while the updates are regularly made on the Fiji REDD+ Facebook and Twitter pages.

Component 3. Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+:

A study on National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is completed covering activity data, forest reference level (FRL), monitoring reporting and verification (MRV), database and support systems, and supporting institutional arrangement. Additional Financing is being used to strengthen the NFMS.

To complement Fiji#s NFMS, the country is planning to conduct a National Forest Inventory (NFI). The last NFI was conducted in 2006. The new NFI will focus on assessing the different types of timber available in the country and the different types of forest carbon pools.

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Fiji is carrying out efforts to build its technical capacity regarding forest monitoring. As part of these efforts, the REDD+ Unit has developed Training of Trainers (ToT) activities. To date, different kinds of capacity building activities such as training of trainers (ToT) have been conducted. Three TOTs were implemented in 3 divisions to prepare human resources to deliver REDD+ related trainings and as well as to create awareness of program among the different REDD+ stakeholders. Efforts to build local capacity of the academic institutions, include a nine weeks training on international forest policy and REDD+ at Fiji National University. The REDD+ Unit, through the MoF is in the final stage of the hiring process of the team of consultants that will conduct the training.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

The REDD+ process in Fiji began in 2009 with the first multi-stakeholder national REDD+ consultations funded by the SPC/Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Pacific-German Regional Program on Adaptation to Climate change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPIR). The National REDD+ policy was subsequently developed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process considered by many as exemplary in the region. It helped build trust and consensus between the various stakeholders from different Government agencies, resource owners, national and international NGOs, the private sector and Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies. Following the endorsement of the REDD+ policy by the cabinet in 2010, the consultation process for the development of the REDD+ strategy has begun. The latter has involved focused workshop sessions on forest carbon rights, benefit sharing and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

In 2012 Fiji requested to join the FCPF as an observer and subsequently developed the required documentation for becoming a FCPF REDD+ Country Participant. Led by the Forestry Department, Fiji began developing its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in December 2012 and validated the draft through a series of steering committee meetings and national stakeholder consultations, including different Government agencies, national and international NGOs, resource owners, the private sector, regional organizations, academia and development partners like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The R-PP outlines the activities and work plan for the ongoing REDD+ Readiness process.

In December 2013, the FCPF PC authorized grant funding of US\$ 3.8 million to support Fiji's REDD+ readiness process. This Readiness Preparation Grant is funding key elements of the R-PP. In particular, the development of the REDD+ strategy through a highly consultative and participatory process, which will carefully assess the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with different land use options and will be informed by a range of technical and policy studies. The Readiness Preparation Activities are also strengthening the existing implementation arrangement for REDD+ in Fiji and are strengthening existing feedback, and grievance redress mechanisms (FGRMs) for REDD+. Lastly, the Readiness Preparation Grant is financing the set-up of an effective monitoring system for REDD+, including the development of Reference Emission Level/Reference (REL/RL), the design and set up of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as a safeguards information system. GoF and GIZ resources are complementing these activities by funding broader capacity building and awareness raising activities.

A few analyses for REDD+ pilots or projects have been carried out, but no systematic assessment of the drivers of land use change and their underlying causes exists at the national level. The consultations conducted during the development of the R-PP identified agricultural expansion (both subsistence and commercial) and forest conversion for pasture lands and grazing as primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, followed by infrastructure development (for tourism and logging roads), energy production (mainly hydropower), urban expansion and forest fires. Given the country#s development objectives, however, pressures on forests are likely to increase further driven by a range of sectors, including agriculture, logging, mining, tourism, energy, transport and urban development.

The Government of Fiji is committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. Fiji#s 5-year and 20 -year Development Plan (2017) has identified development goals that are potentially threatened by climate change and natural risks. Since 2013 the government#s spending on investments to strengthen resilience has grown fourfold, from F\$ 89 million to F\$ 359 million in FY 2016-17. Fiji has also demonstrated international commitment. It is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been playing an active role in the negotiations, chairing the AOSIS, G-77 groups and the UNFCCC SBI. It has also actively participated in REDD+ negotiations, as a member of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations. In November 2017 Fiji chaired COP 23, becoming the first Small Island Developing State to preside over

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the conference of parties # the annual round of the ongoing United Nations climate negotiations, held in Bonn, Germany.

