

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA0709

Reporting Period: 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

Printed On: 2/24/2022

Report Type: Progress Report

Report Status: Draft

Assignment: TFOA0709

Pakistan: FCPF Readiness Grant

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000218005 - Christopher James Warner

Approving Manager: - Christophe Crepin

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Pakistan
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9992 - SSAE2
Grant Start Date / End Date	06/12/2015 to 06/15/2022
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	7,814,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	4,800,585.35 as of 06/30/2021
Disbursed 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	1,464,844.27
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Components, Outcome, Execution, Program (FCPFR), Disbursements.

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Overall Assessments

Grant Objectives:

The development objective of the Grant is to provide support to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Pakistan to monitor deforestation and reduce forest and land use change related greenhouse gas emissions through a socially, environmentally and technically sound national REDD+ strategy.

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

Comment:

Progress has been made in strengthening institutional capacity to monitor deforestation and reduce forest and land use change related GHG emissions through the preparation of a national REDD+ Strategy even though the year 2020-21 continued to be challenging in terms of uncertainties associated with COVID-19 Pandemic, its global impacts and restrictions. After emergence of the pandemic in Pakistan in early 2020, the process of awarding of consultancy services remained disrupted and delayed.

Project is expected to close on time and achieve PDO.

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

Comment:

Following the WB procurement regulations and process, a series of consultancy services have been procured to strengthen REDD+ arrangements at the provincial/sub-national levels with support of international and national firms. During the reporting period, the project has disbursed US\$ 1.46 million and total accumulated disbursement as of 06/30/2021 reached US\$4.8 million, 61% of the total finance with the previous fiscal year didn't report any disbursement due to the covid impact.

Major progress of activities under various components of readiness activities and achievements during the last year is summarized below:

- R-Package report has been finalized for submission to FCPF.
- National REDD+ Strategy has been developed and is final stages of endorsement by the provincial forestry departments.
- Technical Assessment process led by assigned UNFCCC experts of the submitted Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) was completed and technical assessment summary along with modified FREL uploaded on UNFCCC REDD+ Portal on 05-12-2020. The technical assessment concluded that the submitted FREL was "transparent, complete and in overall accordance with the IPCC guidelines". FREL has set a scientifically assessed benchmark for accessing future Result Based Payments under REDD+ mechanism.
- National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+ was formally launched on 1st February 2021 by the Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate change.

For component specific activities and achievements, please refer to the Components section.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

A project restructuring to further extend the grant closing date for the project and associated trust fund from June 28, 2020, to June 15, 2022, was completed in June 2020 to allow the client to complete the remaining project activities and achieve the objective of the REDD+ readiness process in Pakistan. After completion of project restructuring, several assignments have been started or advanced toward the contract signing as follows while some adjustment in assignment timeline was required due to COVID-19 restrictions:

Name of Assignment	Contract Signing	Status
Preparation of 15 Participatory Forest Management Plans and six (6) sub-national/provincial/territorial REDD+ Action Plans	29-09-2020	On-going
Awareness Raising and Outreach and Capacity building	15-09-2020	On-going
Assessment of Private Sector Engagement and Potential of Carbon Trading Mechanisms and Market for Pakistan	02-11-2020	On-going

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Assessment of Existing Forestry Systems in Pakistan and Preparation of REDD+ Readiness Package	07-12-2020	On-going
Prepare Six (6) Provincial/ Territorial REDD+ Gender Action Plan	11-11-2020	On-going
Finalization of National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework for Pakistan	15-12-2020	On-going
Finalization of Forest Reference Level/ Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRL/ FREL) and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) - Measurement Reporting and Verification System for REDD+	09-09-2020	Completed
Development of Sub-National Forest Monitoring and MRV Systems	05-07-2021	On-going
Comprehensive National Level Assessment of Demand and Supply of Forest Products and Services		Contract expected to be signed in July 2021
Design, develop and operate official FMS Web Portals in each Sub-national Unit		ToR finalised. Technical & financial proposals being invited.
Procurement of Forest Monitoring Drones	01-06-2021	On-going
Supply of Forest Inventory Equipment	16-09-2020	Completed
Supply of IT & Video/Photography Equipment	16-09-2020	Completed
supply of Office Equipment (Printers, Scanners, Copiers etc)	22-09-2020	Completed

Expected follow up (if any): N/A

Comment on follow up:

N/A

End Date of Last Site Visit: Feb 16, 2022

Restructuring of Grant:

Restructuring was approved on June 27 2020 and extended to June 15, 2022.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2020 to 06/15/2021

See comments on achievements by component.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: The key output of this component is the establishment of national readiness management arrangements, and consultation, participation, and outreach activities.

