

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA0929
Printed On: 09/13/2017

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

Assignment: TFOA0929

Liberia REDD+ Readiness Preparation Additional Funding FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000345871 - Neeta Hooda
Approving Manager: 00000086248 - Magdolna Lovei

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Liberia
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - GEN07
Grant Start Date / End Date	09/15/2015 to 07/15/2019
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	937,755.69 as of 06/30/2017
Disbursed 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017	637,755.69
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 for the additional funding remains unchanged: to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy for Liberia, to be approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee.

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

Comment:

Implementation of the grant financed activities just started in the reporting period; the outlook remains positive for satisfactory achievement of the grant objectives.

With the support of the REDD+ Readiness Grant and also from Norway, Liberia is now moving towards achieving REDD+ Readiness and utilizing innovative approaches to protect its forests, including in order to contribute to its achievement of carbon reduction targets set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), under the UNFCCC and to enhance livelihoods of forest dependent communities. Liberia intends to develop one or two jurisdictional ER Programs in the landscapes that are target areas for investments under the Norway-funded Liberia Forest Sector Project.

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

Comment:

Initial implementation of the grant has been moderately satisfactory - key activities and consultancies have been initiated, yet are experiencing minor delays.

Liberia made satisfactory efforts in addressing issues that were identified as requiring special focus during the Mid Term Review:

- #Liberia utilized different sources of funding for the REDD+ readiness activities (from the FCPF, Norway, NGOs / CSOs, etc.) judiciously, ensuring synergies of activities and avoiding duplication of funding;
- #National ownership has been strong through engagement of stakeholders at various levels and steering through a national level committee
- #Recognizing capacity constraints, all consultancies under the FCPF packages had a strong element of in country capacity building to ensure sustainability
- Decentralized stakeholder engagement platforms have been strengthened throughout the process.

Liberia's Readiness Package (R-Package) was submitted to the FCPF in July 2017, and Liberia will present it to the FCPF Participants' Committee meeting in late September 2017.

Liberia is also in the process of developing a Reference Level (RL), to be submitted to the UNFCCC with a view of securing future funding through other mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund.

Current grant disbursements stand at 19 percent; however, additional 25 percent of the grant are committed (including under the TA agreement with FAO for the MRV work).

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

The Additional Funding for REDD+ Readiness builds on the REDD+ readiness activities already launched, consolidates and strengthens achievements and completes aspects of REDD+ readiness that have not yet been completed. The additional funding will strengthen national REDD+ management arrangements, strengthen platforms for civil society engagement at the national and county level, strengthen country level structures, finalize the national REDD+ strategy, design an emissions reductions program, develop a reference emissions level and support the development of measurement, reporting and verification system.

The grant financed activities are organized into four components:

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Component 1: Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations, including:
Sub-Component 1.1 National Readiness Management Arrangements;
Sub-Component 1.2 Information Sharing with Key Stakeholder Groups;
Sub-Component 1.3 Consultation and participation in REDD+ Strategy Development;
Sub-Component 1.4 Consultation and Participation Process SESA
Sub-Component 1.5 Strengthening national feedback and grievance redress mechanism

Component 2: Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy (including design of Emission Reduction Program), including:
Sub-Component 2.1 Social and Environmental Impacts Assessments during Readiness Preparation (SESA)
Sub-Component 2.2 Finalization of the REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework
Sub-Component 2.3 Preparing an Emission Reduction Program

Component 3: Development of Reference Level or Reference Emissions Level
Sub-Component 3.1 Development of Reference Emissions Level
Sub-Component 3.2 Measurement, Reporting and Verification System
Sub-Component 3.3 Information system for safeguards and co-benefits

Component 4 Project Management.

Expected follow up (if any):

Comment on follow up:

The Liberia Forest Sector Project (US\$37.5 million) builds heavily on REDD+ Readiness processes. This project funded through a single country Trust Fund from NIFCI (Norway) was approved in April 2016 and has a closing date of June 2020. Norway also committed to purchase emissions reductions from REDD+ if generated, monitored, and properly verified; the FCPF grant supports preparation of potential ER Programs.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

n/a

OUTCOME

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

See grant specific outcome indicators below.

