

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A4428

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Printed On: 02/2/2021

Report Type: Progress Report

Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF0A4428

Second Grant Agreement for Madagascar Readiness Preparation Support Readiness fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000256965 - Erik Winter Reed
Approving Manager: 00000251917 - Africa Eshogba Olojoba

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Madagascar
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9835 - SAFE3
Grant Start Date / End Date	05/18/2017 to 12/31/2021
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,879,125.28 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	982,564.72
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 Project Development Objective remains unchanged: The development objective is improved institutional capacity and governance to design a national REDD+ strategy.

Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The main objectives are largely met based on indicators set out in the Assessment Note. A national REDD+ strategy has been prepared and adopted nationally, safeguards instruments have been partially prepared and approved for the national strategy. The SESA has been conducted ESMF, RPF and PF have been prepared and approved by the Bank as well at the national level through consultative and participatory processes. An E+S audit of Protected Areas within the ER Program area to identify any gaps and ensure compliance is being completed in order to move as quickly as possible to distributing benefits of the ER Program. Institutions are largely operational and the capacity is significantly improved. For example the observatory for monitoring is one of the significant successes from the project. Inventories and reference levels have been conducted for all for ecoregions for the first time in the country's history and Reference levels established, with almost exclusively national capacity rather than having to resort to international experts. A monitoring system is functional for REDD+ activities. The GRM is largely developed and being operationalized. An ER Program has been prepared and accepted into the pipeline of the Carbon Fund and signature is expected in the coming days. A National REDD+ decree is being prepared to harmonize national REDD+ initiatives including a standardization of procedures for managing funds and is a condition of effectiveness. The disbursement rate was once again impacted by national procedures that led to some delays. There was a slow down in certain activities due to Covid-19 related travel/operational constraints, but they have all now resumed and the project closing date has been extended. The focus for the remaining year is to initiate and launch the ER Program including making sure regional aspects are operational.

Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

The implementing unit, the National REDD+ Office, continues to functional at a relatively high level as they are now familiar with WB procedures. Turnover in Government (the hierarchical supervisors of the project coordinator for example) is the main cause of delays as they are unfamiliar with WB procedures. The implementing unit is now focusing on the transition to the implementation phase of the ER Program including reducing staff and technical assistance and further implementing the national RDD+ Strategy.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Project closing date has been granted an extension until the end of calendar 2021 and the project will now move into implementation of the ER Program. Some additional funding for operational costs may be received from another source but it has yet to be confirmed. The ER program has been an important point of interest from different investors and partners as a source of leverage, and the costs of the REDD+ Unit will likely be covered in part through different financing sources. For example, a €20 M grant has been tentatively approved from a mitigation fund for activities within the ER Program area interested in the leveraging potential. Other organizations are also seeking to use the ER Program as a point of leverage for proposals thus adding potential value and continuity and performance of the program.

Expected follow up (if any):

Follow up project or grant (non-Bank funded). Proposals are submitted for external funding in line with the ER Program area objectives, building on the reference level and other aspects like safeguards standards of the program. While these are to be defined is positive to see that it is being seen and used an added value.

Comment on follow up:

This additional funding for REDD+ readiness activities are and initial follow up. The activities are being used to move towards implementation of the ER Program and signature of the ERPA is expected this week. The foundations of a strong program are now being used to seek programs for other ER Programs with additional partners such as areas that are not covered by other investments.

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End Date of Last Site Visit:

Constant implementation support by task team in country, however due to Covid-19 restrictions site visits have been very limited.

Restructuring of Grant:

No restructuring has been carried out, additional funding has been approved and is effective.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

The original outcomes of the grant have largely been achieved. The team is now working to improve on the results in preparation for the implementation of the ER Program, thus refining details of the program and making them operational.

