

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF012530
Printed On: 12/24/2015

Reporting Period: 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF012530

Liberia FCPF Readiness Grant

FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000084421 - Paola Agostini
Approving Manager: 00000086248 - Magdolna Lovei

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Liberia
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9061 - GENDR
Grant Start Date / End Date	06/29/2012 to 11/30/2016
Original Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,276,754.09 as of 06/30/2015
Disbursed 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015	682,111.20
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 is to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy for Liberia approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee.

Overall progress from 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

Progress has been made in implementing the grant supported activities. The PIU is fully functional and contracts have been established for many key aspects of REDD+ Readiness and outputs are in the process of being developed including for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment; Land cover and Forest mapping and the production of base maps; the development of the National Strategy; and the development of the processes for a reference scenario is nearly completed. A monitoring framework has been developed and the development of an MRV system will be supported through additional funding for the REDD+ readiness process.

Consultations with stakeholders continue as part of Liberia's commitment to a highly participatory process.

- Generalized outreach and awareness, and the development and adoption of a comprehensive Consultation and Participation Plan (C&P Plan) was achieved.
- A communication firm was hired to support the process, and an outreach campaign to increase awareness has been achieved.
- The REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) a multi-sector stakeholder platform and advisory and decision-making body for REDD+ activities and the Implementation Unit (RIU) is operational and coordinating the REDD+ process.
- Through the SESA process targeted consultations have been carried out in 6 regions according to the approved roadmap that was developed through a highly participatory process.

Overall progress from 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

Many REDD+ readiness activities were initiated with the US\$3.6 million grant but progress was slowed for a significant period in 2014-2015 due to the Ebola crisis and a 10 month extension was requested. Despite this Liberia strategically advanced the national REDD+ process and activities have now resumed rapidly and the grant is being successfully implemented, with over US\$3.3 million committed.

Through the preparation of the Mid-Term Report significant gaps in funding were identified to complete certain aspects of the REDD+ readiness process, and Liberia submitted the request for Additional Funding to the FCPF and \$5 million was granted, a testament to the progress that is being made in the country.

Liberia noted Significant progress in national REDD+ readiness arrangements, assessment of land use, forest policy and governance, development of REDD+ strategy options, and designing a system for monitoring non-carbon benefits and impacts. In the areas of Consultations, participation and information sharing, development of REDD+ implementation framework, developing strategies to deal with potential social and environmental impacts, and reference emissions level the processes are well underway.

Through the support of both grants (US\$3.6 million and additional funding of US\$5 million) Liberia is aiming to submit its Readiness Package by 2018.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

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

Comment on follow up:

Additional funding for REDD+ Readiness support has been secured and will consolidate the progress made through this grant

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towards strengthening REDD+ readiness arrangements including an MRV system and an Emissions Reduction program in a targeted area.

Following the REDD+ readiness process, a forestry investment operation is under design through the partnership with Norway, to implement REDD+ related activities in target areas.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

National REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:
Date: 06/30/2015
Target Value: Yes
Date: 06/30/2017

Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is finalized and validated by relevant stakeholders

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:
Date: 06/30/2015
Target Value: Yes
Date: 06/30/2016

Quantitative analysis of land use in forested and mixed agricultural lands prepared and validated by national stakeholders

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:

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Date: 06/30/2015

Target Value: Yes

Date: 06/30/2017

Consultations on land-use options with GoL and stakeholders (at county level)

Baseline Value: 0

Date: 06/29/2012

Progress to 4

Date:

Date: 06/30/2015

Target Value: 4

Date: 06/30/2015

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Consultation

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) operational, consultations carried out at local, county and national level

Actual Output: RTWG established and operational, consultations have been carried out at different levels and will continue as part of the participatory REDD+ process

Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ Strategy

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: Finalized REDD+ strategy

Actual Output: The development of the REDD+ strategy and SESA have been launched and drafts for consultations on these documents underway.

Develop a reference level or scenario

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: National reference level or scenario (including forest cover mapping and inventory of priority areas) finalized

Actual Output: Forest cover mapping has been carried out and the development of procedures for the reference emission level is underway

Project Management

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) formally established, key positions filled, and supporting implementation of REDD+ readiness activities.

Actual Output: RIU is operational and all positions have been filled and REDD+ Readiness activities are ongoing.

Comment on planned and actual Output

As a result of the Ebola crisis several contracts were delayed in their implementation, notably for the forest cover mapping, SESA and REDD+ Strategy and certain aspects of developing the reference emissions level and MRV procedures due to consulting

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firms not willing to return to Liberia or complete consultation processes that required going to the field. While these contracts are now underway for processing and/or implementation the outputs are expected to be delivered in FY16.

