

# World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA6424  
Printed On: 06/20/2022

Reporting Period: 03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021  
Report Type: Completion Report  
Report Status: Final Draft

Assignment: TFOA6424

## Sudan FCPF Additional Funding for Readiness Preparation (RE) FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 000000290015 - Dora N. Cudjoe  
Approving Manager: 00000066054 - Iain G. Shuker

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV/LCLCS (Project ended 12/31/2021)
Recipient Country	Sudan
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9270 - SAFE2
Grant Start Date / End Date	03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	4,950,845.53 as of 12/31/2021
Disbursed 03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021	4,950,845.53
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 objective of this grant is to provide additional support to Sudan's efforts to strengthen capacity in developing readiness for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Specifically, the project's objective is to design a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy.

#### Overall progress from 03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

##### Comment:

Overall progress towards achieving the grant development objective has been satisfactory.

Notwithstanding the recent political instability, Sudan has made significant progress in placing REDD+ as priority agenda in the country's sustainable forest sector development plans. With the support of the REDD+ Readiness Grant, Sudan has made good progress towards achieving REDD+ Readiness and mobilizing a nation-wide multi-stakeholder process to lay the foundation for more sustainable forest management to meet Sudan's national goals of i) conserving the country's renewable natural resources, and ii) facilitating sustainable land use management, providing benefits to forest dependent livelihoods. Sudan's REDD+ Readiness is well-positioned to contribute to Sudan's targets outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), under the UNFCCC. Sudan's National REDD+ Strategy has been informed by the analysis of different land use and land tenure options and developed in a highly participatory manner through wider stakeholder consultations. It was validated and approved in May 2021. Activities in the subsequent period have focused on establishing transition systems and plans for Sudan's REDD+.

Sudan has started conceptualizing ER program covering the three landscapes (Blue Nile, Sinnar and Gedarif States) in a clear demonstration of the country's commitment to moving softly to REDD+ implementation phase and contributes to global climate change mitigation and as one of high priority Program in Sudan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to Paris Agreement. The ER program is in line with the overall objectives, strategic options and policies and measures (PAMs) of the NRS, in particular its strategic options.

Sudan had presented its self-assessment of progress towards REDD+ Readiness, its R-Package, to the FCPF Participants Committee in March 2019. Sudan is not in the FCPF Carbon Fund portfolio, and therefore, in the process of pursuing results-based finance for REDD+ demonstration from other sources, including the GCF.

#### Overall progress from 03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

##### Comment:

- As part of key project objectives achieved during the reporting period, a National REDD+ Strategy was developed with strategy options and policies and measures (PAMs) for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in key sectors validated through a wider stakeholder consultation process and adopted by the National Steering Committee.
- All the planned activities and targeted deliverables of the grant were completed. The grant supported Sudan in developing its first comprehensive national forest inventory (NFI) in 20 years to monitor forest cover within the country. The NFI provided an extensive and unique record of key information about forests and woodlands.
- Based on the NFI, Sudan has prepared the country's first subnational Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL), which was submitted to UNFCCC in January 2020 and subsequently approved. The Technical Assessment Report (TAR) on Sudan's REDD+ reference level has now been published. Following the subnational FREL, Sudan has developed a plan to complete the FREL as national version covering the rest of Sudanese states. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) protocols has been developed, including institutional framework for NFMS and MRV was completed and validated.
- The Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) web platform, which is linked to Sudan's REDD+ website, was developed and rolled out. It is available as an open-access online web platform.. The Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism for national REDD+ was developed and validated. The websites and related online platforms were also shared with FCPF FMT for posting on the FCPF website.
- In terms of cross-sectoral coordination, the Forest National Corporation (FNC) hosts REDD+ institutions repositioned to support Sudan's transition to implementation, including mainstreaming and budgeting the REDD+ PMU to continue coordination of REDD+ Technical Working Group and committees at national and sub-national levels in efforts geared towards REDD+ implementation.
- Throughout the grant implementation, Sudan's REDD+ Readiness was marked by an extensive nation-wide stakeholders' consultation and participation, including in the development of the REDD+ Strategy, SESA, ESMF, and FREL among others.
- Numerous technical studies were successfully completed, including on gender mainstreaming; private sector engagement; Forest Landscapes Restoration Assessment, and Forest and Mining.

