

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to
Donor

Ref. TFOA5414
Printed On: 12/01/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021
Report Type: Progress

Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TFOA5414

Additional REDD Plus Readiness Preparation Support FCPFR - Forest Carbon
Partnership Facility

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Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - SAWE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	09/05/2017 to 06/30/2021
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	4,998,526.72 as of 06/30/2021
Disbursed 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	1,145,611.83
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 is to reinforce the Recipient's capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Overall progress from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

The Grant Agreement of the additional funding in the amount of USD5 million was signed in September 2017 to support the costs associated with scaling up activities to enhance the impact of the country's REDD+ readiness at the local, regional and national levels based on the R-package published in August 2018 and validated during the October 2018 PC/PA meetings.

Progress on the additional needs in the readiness process identified in the R-package include:

- i. Further strengthening of national institutions to effectively implement the REDD+ strategy. Following this recommendation, entities ensuring the management of all REDD+ activities were put in place to support the REDD+ activities' implementation. More specifically, five regional committees responsible for leading the REDD + process at the local level were established in the Emissions Reduction Program (ERP) area.
- ii. The SEP-REDD+ continued its engagement in awareness-raising and training activities for local communities, as well as in the production and distribution of communication and awareness-raising tools ensuring increased awareness of all stakeholders on the national REDD+ strategy. These activities reached an estimated total of 14,500 beneficiaries by project end.
- iii. In addition to safeguards instruments prepared for the REDD+, ESF instruments were prepared and finalized for the ERP and published locally in newspapers and on the Bank and reddplus.ci websites.
- iv. A final Benefit Sharing Plan for the Emissions Reduction Project was prepared, approved by the World Bank and published in newspapers and on both the reddplus.ci and FCPF websites.
- v. The National Forest Monitoring System was finalized which enabled the improvement of the geoportal of the Spatial Land Monitoring System in order to integrate the functionalities relating to (i) the Information System on environmental and social safeguards and (ii) the register of projects and programs in accordance with the indications in the REDD + investment approval directives.
- vi. Additionally, following the new forest code validated in July 2019, REDD+ instruments were adapted to this new legal context.

Overall progress from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

The progress towards achieving the PDO and overall implementation progress were Satisfactory. The following key instruments were finalized before the Grant's closing date on June 30, 2021:

- (i) Emissions reduction payment agreements (ERPAs) were signed by the World Bank and the Government on October 30, 2020 under the Tai National Park Emissions Reductions Payment Project (P170309). It is expected to be effective by February 2022 after all the conditions of effectiveness are met. By Grant closure the following conditions were prepared and/or finalized:
 - Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) was finalized and published on the FCPF and Government's websites (it is a pre-requisite for the implementation of the project as it will regulate the sharing of monetary and non-monetary payments to beneficiaries based on their emissions reduction performance).
 - An advanced Decree on transfer of Emissions Reductions (ERs) titles under the ERPAs was prepared and submitted to the World Bank for review.
 - First drafts of an implementation manual and a carbon payment transfer manual to the direct beneficiaries at the grassroots level were prepared.
- (ii) The National Forest Monitoring System which will monitor and evaluate the performance of the beneficiaries prior to the distribution of the payments;
- (iii) Finalization of the National Forest Reference Levels;
- (iv) Finalization of the Information System on Safeguards;
- (v) Awareness raising and validation of the abovementioned outputs at the national level.

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Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Over the last 50 years, Côte d'Ivoire has lost more than 80% of its natural forests. The practices of slash and burn agriculture, the non-sustainable logging and exploitation of fuel wood, the unregulated artisanal mining and the lack of development, planning and management of territory are the main causes. These trends have been accelerated by a decade of politico-military crisis.

The recovery of the economy following the crisis was mainly based on cash crop agriculture, which contributes nearly one third of GDP and employs nearly two thirds of the population using slash and burn agricultural extension practices and thus maintaining the trends of deforestation and forest degradation.

This significant loss of forest cover has led to reduction of ecosystem services, reduction of climate resilience directly impacting the agricultural sector, loss of livelihoods from forest-dependent communities.

To reverse these trends, the country has been engaged since 2011 in REDD+ process. It developed its REDD+ preparation plan (R-PP) which was approved in 2014 by the FCPF Committee of Participants and the UN-REDD Policy Council. This approval resulted in the provision of funding of US\$7 million for the preparation phase (FCPF-Readiness: \$3.8 million, UN-REDD: \$3.2 million). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has been supported by others Technical and Financial partners since 2013, including the French Development Agency (AFD) through the Debt and Development Contract (C2D), the Research and Development Institute (IRD) and the REDD+ facility of the European Union.