Additionally certain outputs will be supported by the additional funding for the REDD+ process, such as the implementation of the MRV system and development of the REL that build on the activities undertaken in this grant.

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1 Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Consultation

1a) National Readiness Management Arrangements-Progress has been made, the REDD+ readiness process will need to focus on supporting the NCCSC and county level readiness management arrangements in the next FY and with the additional funding.

1b) Stakeholder Consultation, Participation & Information Sharing-Progress has been made in consultation and participation for the development of different REDD+ documents, and further progress will focus on outreach to targeted REDD+ investment development.

Component 2 Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy-Significant progress has been made, a consultancy for drafting the strategy is underway

2a) Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance-Progress has been made in assessing land use options but further detailed analysis is needed.

2b) REDD+ Strategy Options-Progress has been made in identifying key strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and more detailed studies will be needed on developing implementation of these options in target area.

2c) REDD+ Implementation Framework-Progress has been made in the implementation framework, however key aspects need further work such as the operationalization of an FGRM

2d) Social and Environmental Impacts-Progress has been in developing the SESA and a draft is under development with consultations on the draft to be forthcoming.

Component 3 Develop Reference Emission Level, and monitoring systems for forests and safeguards-Progress has been made through the development of detailed forest cover maps, more detailed work will be needed on the REL for a target program region. A consultancy has been launched to develop a plan for MRV development that will include other benefits, which will be carried out through additional funding. The design of an ER Program in a target area will be carried out through additional funding, and supported through investments provided by through the partnership with Norway.

Component 4-Project Management-The RIU is operational and managing the grant effectively.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P124073 - Liberia-FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	Forest Development Authority	
Contact:	Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr.	
Address:	Whein Town, Mount Barclay, Liberia	
Phone:	+231886513358/777513	Email: hkarnwea@yahoo.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

The FDA as the lead REDD+ Agency is coordinating different REDD+ initiatives and continuing to seek collaboration and complementarities among different sectors.

Representatives of the pertinent public sector (Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, FDA, EPA, Land Commission, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, LISGIS), civil society organizations, international agencies, private companies working in the sectors (agriculture, mining, forestry and charcoal) identified as possible drivers of the country's deforestation and forest degradation continue to be engaged in the REDD+ process notably through the promotion of four land use options within forest management: community, conservation, carbon and commercial.

The development of an investment project for enhanced forest management through the partnership with Norway, builds on the strategic and important work of the REDD+ process and continues to be highly collaborative. Notably the project is seeking to put the four c's approach into action. This REDD+ readiness grant has been catalytic in mobilizing the USD150M partnership between the Governments of Liberia and Norway. This grant is part of a sequenced financing package to support the programmatic approach towards forest landscape management in Liberia. This grant, and subsequently the additional funding for the REDD+ will enable Liberia to build stronger institutions, technical capacity and governance platforms to manage a large forest related investment followed by the potential to access performance based payments for reduced GHG emissions.

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

There have not been any significant technical design changes in the Grant activities other than to define aspects of REDD+ readiness that will be supported under additional funding.

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

Financial Management and Procurement processes of the WB are now well understood by the client, and FM and Procurement processes are being regularly and in compliance with WB standards.

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?

The SESA Working Group is established and providing oversight for the ongoing SESA process which has resulted in a high quality consultative process with a draft SESA and ESMF anticipated by the end of calendar 2015 that will then undergo a process of further consultations before finalization.

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

The ESMF will be prepared in coordination with SESA in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

Consultations with stakeholders continues as part of Liberia's commitment to a highly participatory process. The Civil Society REDD+ Forum continued its outreach by holding a session on the role of communities in forest management and REDD+ and the outreach and consultation process will be further strengthened at the county level through additional funding particularly in the area being targeted for ER Program development.

A consultant has been recruited and is working on the implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy and activities are underway to increase the accessibility of information electronically as well as dissemination of information more broadly.

A consultancy is in the process of negotiation to work on the development of the FGRM, notably to build on other grievance

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redress mechanisms in the country.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2012	06/30/2012	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2012	12/31/2012	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
01/01/2013	06/30/2013	0.00	0.00	305,293.00	5,293.00
07/01/2013	12/31/2013	0.00	0.00	371,177.70	65,884.70
01/01/2014	06/30/2014	0.00	0.00	594,642.89	223,465.19
07/01/2014	12/31/2014	0.00	0.00	998,889.42	404,246.53
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	1,276,754.09	277,864.67
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00