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## Grant follow-up and structure

### Description and context of Grant:

The objective of the additional grant is to provide additional support to Sudan's efforts to strengthen capacity in developing readiness for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). The additional grant consists of the following activities:

#### Component 1: Support for REDD+ Readiness Management & Institutional Arrangements

The additional grant will support:

- To oversee delivery of activities under the additional financing.
- vehicles to cover transportation to connect federal, state offices and local communities, associated with readiness activities in the field.
- IT equipment for the PMU as well as assisting in remodeling of the office space.
- limited graduate student interns from Sudanese universities to increase exposure and youth involvement in readiness process

#### Component 2: Support for National REDD+ Strategy

The additional grant will support:

- support for conducting technical/ strategic studies and workshops on critical elements of the REDD+ strategy: (1) forest landscapes restoration assessment & national restoration strategy; (2) mainstreaming REDD+ in national development policies & legislation; (3) gender mainstreaming and consultations; (4) private sector engagement in reforestation initiatives; (5) forced deforestation, and effects of mining on the forest sector; and (6) national REDD+ pilot program designs.
- support for participation in cross-country knowledge sharing and training through South-South exchange events for learning and sharing experiences and lessons with other countries to help refine National REDD+ Strategy.
- support for organizing training sessions on drafting and preparing strong proposals for funding national REDD+ programs National REDD+ Pilot programs.

#### Component 3: Support for Stakeholder Engagement

The additional grant will support:

- operationalizing the communications strategy & REDD+ awareness program and preparation of relevant safeguard instruments
- providing technical support to prepare the R-Package documentation.

#### Component 4: Support for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)

The additional grant will support:

- technical support for strengthening institutionalization of the MRV systems and the NFMS, including green-house gases initiatives (GHGi) and reporting process for agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors.
- support to REDD + information tracking system for REDD+
- support for GHG and reporting process for agriculture, forestry, and other land use sectors
- training and desertification monitoring equipment
- training and fire monitoring equipment
- support for institutionalization and deployment of MRV at region/zonal level.

#### Component 5: Support for National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources

- support for the development of forest reference emission level (FREL) to ensure methodological alignment with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and based on national circumstances and line with UNFCCC guidance
- support for the validation of the FREL.

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

**Comment on follow up:**

n/a

**End Date of Last Site Visit:**

10/24/2021 (a virtual implementation support mission).

**Restructuring of Grant:**

A 12-month extension of the grant was requested by the Government of Sudan in September 2020. This was approved in October 2020, extending the closing date of the grant to December 2021. This was the only formal change of the grant.

## OUTCOME

### Comments on outcome achieved from 03/18/2018 to 12/31/2021

#### Grant Outcome Indicators

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

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (National REDD+ Strategy prepared and validated by the REDD+ Steering Committee and wider stakeholder participation in May 2021; The strategy preparation was participatory, inclusive and consultative manner and underpinned by strategy options and policy and measures (PAMs) geared to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Sudan.)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

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

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (The ESMF was prepared as a result of the SESA process, consulted upon and validated. The ESMF is now fully in use and informed the setup of other safeguards systems for Sudan's REDD+ such as FGRM, SIS, etc.)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

**3. Consultations on REDD+ Strategy conducted (at county level)**

**Baseline Value:** 0

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** More than 10 (More than 10 consultations were conducted specifically on REDD+ Strategy; other consultations were conducted as part of the SESA process and on other elements of REDD+ Readiness)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** n/a

**Date:** 12/31/2021

**4. Consultations on SESA with GoS and stakeholders (at national level)**

**Baseline Value:** 0

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** More than 4 (More than 4 consultations were conducted as part of the SESA process and on other elements of REDD+ Readiness).