Following an independent mid-term evaluation conducted in May 2016, the country obtained an additional financing in the amount of US \$5 million from the FCPF-Readiness Fund: (i) to finalize the preparation phase, (ii) to operationalize the REDD+ instruments in Côte d'Ivoire and (iii) to support the preparation of the REDD+ implementation phase including the Tai ER-PD development.

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

Comment on follow up:

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire (GOCI) is using preparation funds provided by the FCPF Carbon Fund, based on the LOI signed in November 2015, to prepare the Emissions Reductions Payment Project (P170309).

The ER-PD was developed and approved in the pipeline of the Carbon Fund portfolio in June 2019. The ER-PD builds on (i) the readiness activities as well as (ii) the investments laid out in the Forest Investment Project (FIP) Investment Plan, approved by the FIP-SC in 2016.

The Forest Investment Project was approved in 2018 and is currently under implementation. It aims to address key drivers of deforestation and carbon stock enhancements that are consistent with Côte d'Ivoire's national REDD+ strategy. These investments are designed to lead to GHG emissions reduction and avoidance which will help achieve the performance-based payments outlined in the ER Program.

The Emissions Reductions Payment Project (P170309) whose payment agreements (ERPAs) were signed by the World Bank and the Government on October 30, 2020, is due to become effective in February 2022.

Restructuring of Grant:

Due to delays in finalizing key analytical studies and instruments as a result of the travel restrictions due to the COVID19 pandemic; and several months delay in Government budget notification which impacted implementation of the 2020 annual workplan, the Government submitted a request to extend the Grant's closing date from September 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The development objectives, indicators and components have remained unchanged. All outstanding activities were completed, and all expected results were achieved before June 30, 2021.

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OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

The main outcomes achieved from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 include the signing of the emissions reduction payment agreements (ERPAs) on October 30, 2020; preparation of a final draft Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP), and an advanced draft decree on title transfer to support the *Tai National Park ERP Project* (P170309).

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1: Support to national readiness management arrangements

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: put in place institutional and implementation arrangements to support national REDD+ Readiness
Actual Output: operationalization of all the REDD+ management arrangements

Component 2: Preparation of a national REDD+ Strategy

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: developing key instruments and tools for implementing the national REDD+ Strategy
Actual Output: Most instruments and tools have been developed and are finalized

Component 3: Support to the reference level and monitoring systems for forests and safeguards

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: improvement of the national Forest reference emissions level and support implementation of the action plan for the improvement of the National Forest Management System
Actual Output: support implementation of the action plan for improvement of the forest emissions reference level. developed methodology for monitoring of forest degradation, identified types of land use change, HCV & HCS; conducted institutional arrangement study for strengthening the national monitoring system. Improved the geoportal of the Spatial Land Monitoring System in order to integrate the functionalities relating to (i) the Information System on environmental and social safeguards and (ii) the register of projects and programs in accordance with the indications in the REDD + investment approval directives.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

- **Component 1: Support to the National readiness management arrangements:** All REDD+ management arrangements are operational, including: the National REDD+ Commission, the REDD+ National Committee, the REDD+ Interministerial Technical Committee and the SEP-REDD+. These entities ensure the management of all REDD+ activities through the regular organization of Steering Committees and other technical meetings that support its implementation.
- **Component 2: Support to the Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy:** the Government made significant progress to finalize the REDD+ National Infrastructure through: (i) preparation and adoption of the National REDD+ Strategy; (ii) development of safeguards instruments to support the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy including a Grievance Redress Mechanism; (iii) an analysis of the legal and institutional issues around REDD+ to propose options that enabled the delivery of the final draft of a Benefit Sharing Plan prepared in a participatory and inclusive manner with all key stakeholders, validated at the national level and published on the www.forestcarbonpartnership.org and www.reddplus.ci websites.
- **Component 3: Support to the reference level and monitoring systems for forests and safeguards:** In order to ensure coherence between the ERP's Forest Reference Levels and the National Forest Reference Levels (which only includes deforestation and increased forest carbon stocks), a series of studies were prepared and finalized. The National Forest Reference levels were then updated to take into account the recommendations and observations of the Carbon Fund. The

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

National Forest Monitoring System was finalized through improving the geoportal of the Spatial Land Monitoring System in order to integrate the functionalities relating to (i) the Information System on environmental and social safeguards and (ii) the register of projects and programs in accordance with the indications in the REDD + investment approval directives. The geoportal (<http://sst.devcntig.com/>) also provides information on the boundaries of protected areas and Classified Forests, as well as land use databases produced as part of National Forest Monitoring System activities. In addition, the methodology developed and validated with all stakeholders for the identification and monitoring of forests with High Conservation Value, as well as that relating to the mapping of agro-forests, will feed the geoportal with data.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P149801 - REDD+ Readiness Preparation in RCI
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Contact: Ahoulou Ernest
Address: SEP-REDD, 7eme Tranche, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Phone: 22557237626 **Email:** ernest.ahoulou@reddplus.ci
Website:

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

Coordination with REDD+ Readiness initiatives

To engage in the REDD+ preparation process, Côte d'Ivoire has become a member of two international technical and financial support platforms: the UN-REDD collaborative program carried out by FAO, UNEP and UNDP and the Partnership Fund for Forest Carbon of the World Bank-FCPF.