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

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

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Yes (REDD+ strategy prepared and endorsed by the National Climate Change Steering Committee in June 2017)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2017

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Target Value: Yes
Date: 01/15/2019

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

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Yes
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes (The ESMF was prepared as a result of the SESA process, consulted upon and validated)
Date: 01/15/2019

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

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Yes (as part of the National REDD+ Strategy)
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes
Date: 01/15/2019

4. Consultations on REDD+ strategy conducted (at county level)

Baseline 0
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to 9 (nine consultations specifically on REDD+ Strategy were conducted; other consultations were conducted as part of SESA and other elements of REDD+ Readiness)
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: 8
Date: 01/15/2019

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

Baseline 0
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to 2 (two country level consultations specifically on land use were conducted; other consultations were conducted as part of SESA and other elements of REDD+ Readiness)
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: 4
Date: 01/15/2019

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6. Quantified reference Emissions Level (REL) prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group

Baseline No
Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (preparation of the REL using country-specific data, based on the National Forest Inventory, is planned with
Date: FAO support)

Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes

Date: 01/15/2019

7. Emission Reduction Program designed for a targeted forest landscape to pilot REDD+ strategy and key aspects of readiness implementation framework

Baseline No
Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (initial consultations on ER program landscapes / jurisdictions, actors and drivers initiated; further
Date: development planned)

Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes

Date: 01/15/2019

8. Measurement Reporting and Verification system for REDD+ is designed

Baseline No
Value:

Date: 07/15/2017

Progress to No (design and development of the MRV system is planned with FAO support)
Date:

Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes

Date: 01/15/2019

9. Information system for co-benefit/safeguards established

Baseline No
Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (design of the Safeguards Information System is ongoing)
Date:

Date: 06/30/2017

Target Value: Yes

Date: 01/15/2019

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10. Readiness Package prepared and finalized

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015
Progress to Yes (Liberia is presenting its R-Package to FCPF PC in September 2017)
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017
Target Value: Yes
Date: 01/15/2019

11. Government institutions provided with capacity building support to improve management of forest resources

Baseline 0
Value:
Date: 07/15/2015
Progress to 2 (these are FDA at central and decentralized level and EPA)
Date:
Date: 06/30/2017
Target Value: 6
Date: 01/15/2019

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1. Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) operationalized; capacity for M&E strengthened
Actual Output: NCCSC operationalized and held two meetings; M&E capacity strengthened through training and addition of an M&E specialist to the RIU

Component 2. Contribute to the Design of the National REDD+ Strategy (including design of Emission Reduction Program)

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: REDD+ Strategy finalized; ESMF finalized and validated; design of REDD+ Registry initiated; design of ER Program initiated; design of SIS initiated
Actual Output: As planned although SIS and REDD+ Registry will be completed in FY18

Component 3. Development of Reference Level or Reference Emissions Level

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Land cover map prepared. Design of NFI and Reference Level initiated; design of the MRV system initiated - under a TA Agreement with FAO
Actual Output: Preliminary methodological design completed. Change assessment and REL level will be completed with minor delays (to be delivered through a framework TA agreement with FAO)

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Component 4. Project Management

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) operational and additional staff hired; R-Package prepared; 4Government institutions provided with capacity building support to improve management of forest resources
Actual Output: As planned.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

Overall, activities are progressing under each component - there have been initial delays and the grant implementation is still catching up to compensate for that delay. It is expected that all activities will be completed within the grant lifetime.

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

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 additional on-ground studies and activities for REDD+ Readiness are covered with this grant. The REDD+ readiness work lays the ground for Liberia to receive support to its forest sector from Norway, under the Letter of Intent signed in September 2014 (total commitment of US\$150 million equivalent at the time of the signing). In addition, several of the CSOs are engaged in various initiatives which are complementary to REDD+ and thereby are continually offering useful lessons and insights to guide and strengthen the REDD+ readiness process.

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

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

The grant financing provides support to key capacity support of the REDD+ Implementation Unit. The Bank team provides support as needed to the Government team.

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 conducted in accordance with the Common Approach. SESA was prepared, including through a series of consultations, and validated. Six short case study reports on drivers of deforestation were also produced as part of the SESA consultancy.

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

ESMF prepared in accordance with Common Approach.

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

There are various working groups: REDD+ technical working group, SESA working group, and the meetings are held regularly. The preparation of the REDD+ Strategy and conduct of the SESA have been highly participatory in nature.

The National REDD+ Communication Strategy aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the REDD+ Strategy in Liberia by enhancing collaboration between key partners, increasing the visibility of the REDD+ program, supporting a consultation process and promoting a common understanding on REDD+ across all levels of intervention. The Communication Strategy was developed and approved in May 2015. Its implementation started in July 2015, with the FDA (with support from a dedicated communications and stakeholder engagement consultant) responsible for its implementation.

Identification of the appropriate FGRM for REDD+ in Liberia ongoing, although with a delay due to inability of the originally selected consultant to deliver.

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	300,000.00	300,000.00
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	727,984.93	427,984.93
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	937,755.69	209,770.76
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
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00