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** n/a

**Date:** 12/31/2021

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## 5. Quantified Subnational Reference Emissions Level (REL) prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (a first to Sudan subnational FREL prepared, validated and submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2020. The preparation of the FREL was informed by the NFI)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

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

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (ER Program covering jurisdictions in three Sudanese states -Blue Nile, Sinnar and Gedarif - proposed)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

## 7. Measurement, Reporting and Verification system for REDD+ is designed

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (design of the MRV system in place, basic local capacities for managing the system created at FNC)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

## 8. Information system for co-benefit / safeguards established

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (Sudan's Safeguards Information System completed and operational. The SIS web platform is linked to Sudan's REDD+ website)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

## 9. Readiness package prepared and finalized

**Baseline Value:** No

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** Yes (Sudan's R-Package was endorsed by the FCPF PC in March 2019)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** Yes

**Date:** 12/31/2021

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

**Baseline Value:** 0

**Date:** 03/18/2018

**Progress to Date:** 4 (these are Forest National Corporation (FNC) (both at central and state level), Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Sudanese Environment Conservation Society, and Ministry of Agriculture)

**Date:** 06/30/2022

**Target Value:** 5

**Date:** 12/31/2021

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## COMPONENTS

### Output and Implementation by Component

#### 1. Support for REDD+ Readiness Management & Institutional Arrangements

**Status:** Completed  
**Planned Output:** Continuous support to the FNC, REDD+ TWG, and REDD+ PMU; M&E function maintained. PMU operational.  
**Actual Output:** see below

#### 2. Support for National REDD+ Strategy

**Status:** Completed  
**Planned Output:** REDD+ mainstreaming carried out; ER program design completed; gender mainstreaming done; effects of forest mining study completed; private sector engagement in reforestation report completed.  
**Actual Output:** see below

#### 3. Support for Stakeholder Engagement

**Status:** Completed  
**Planned Output:** REDD+ communication strategy developed; ESMF, SIS and FGRM developed.  
**Actual Output:** see below

#### 4. Support for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)

**Status:** Completed  
**Planned Output:** MRV design completed.  
**Actual Output:** see below

#### 5. Support for National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources

**Status:** Completed  
**Planned Output:** NFI and FREL design completed.  
**Actual Output:** see below

### Comment on planned and actual Output

Activities have been completed with good overall progress.

### Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Support for REDD+ Readiness Management & Institutional Arrangements

- Institutional arrangements for REDD+ in Sudan in place with well-defined roles and responsibilities.
- Capacity built and nation-wide awareness raised through several training events and consultations.

Component 2: Support for National REDD+ Strategy

- National REDD+ Strategy finalized.
- Other strategically important documents have been completed including (1) forest landscapes restoration assessment & national restoration strategy; (2) mainstreaming REDD+ in national development policies and legislation; (3) gender mainstreaming and consultations; (4) private sector engagement in reforestation initiatives; (5) forced deforestation, and effects of mining on the forest sector; and (6) national REDD+ pilot program designs.

Component 3: Support for Stakeholder Engagement

- Environmental and Social Management Framework and Safeguard information system have been finalized.
- Benefit sharing and feedback and grievance redress mechanisms have been completed, validated and endorsed by relevant GoS agencies.
- Communications strategy operationalized and a nation-wide REDD+ awareness program carried out.

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### Component 4: Support for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)

- Institutional technical capacity strengthening developed for the MRV systems and the NFMS, including green-house gases (GHG) and reporting process for agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors.
- REDD + information tracking system for REDD+ developed
- Technical training and equipment for desertification monitoring provided

### Component 5: Support for National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources

- The forest reference emission level (FREL) developed based on national circumstances and in line with UNFCCC guidance.

## EXECUTION

### Bank project related to the grant

**Project ID / Name:** P152322 - Sudan - FCPF REDD Readiness  
**Project Status:** Lending  
**Global Focal Area:** Climate change  
**Product Line:** CN - Carbon Offset

### Implementing agency and contact details

**Agency:** Forest National Corporation, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.  
**Contact:** Dr. Sayeda Khalil  
**Address:** Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**Phone:** +249 112586919 **Email:** sayeda\_khalil@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 Sudan REDD+ Readiness has partnered and collaborated with other development partners both public and private; national and international, in the delivery of the project. The implementation approach includes a multisectoral governance arrangement comprising ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Range and Wildlife, Finance and Economic Planning; academia; with regional and international development partners including the FAO, UNDP/UNEP; WRI, UNIQUE; and non-government or civil society organizations including the Sudan Environment Conservation Society and other grassroots organizations. The project has also liaised strongly with the regional FCPF Capacity building project which is channeled through the SAWA-Sudan.