Actual Output: National REDD+ management arrangements established with stakeholders from provincial forest department, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), national steering committee of MoCC, provincial REDD+ management committee, national and provincial working groups and REDD+ cells. Permanent REDD+ offices created. IPCC standards adopted in forest monitoring systems and UNFCCC compliance requirements for REDD+ completed. Several forest restoration initiatives undertaken through domestic funds. Outreach enhanced at community level and awareness enhanced among local communities. Around 22 thematic trainings provided, 66 awareness raising events held, 2 exposure visits conducted

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of forest officers and journalist, and 33 meetings of national steering committee, REDD+ working groups and provincial management committees held with a total 3,891 number of participants.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: The output of this component is the national REDD+ strategy, the Environmental and Social Management Framework, and Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanism for REDD+.

Actual Output: Under progress. Pakistan's National REDD+ Strategy has been developed and its implementation framework is in final stages of endorsement by the provincial forestry departments. New assignment under AF needs to be implemented and completed by the deadline of the funding. Safeguards Information System and a Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanism for REDD+ was developed.¹

Component 3: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: The output of this component is the formulation of National Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL).

Actual Output: National FREL was developed for deforestation and uploaded at UNFCCC REDD+ web platform.² The report on National Forest Monitoring System has been completed. NFMS Web Portal also launched at www.nfms.pak.org.

Component 4: Readiness Preparation Activities Management / Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: The outputs of this component are the national forest monitoring system (NFMS) including a Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system.

Actual Output: Under progress. National definition of forest and degradation notified, and monitoring institutes and roles identified. User manuals developed for the Training of Trainers on Green House Gas Inventory, Satellite Land Monitoring System, and National Forest Inventory methodologies.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Please see above section

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation:

The following organizational and consultation activities were in place during the reporting period:

- A meeting of the National Steering Committee on REDD+ was held on 01 Feb 2021 during which the stakeholders were updated on the progress of readiness activities. The meeting was attended by 29 participants including 6 female and 22 male participants.
- A meeting of working groups was held on 09 Mar 2021 on development of proposal for pilot projects under National Disaster Risk Management Fund. Meeting was attended by 10 participants.
- Readiness Package was prepared through multi-stakeholder self-assessment process conducted at National and Provincial levels involving provincial forestry departments, CSOs, forest communities, women representatives etc. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were organised at sub-national levels, with the communities, to assess the readiness progress based on participants views and experiences and lessons learnt during readiness phase. The FCPF RAF tool was adopted to facilitate assessment process. These consultations were attended by 160 participants including 18 female participants.
- Following provincial level stakeholders' consultations, a national validation workshop was held in Karachi on 9 March 2021 to review and validate the results of multistakeholder self-assessment process. The national validation workshop was attended by 47 participants including 3 women participants.
- R-Package report has been finalised for submission to FCPF.
- Applications for National REDD+ Internship Programme were invited through advertisement in national newspapers. In all 120 enrolled students and youth applied for internship. Of these, 30 applicants were selected for internship based on evaluation of applications and quality and relevance of research proposals related to REDD+.
- REDD+ strategic communication plan was updated with input from relevant stakeholders and finalised at the Inception Workshop organised by the Consultants, IUCN Pakistan on 1st December 2020. The workshop was attended by 31

¹ The SIS web-portal: <https://reddpakistanisis.com/>

² REDD+ Web Platform: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/1_unfccc_frel_pakistan_final_with_proofread_final.pdf

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participants including 5 females. Several awareness Raising Products, media releases and key policy messages on REDD+ have been developed under this assignment, including expert interviews on television, opinion eds in newspapers.

- A technical orientation session on REDD+ was held at Forest Services Academy, Ghoragali, Punjab in which 25 senior officials from Punjab Forest Department were oriented on REDD+ concept and progress on readiness preparations in Pakistan.
- World Environment Day 2021 was celebrated on 04-06-2021 in joint collaboration with Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar and Forest Services Academy, Ghoragali, Punjab Forest Department under the theme of ecosystem restoration. The participants included more than 70 students and faculty members including 5 females.
- An awareness session on deforestation was arranged for the four students of HeadStart School Rawalpindi on 25 February 2021.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation:

- National REDD+ Strategy has been developed and is final stages of endorsement by the provincial forestry departments.
- In order to support implementation of National REDD+ Strategy, a new study on development of Participatory Forest Management Plans and Sub-National REDD+ Action Plans have been initiated under which consultations were held with subnational forestry departments, CSOs / NGOs, academia and other relevant stakeholders in all provinces involving 62 participants. The PRAPs are expected to prioritize province specific drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the context of local socio-economic settings and propose actions to address them.
- A national level inception workshop was held on 8th March 2021 at Karachi in which 15 sites were finalized for development of participatory REDD+ Management Plans. The study approach and work plan were also finalized. The workshop was attended by 46 participants, including 3 females.