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up project or grant (non-Bank funded)

Comment on follow up:

An additional FCPF funding of US\$ 2,000,000 has been approved by the FCPF Participants Committee and the World Bank. The amended and restated Grant Agreement has been signed by the Bank and MoF. The additional funding is part of a broader engagement of the Bank to support the National REDD+ Readiness framework and a proposed Emissions Reduction (ER) program. It is being used to support further consultations and participation, the establishment of a national FREL and an MRV system, and the finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy.

In July 2019, the country#s ER Program received unconditional approval to join the Carbon Fund. By receiving unconditional approval, the FCPF has authorized the World Bank to start the negotiations for the Emissions Reductions Payments Agreement (ERPA). Signature of ERPA is expected to take place by April, 2020.

ERPA signature requires the completion of all the underlying REDD+ documentation such as a negotiated term sheet on the ERPA commercial terms, and country#s legal base for the MoE to sign the agreement. Finalized safeguards instruments and an advanced draft of the BSP are required for ERPA signature.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant: NA.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019

During FY19, the project was able to meet important goals in terms of REDD+ Readiness. Biggest achievement during this reporting period is the approval of Fiji#s ERPD to the Carbon Fund, along with the endorsement of the Readiness Package by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

To date, the majority of key studies have been completed or are in the process of being delivered. The country completed a study on Benefit Sharing which will serve as the basis for the development of the Benefit Sharing Plan of the ER Program.

The REDD+ Unit continues to conduct consultation and engage the relevant stakeholders. They have reached out and enhanced the awareness and understanding of REDD+ at the national, divisional and provincial levels. Participation of the key stakeholders is reflected through discussion and validation of relevant key documents, such as draft ERPDs, R-package, Benefit Sharing Study, Carbon Rights Study, and Gender Action Plan.

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework (ESMF) have been completed. Instruments are in the process of being finalized and of receiving clearance from the World Bank.

The country has made progress on defining the REDD+ strategy options and is in the process of hiring consulting services to this end. Delivery date of REDD+ strategy is December 2019. Progress has also been made regarding the development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), and a Safeguards Information System (SIS). Expected date of completion is January 2020.

Studies on National Forest Inventory and MRV are making good progress and will be completed before the closing date of the Grant in June 2020.

Fiji is carrying out efforts to build its technical capacity regarding forest monitoring. A study on National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is completed covering activity data, forest reference level (FRL), monitoring reporting and verification (MRV), database and support systems, and supporting institutional arrangement.

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Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

There are no components defined for this trust fund / grant.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Institutional Strengthening for REDD+ (US\$ 1.3 million)

REDD Steering Committee and REDD Unit: REDD+ Steering Committee meetings have been carried out on a quarterly basis and special meetings were conducted to discuss the draft ERPD with TAP, help identify interventions to address the drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (D&D), discuss the REDD Unit website design, assess the alternative livelihood activities for the Emalu pilot site, and discuss deliverables from studies.

The REDD coordinator was also hired to lead project management and coordination with key stakeholders. The Permanent Secretary (PS) of Ministry of Forest (MoF) was appointed in December 2018. Since his appointment, the PS has provided strong leadership and support to the Project and the ERP. With regards to overall coordination, the engagement of the Climate Change Department of MoE, FPO, SGO, and GTB through the FPO continues to function smoothly.

Recruitment of a data processing specialist and a procurement officer were completed with delay. The technical advisor leaves the REDD Unit on June 30, 2019, however has been rehired and will continue to provide support technical support as well as provide coordination support

Component 2: Development of a REDD+ strategy for Fiji (US\$ 1.19 million)

Sub-component 2.1 - Supporting Analytical work to prepare a REDD+ Strategy

The majority of key studies have been completed or are in the process of elaboration. Hiring of relevant consultants needs to be carried out according to the most recent workplan presented by the REDD+ Unit to the World Bank to guarantee product#s delivery.

Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: Qualitative assessment on the drivers and underlying causes of D+D has been done. Final version of the document is expected to be delivered by the end of January 2020. The REDD strategy options have been drafted as a result of the study. Accuracy assessment is being carried out to develop a spatial modelling on land use change data during 2006-2016.

MRV: MoF had endorsed the reports on Fiji#s National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Level, Nesting Guideline, and Capacity Development Plan. In addition, a database system has been established at Forest Resource Assessment and Conservation Division (FRAC), and Standard Operating Procedure for establishing and updating the database are also produced.