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

No major changes

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

The PMU is well established with dedicated staff and have been maintained since project inception. Staff have been beefed up including technical, financial and procurement staff. Also, the government staff now have substantial knowledge and experience on procuring consultant and non- consultant services and handling technical and financial matters. In line with the project objectives and the project components, the PMU has organized targeted awareness and information sharing activities for stakeholders, while the team has availed of sub-regional capacity development and training workshops, international meetings related to the REDD+ agenda and other targeted knowledge improvement activities. Fiduciary and procurement management staff have also attended training to improve the performance manifested in the on-time project reporting and delivery.

The project did fill major technical capacity gaps in the PMU ensuring coverage for Procurement, FM, M&E, Project Management, Communications and Safeguards Specialist, and Technical Advisor. The designated regional Focal Points have also been given substantive awareness and capacity building through south-south exchanges and internal and external training.

#### 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 set of SESA/ESMF/SIS were prepared in accordance with the Common Approach involving a multisectoral technical working group. Study tours and institutional visits to other best performing FCPF countries (Ethiopia and Ghana) have been carried out in 2019 to further improve understanding and application of safeguards to the REDD+ program. Feedback from the above study were duly integrated into implementation and program design. The SESA, ESMF and SIS have been finalized in May 2021.

The REDD+ Social and Environmental information System (SIS) articulates information that could be shared under UNFCCC requirements, and to national and international stakeholders on non-carbon benefit, benefit sharing and governance.

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

Yes, see above.

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

Sudan's FREL, SESA, ESMF, NRS and other strategic documents have been developed through extensive consultation and broad participation of various stakeholders. This consultative approach has been sustained continued during the grant implementation as well. The Safeguards technical working group included representatives from NGOs and CSOs. REDD+ readiness studies were carried out following the FCPF/UN-REDD Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness and the UNREDD supported stakeholder guideline. The REDD Secretariat built strong partnership with the REDD+ CSOs. A robust feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) has been developed as part of this project phase. The PMU has organized various technical and advisory committee meetings, capacity building and consultations including workshops and published various communication, awareness raising and capacity-building activities. The National REDD+ Communication Strategy aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the REDD+ Strategy in Sudan by enhancing collaboration between key partners, increasing the

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visibility of the REDD+ program, supporting a consultation process and promoting a common understanding of REDD+ across all levels of interventions. Finally, regarding disclosure, Project information was shared publicly through the various websites including through [www.reddplussd.org](http://www.reddplussd.org); [www.secs.org.sd/redd](http://www.secs.org.sd/redd), and via emails as well as other electronic means (radio). Relevant key outputs were posted on the Sudan country page on the FCPF website.

## COMPLETION

### Overall Assessments and Lessons Learned

#### Main lessons learned:

While it is true that the nation-wide community mobilization and sensitization carried out throughout the REDD+ Readiness process help build trust among local communities, there is a significant chance it may have also raised Communities' expectations in terms of benefits from REDD+ implementation going forward, especially potential financial benefits.

Sustainable forestry management, if carried out in a way that helps improve livelihoods' security, can be a key to preventing conflict in Sudan, where historically conflict over natural resources has been prominent. However, continued sustainability of the foundations laid through under the REDD+ process, peace and national political stability remain a critical and ongoing challenge, which threaten all outcomes gained through the REDD+ Readiness process till to-date.

It has become increasingly clear that guaranteed financial aid to support the REDD+ pilot is crucial to ensure transitions from REDD+ Readiness to REDD+ implementation.

Continuous training and capacity building for stakeholders including community leaders, farmers, farmer groups and the private sectors on the application of the safeguards Instruments is useful for sustainability.