As part of this preparation process, Côte d'Ivoire developed a preparation plan for the REDD+ mechanism (R-PP) approved in 2014 by the FCPF Committee of Participants and the UN-REDD Policy Council. This approval resulted in the provision of funding of US \$5 million for the preparation phase (FCPF-3.8 million, UN-REDD: \$3.2 million). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has since 2013 supported other TFP, including the French Development Agency (AFD) through the Debt and Development Contract (C2D), the Research and Development Institute (IRD) and the REDD+ facility of the European Union.

The FCPF funding provided support for components 1 and 2 and UN-REDD funding components 2, 3 and 4. An evaluation of the preparation process was conducted in May 2016.

Following an independent mid-term evaluation conducted in May 2016, Côte d'Ivoire has mobilized additional funding from the FCPF Preparation fund in the amount of US \$5 million: (i) to finalize the preparation phase, (ii) to operationalize the REDD+ instruments in Côte d'Ivoire and (iii) to support the preparation of the REDD+ implementation phase including the Tai ER-PD development.

Coordination with the Forest Investment Program

The forest investment program approved in 2016 was set up as a contribution to the forest sector pillar of the national REDD + strategy. The inter-institutional REDD + collaboration framework has led to the development of two FIP projects: one amounting to USD15M funded by World Bank and one amounting to USD9M funded by the African Development Bank to support activities which led to ERs. In addition, a phase 2 - Forest Investment Project funded by the World Bank is currently being prepared and is projected to be approved in mid-2022.

Coordination with REDD+ pilot projects

The REDD+ readiness process supported by the Grant built on pilot project activities under implementation in particular:

_____(i)the PES scheme with the Zero Deforestation pilot project in the Nawa region. This pilot project tests the PES approaches for
Report to Donor

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

reforestation, agroforestry and conservation. Individual and community PES contracts were signed with the PES operator in this region. (ii) Agroforestry and land security with the “La Mé REDD+ project”.

The REDD+ management framework ensures a harmonized M&E of those pilot projects.

Tai ER-Program

The REDD+ instruments and tools developed with the support of the readiness grant formed a basis for the development of the Tai national park Emission Reduction Program Document (ER-PD) validated by the Carbon Fund participants in June 2019. The Grant funded the preparation of key instruments and studies to prepare the country for the negotiation and signing phase of the Emissions Reduction Program including preparing the benefit-sharing plan, developing safeguards instruments in line with the Environment and Social Framework and developing the regulatory framework related to the carbon rights and the transfer of titles.

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

There have been no changes in the technical design of the project or in the approach to grant activities.

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

The National REDD + Commission, which includes the National REDD + Committee, the Interministerial REDD + Technical Committee and the SEP-REDD +, regularly monitors the implementation of the REDD + mechanism. In order to facilitate the intersectoral dialogue led by the REDD+ secretariat, an organizational and institutional audit of SEP-REDD + was carried out and presented to the REDD + interministerial Technical Committee and the National REDD + Committee. This study recommends the establishment of SEP-REDD + into an Executing Agency and the strengthening of its anchoring.

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 REDD+ Secretariat has prepared a consistent Environmental and social framework to implement REDD+ activities in RCI. A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA: <http://reddplus.ci/bibliotheques/rapports/>) of REDD+ in Côte d’Ivoire has been compiled in a very inclusive way with very strong stakeholders participation including key civil society. The SESA was conducted in accordance with the common approach in parallel with the development of the national REDD+ strategy framework to ensure consistency with national strategy and the risks/impacts associated with the implementation of REDD+. The SESA include the design of all relevant safeguards instruments for REDD+ activities implementation: the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), the Process Framework (PF), the Physical Cultural Resource Management Framework (PCRMF), and the Pest and Pesticide Management Plan (PPMP). These Safeguards instruments have all been developed, approved and published on the World Bank website and reddplus.ci website on 20 March 2020 as well as published in local newspapers on 17 March 2020.

Safeguards instruments for the ER-Project have been developed and approved by the WB in line with the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework.

A Safeguards Information System has been designed in line with the UNFCCC directives. The SIS framework document emphasizes (i) SIS objectives, (ii) the data collection, analysis and management mechanism, (iii) the principles, criteria and indicators relating to the Cancun safeguards, (iv) the institutional arrangements indispensable for SIS operationalization, and (v) the technological platform for SIS activities.