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

National REDD+ strategy is prepared and validated by national stakeholders

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 03/02/2015

Progress to Yes

Date:

Date: 05/30/2018

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2018

MRV system for REDD+ is designed and operational

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 03/02/2015

Progress to Yes

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2019

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Mechanism for tracking financial contributions to REDD+ Strategy implementation in Place

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 03/02/2015

Progress to Yes

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2019

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1: Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ Readiness Management

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: National and Regional Implementation structures in place

Actual Output: National and Regional REDD+ Platforms active, Nat'l Coordination is Strong, Regional are being operationalized through agreements with Regional offices of Ministry of Environment moving towards structure of ER Program implementation

Component 2: Development of National REDD+ Strategy Including Consultations and SESA

Status: Completed

Planned Output: National Strategy adopted safeguards instruments completed

Actual Output: National strategy adopted with consultations, SESA completed and ESMF, RPF, PF prepared ER Program instruments finalized

Component 3: Development of a national Reference Level and Forest Monitoring System

Status: Completed

Planned Output: National Reference Level developed and Forest Monitoring System active

Actual Output: National Reference Level Prepared, Forest inventory and national grid implemented, Forest Monitoring System in Place

Comment on planned and actual Output

Planned outputs have generally been completed and are finalizing operationalization of the ER Program.

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: The national level structures are strong and active, leading policy development and ER Program development. The regional level activities need further strengthening and through agreements with the regional directorates for Environment and Sustainable Development will enable REDD+ to be fully inculcated into existing structures. The REDD+ Platforms at national and regional levels were active and strong and played an important role in shaping and influencing the direction of the REDD+ program. Their mandates will not be modified to meet the needs of the ER Program implementation.

Component 2: The National REDD+ Strategy has been developed and SESA prepared through a highly consultative process. The ESMF, RPF and PF for the national strategy and for the ER Program have been completed and cleared by the Bank. As a part of moving towards implementation an Environmental and Social audit is being completed for REDD+ initiatives, in and around protected areas, in the ER Program area to evaluate compliance with the safeguard instruments and identify any gaps. This will facilitate distribution of benefits of the ER Program.

Component 3: A national reference level has been prepared as has a reference level for the ER Program. An inventory for forests and other land uses has been undertaken for all ecoregions, and as a national grid was adopted, inventories of all four ecoregions have been completed and provide a consistent baseline for the entire country. This will serve for the ER Program but also for other potential programs that can seek to build on the baseline. The Forest Observatory is in place and serves as a national reference for forest monitoring.

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EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P124655 - MG-FCPF READINESS GRANT
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Bureau National de la Changement Climatique Carbon et de la REDD+
Contact: Lovakanto Ravelomanana, Director of BNCCC REDD+
Address: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Nanisana, Antananarivo
Phone: +261 34 86 793 38/+261 32 23 108 41 Email: lovakanto@bnc-redd.mg
Website: <https://www.bnc-redd.mg>

PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

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

While there are no UN-REDD activities in Madagascar, the REDD+ coordination team is highly engaged with other initiatives. With the preparation of the ER Program there has been even more need to reach out to other initiatives including WB financed project teams, NGOs, national park managers, and private sector operators to identify collaborations and particularly to plan the distribution of benefits. The BNCCCREDD+ continues to be a reference for their work on national forest inventories and national REDD+ strategy and the development of a reference level.

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

The main difference since the beginning has been the evolution and preparation of the ER Program. This is a positive evolution in the sense of making the program more concrete and has been able to utilize the grant resources to complete tasks beyond the initial expectations of the project. The remaining funds are being used to transition towards the implementation of the ER Program.

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

The additional funding grant built on the initial grant in building and strengthening capacity for technical and fiduciary management. The team is now more capable of handling multiple donors and project and is designing the national REDD+ financial mechanism. The main capacity issue has been related to the turnover in government staffing, as nearly all staff are civil servants, when the government changes the personnel have also changed. The team has worked diligently to bring new team members up to speed and this seems to have been resolved. There are few WB projects within the Ministry of Environment and little understanding of WB procedures. Thus further capacity building will be emphasized, not for the project but for other Ministry members to reduce implementation friction.

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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?

Robust national level consultations have been conducted to complete the SESA. There is no UNREDD+ money so there is no specific need for a common approach nevertheless the process has followed WB standards. The Cancun Safeguards have also been taken into account.

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

The ESMF for the national REDD+ strategy and for the ER Program have been prepared and cleared by the Bank. There is no UN REDD funding so there is no specific need for a common approach. The framework documents will be applied broadly to beneficiaries of the program.

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

An FGRM has been designed and defined in the ESMF which has been disclosed and further development has been ongoing to ensure effective operationalization. Strengthening of the system is ongoing.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	500,000.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	0.00
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	920,553.85	420,553.85
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,225,415.47	304,861.62
07/01/2019	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	2,207,980.19	982,564.72