Component 3: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring

- Technical Assessment process led by assigned UNFCCC experts of the submitted Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) was completed and technical assessment summary along with modified FREL uploaded on UNFCCC REDD+ Portal on 05-12-2020. The technical assessment concluded that the submitted FREL was “transparent, complete and in overall accordance with the IPCC guidelines”. FREL has set a scientifically assessed benchmark for accessing future Result Based Payments under REDD+ mechanism.
- National Forest Inventory expert of National REDD+ Office participated in the virtual assessment of FREL submitted by Belize as a member of UNFCCC TA 2020 Assessment Team.
- National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+ was formally launched on 1st February, 2021 by the Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate change. The ceremony was attended by officials from Provincial Forest Departments, academia, civil society, INGOs, private sector stakeholders and mainstream print and electronic media. The event received wide media publicity in the form of press releases and social media stories. A total of 45 participants including 35 male and 15 females attended the ceremony, in addition to more than 20 representatives of various print and electronic media groups. The NFMS is aimed at monitoring of the REDD+ activities and results of REDD+ policies and measures towards sustainable forests management.
- In order to strengthen institutional capacities of sub-national forestry departments in MRV, various modern forest inventory and monitoring equipment were procured and provided to provincial/sub-national forestry departments in a ceremony held on 1st February 2021.
- To further strengthen forest monitoring capacities, Remote Sensing Drones are in process of procurement to enable provincial/sub-national forestry departments in regular acquisition of high quality geo-spatial data for real time forest monitoring, including assessment of progress of national/sub-national afforestation/reforestation initiatives such as, Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme.
- A study is under procurement process for detailed forest assessment at sub-national levels for strengthening of MRV, emission factors and MBIGS at sub-national level.
- In addition, the procurement process has been initiated to establish and operationalise forest monitoring web portals at provincial/sub-national levels to be integrated with national web-portal for transparent management of generated forestry data and information.

Component 4: Readiness Preparation Activities Management:

- The project is under implementation through National REDD+ Office led by a National Coordinator and other professional and support staff. The Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change is performing responsibilities of the National Project Director

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and providing implementation oversight since 16 January 2020. A new Contract Management/Procurement Officer was hired as per the approved procurement plan by World Bank.

- Following the WB procurement regulations and process, a series of consultancy services have been procured to strengthen REDD+ arrangements at the provincial/sub-national levels with support of international and national firms.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P152465 - Pakistan: REDD Preparation Project
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: National REDD+ Office
Contact: Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah (National REDD+ Coordinator)
Address: Ministry of Climate Change - Islamabad
Phone: +92 51 9249185-6 **Email:** gqshah@redd-pakistan.org
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 other delivery partners.

Currently, the Bank funded Pakistan Hydromet Climate Services Project (PHCSP) is supporting the government flagship Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives (ESRI) including afforestation, reforestation, and forest restoration activities. National REDD+ Office is expected to provide its support on the technical aspects of federal government proposal especially related to forest monitoring, participatory forest management and implementation of Gender Action Plan. This is also important as the transition of NRO to pilot and implement all the technical outputs produced under this project.

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

None.

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

The National REDD+ Office is now fully functional with dedicated and technical staff capable of implementing grant activities in compliance of Bank policies and procedures. Specifically, its staff now have substantial knowledge and experience on procuring consultant and non-consultant services and handling technical and financial matters. The Bank's specialists are providing regular support to related staff members of the National REDD+ Office on fiduciary aspects. The proposal of making the National REDD+ Office a permanent entity will ensure that all capacity developed in the office will be sustained in the long run. To expedite the internal decision-making process in the project, Secretary MOCC was officially assigned as Project Director of the project.

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 social and environmental impacts of REDD+ strategic options were analyzed through a detailed Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) study. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was also developed that define measures to ensure environmental safety and social action programmed to manage the residual impacts of REDD+ strategy implementation and endorsed. A Safeguard Information System (SIS) has been developed to set procedures for collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of safeguard information. A dedicated website ([www.reddpakistan.org](http://reddpakistan.org)) to manage information on REDD+ safeguards has been developed both in English and Urdu languages:
<http://reddpakistan.org/>.

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

As per the requirements of the TOR, ESMF was prepared in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

As explained in earlier section, the multiple REDD+ stakeholders engagement remained continue during the reporting period through consultative workshops, coordination meetings with the provincial focal points, and exposure visits of provincial stakeholders and mainstream journalists to Billion Tree Afforestation Project.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	8,536.16	8,536.16
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	450,831.16	442,295.00
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	450,831.16	0.00
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	932,147.16	481,316.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	1,088,792.16	156,645.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	3,243,753.55	2,154,961.39
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	3,336,014.08	92,260.53
01/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	3,336,014.08	0.00
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	3,336,014.08	0.00
07/01/2020	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	4,800,858.35	1,464,844.27