A second version of the provisional report on the institutional arrangement of the SIS has been developed, as well as a model of the SIS technological platform was designed with a view to its integration into the GIS portal.

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

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared in accordance with the Common approach, as part of the SESA process. It contains a screening mechanism used for (i) a preliminary assessment of the environmental and social impacts of the different strategic options; (ii) a definition of the mitigation measures, of the political, institutional, legal and regulatory framework, of the implementation; (iii) the elaboration of a monitoring and surveillance environmental program, a capacity reinforcement program, and of an implementation budget.

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

Stakeholder consultation-participation

The participation of all stakeholders has been central to Côte d'Ivoire's approach, with the involvement of the National REDD+ Commission in activities and decision-making processes. A stakeholder engagement plan was developed in 2015 that includes mapping of stakeholders, awareness, consultation and training activities adapted to each of the following categories:

(i) Technical and financial partners including the FCPF, UN-REDD and the AFD, in the framework of the C2D and the EU REDD+ Facility, (ii) sectoral ministries in the context of the interministerial National REDD+ Commission, (iii) local communities and traditional authorities, (iv) Local elected officials, (v) private sector (forest, agribusiness) civil society organizations (vi) Research institutions, (vii) Youth and women associations.

Several joint working initiatives among certain categories of stakeholders were also undertaken during the REDD+ readiness process to unify and strengthen their contributions to the process: (i) Ivorian Observatory for the sustainable management of natural resources (OI-REN) a platform for effective and coordinated participation of CS in the FLEGT process and REDD+ and (ii) the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (ICF) a public private partnership involving more than 30 cocoa companies.

Specific consultation and engagement processes of key stakeholders have been implemented for each of the REDD+ preparation projects: (i) Preparation of the R-PP, (ii) elaboration of the SN-REDD+, (iii) Elaboration of ER-PIN, (iv) Realization of the SESA (and production of the framework documents), (v) Elaboration of the document of the information System on safeguards, (vi) Establishment of the baseline and national Forest Monitoring System and (vii) process for developing a PES guide, (viii) developing of the Benefit Sharing Plan.

Information and awareness

Information and awareness sessions and tools used to consult with and inform all stakeholders and relevant actors include:

- The use of new information and communication technologies (ICT): A website dedicated to REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire has been developed and is regularly updated. It publishes information regarding the preparation process of all RCI REDD+ related documents available on <http://reddplus.ci/>.
- A "YouTube" REDD+ Côte d'Ivoire channel created to ensure the diffusion and storage of films made on REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMpQE6Hv74n3ssa5XHBBIBg/videos>
- Social Networks are also used to regularly share information about the process with a "Facebook" page: <https://www.facebook.com/REDD-C%C3%B4te-dIvoire-1603079076575939/>
- and a "Twitter" account: https://twitter.com/sep_redd

The National REDD+ Commission also uses traditional means of communication to reach a large number of people in Côte d'Ivoire, especially in rural areas with: (i) the dissemination of information spots on national television channels; (ii) the dissemination of information through national and local radio; (iii) the dissemination of articles in the written press; and (vi) the preparation and dissemination of information brochures. Information and awareness campaigns are also organized in rural areas by the SEP-REDD+ communication unit. A network of journalists on REDD+ and climate change issues has been established to improve the coverage and quality of press articles on these issues.

The script of a 52-episode TV show on REDD+ called "My Forestry Family" has been developed to ensure awareness raising at a larger scale at the national level. However, filming was interrupted on March 20, 2020 following a press release from the National Cinema Office due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By project end, 45 out of 52 episodes were filmed. The project requested an amendment to this contract to finalize filming of the remaining 7 episodes after project end.

A communication strategy that will support the investment phase of the REDD + mechanism, including the FIP and the Emissions Reduction Project was developed.

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism (FGRM)

A FGRM, designed with all relevant stakeholders was validated in June 2018. It proposes grievance management, with different territorial entities (FGRM committees) locally and nationally: village - sub-prefectural - departmental - regional - and national with CN REDD+. It is intended to have customary, administrative and legal authorities intervene and to have a mediation authority at each level.

In order to make the process efficient, the arrangements proposed rely on committees favoring women and youth and disadvantage groups as members, and existing customary and administrative institutions at different territorial levels, adding to these institutions' specific prerogatives on REDD+. The FGRM is currently operational in targeted regions. The document is available on the reddplus.ci website.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	570,819.70	570,819.70
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	1,453,420.96	882,601.26
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,977,275.19	523,854.23
07/01/2019	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	3,852,914.89	1,875,639.7
07/01/2020	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	4,998,526.72	1,145,611.83