There is need for strengthening coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders at state and federal levels, as well as ministries dealing with competing use of land in Sudan (such as mining permits versus conservation). There is a need for continuous engagement with policy/decision makers for the success of the REDD+ implementation nationally; this is because success of most programs nationally in Sudan crucially depends on top-level drive.

#### Overall outcome (and its Sustainability):

##### Comment:

The REDD+ Readiness support allowed for the establishment of the main REDD+ institutions and tools needed to help transition to the next phases including the preparations for draft ERs: safeguard instruments, Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, Measurement, Reporting and Verification System, FREL. The grant financed activities largely achieved their objectives. The REDD+ consultations enhanced attention to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and increased collaboration between the forestry sector and other sectors that are at the root of deforestation and forest degradation (agriculture, mining).

#### Bank Performance:

##### Comment:

The overall Bank Performance is Satisfactory, based on quality at entry, project supervision and additional resource mobilization. Regular supervision missions were organized and documented (Aide-Memoire), Non-Objections were provided to the client under reasonable timeframes, and regular reporting was done to the Bank and donors. The Bank team provided close support and technical advice throughout implementation of the grant financed activities.

### Additional Assessment

#### Development / strengthening of institutions:

##### Comment:

The capacity of the FNC, HCNER, SECS, and MoA to handle REDD+ has increased immensely thanks to the grant support. The National REDD+ management institutions (such as the REDD+ Technical Working Group, the Steering Committee) are well versed on REDD+ and have now better capacity for managing the national REDD+ process.

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## Mobilization of other resources:

### Comment:

The political instability and the Coup disrupted the REDD+ PMU's ongoing plan to mobilize financial resources towards supporting the proposed ER piloting, including funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Currently, through HCNER's lead and technical support from FAO, proposals have been submitted to GCF funding.

## Knowledge exchange:

### Comment:

The Sudan REDD+ team has been a part of various learning events on REDD+ supported by the FCPF and other sources, including various south-south knowledge exchange initiatives focused on different issues with Ghana, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

## Client's policy / program implementation:

### Comment:

It seems too early in the REDD process to achieve tangible changes on the policy, especially considering specific constraints of Sudan as Fragility, conflict, and Violence (FCV) Country however, the FNC continues pursuing key policy recommendations coming out of the National REDD+ Strategy and maintains dialogue with key sectors interfacing with forestry - such as agriculture, and mining.

## Efficiency:

### Comment:

Outcomes planned at the onset have been largely achieved, in a timely manner, thus efficiency is rated satisfactory.

## Replicability:

### Comment:

At state levels, the use of FNC state level focal points enabled wider reach and contributed to a nation-wide mobilization of communities, which was critical to raising awareness to the REDD+ Readiness process.

## Main recommendations to stakeholders:

Globally, REDD+ has been a mechanism to incentivize activities targeted at reducing emissions from the land-use sector. This has contributed to high and often unrealistic expectations amongst some sections of stakeholder groups of huge financial inflow for REDD+. To manage these expectations, deliberate efforts need to be made to emphasize the various co-benefits, which will arise from REDD+ implementation, and that any payments for implementation of REDD+ will be performance-based and will consequently require continual support and commitment from all stakeholders. Based on the achievements and lessons learned from implementation of this project, the following are recommended to stakeholders:

1. Awareness and sensitization for communities and policy makers is a continuous process in order to maintain gains made in nationally owning and championing of REDD+ implementation.
2. Strengthening coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders at state and federal levels, as well as ministries dealing with competing use of land in Sudan remains crucial.

## Main recommendations to Bank Management:

N/a.

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## DISBURSEMENTS

### Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	567,899.00	567,899.00
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	2,363,553.88	1,795,654.88
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	3,785,974.19	1,422,420.31
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	4,146,913.24	360,939.05
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	0.00	4,417,274.75	270,361.51
01/01/2021	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	4,686,799.91	269,525.16
07/01/2021	12/31/2021	0.00	0.00	4,850,845.53	164,045.62
01/01/2022	06/30/2022	0.00	0.00	4,950,845.53	100,000.00