Sub-component 2.2 # Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Development

The SESA, and ESMF together with the RPF, IPPF and PF have been completed and are in the process of receiving Bank#s clearance and being finalized. These deliverables have been developed, consulted, and revised to integrate social and environmental concerns into REDD+ strategy development. SESA study identified seven potential non- carbon benefits during the R-PP preparation period. Fiji is now working to develop a Safeguard Information System and monitoring system for non-carbon benefits.

Sub-component 2.3 Consultation on key issues addressed under FCPF

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REDD+ Civil Society Platform: The CSO platform has been participating in the following activities: i) awareness training on REDD+ readiness; ii) supporting targeted consultations on key analytical work (drivers, strategy development, grievance redress, benefit sharing, SESA, and land tenure); iii) development of gender guidelines and FPIC guidelines. The Gender and FPIC guidelines, have been developed.

Consultation and participation: The REDD+ Unit continues to conduct consultation and engage the relevant stakeholders. They have reached out and enhanced the awareness and understanding of REDD+ at the national, divisional and provincial levels. During the design and preparation of the ERP there have been significantly enhanced and active consultation and participation of the key stakeholders through discussion and validation of the relevant key documents, such as draft ERPDs, R-package, Benefit Sharing Study, Carbon Rights Study, and Gender Action Plan. During the TAP process and country visit there was extensive and active participation of the key stakeholders, which was emphasized by the TAP assessment as a very positive feature. As a result, the ERPD is largely locally driven and has strong government ownership. In addition, the communication products have continued to be disseminated, including newsletter, informational briefs, video documentary, radio interviews, newspaper articles, souvenirs etc. Both the Communications Strategy and the Consultation and Participation Plan have been effectively used by the REDD Unit and consultants hired to do the analytical studies. The design of the new website is underway while the updates are regularly made on the Fiji REDD+ Facebook and Twitter pages.

Component 3: Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+ (US\$ 1.65 million)

A study on National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is completed covering activity data, forest reference level (FRL), monitoring reporting and verification (MRV), database and support systems, and supporting institutional arrangement. Additional Financing is being used to strengthen the NFMS. The REDD+ Unit has prepared the ToR for consulting services to improve the NFMS priorities with the aim of reducing uncertainty risk when estimating forest emissions reductions. An updated procurement plan including activities on this end was submitted to the Bank.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P151209 - Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	Department of Forestry, at the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests		
Contact:	Permanent Secretary Fisheries and Forests Inoke Wainiqolo		
Address:	PO Box 2218, Government Building, Suva, Fiji		
Phone:	+679 3301 611	Email:	wainiqoloinoke@gmail.com
Website:			

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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

NA

2. Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities. None

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

Capacity building activities have been implemented at both the national level and decentralized levels. Five consultation workshops were held with the Ridge to Reef project, TLTB, Ministry of Economy, ITaukei Affairs, and members of the Committee. Four technical training workshops on mapping, database development, and project management were held. Awareness raising activities reached out to senior government officials, forest and agricultural officers, women and youth groups, and farmers associations.

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?

SESA and ESMF report have been developed in accordance with the Common Approach. SESA study identified seven potential noncarbon benefits and their monitoring system in the context of Fiji. Fiji is now working to develop a Safeguard Information System and monitoring system for non-carbon benefits.

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

The SESA consultancy developed an ESMF that outlines the procedures for managing potential environmental and social impacts resulting from REDD+ implementation, including guidance for the preparation of future environmental and social safeguard instruments.

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

The national REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) has been established as an institutional mechanism to ensure the participation of key stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness process. Several awareness programs being conducted through the radio program, talkback program, consultation workshops, train the trainer programs, and regular meetings. The CSO platform has been participated in awareness training on REDD+ readiness, supported targeted consultations on key analytical work (drivers, strategy development, grievance redress, benefit sharing, SESA, and land tenure), and developed gender guidelines and FPIC guidelines.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	235,100.00	235,100.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	286,677.40	51,577.40
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	464,213.56	177,536.16

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01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	739,834.34	275,620.78
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	926,711.40	186,877.06
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	1,158,836.08	232,124.68
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	1,839,669.11	680,833.03
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	2,621,039.32	781,370.21
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	2,843,187.22	222,147.90
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	2,995,862.95	152,675.73
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00