

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

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A6424

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Printed On: 2/3/2021

Report Type: Progress Report

Report Status: Final

Assignment: TF0A6424

## 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
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	4,146,913.24 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020	1,783,359.36
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 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

##### Comment:

The first grant which closed in 2018 has strengthened Sudan's capacity to develop a robust REDD+ Strategy.

Sudan's R-PP was approved in 2014, accordingly became a participant to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and eligible for support to implement its REDD Readiness program. The FCPF first grant agreement of USD 3.8 million was signed in March 2015 and advanced to completion by the end of 2018. During the implementation of this readiness support, Sudan achieved remarkable progress in meeting all the requirements of the readiness phase included in the first grant agreement.

Subsequently the additional financing grant agreement was signed in March 2018 following a three-month delay. Delivery on the additional financing program has been on track until September 2018 when there was another halt due to political instability. With the reinstatement of the new government as of September 2019, the project implementation resumed delivery on the additional financing program and was subsequently on track until March 2020 when the COVID-19 Pandemic and related lockdown restrictions halted implementation of the readiness support. Implementation resumed again once lockdown restrictions were lifted. Restructuring and a closing date extension has been approved and made effective for December 2021 from December 2020 to make up for the implementation time lost from March-July 2020 due to the Pandemic. The extension for the closing date will be without cost.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

##### Comment:

- Sudan submitted its first proposed forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) in January 2020 to the UNFCCC, covering three States. Both the development and validation workshop for the FREL/FRL were participatory and inclusive of various stakeholders. In August 2020, following Sudan's request, UNFCCC accepted a modified proposed submission of FREL/FRL covering all States and covering identified gaps, paving the way for a national FREL/FRL. The submission is under assessment by UNFCCC's technical assessment team.
- High level policy discussions around the REDD+ program involving the Steering Committee have been organized routinely to provide policy and operational level guidance to the Program Management Unit (PMU). Steering Committee meetings were chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR). Alongside, the PMU organizes monthly meetings to review progress with readiness activities. Routine monitoring and oversight is very important for Sudan's program.

Various activities carried out towards strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the PMU and broader stakeholders of the REDD+ program:

- Organized a two-day consultation workshop (6 - 7 October 2019) to facilitate the formulation of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Action Plan in Sudan. The workshop was attended by relevant stakeholders such as the MANR, the Ministry of Livestock, Range and Wildlife, as well as academia and the private sector, the event offered 60 participants a platform to exchange information and experiences related to national forest inventory (NFI) implementation, the use of forest data for national plans and strategies, and program sustainability.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019, a technical meeting on national land cover map development was conducted, the meeting aimed at bringing together relevant government, non-government, civil society, academic and development partners to identify the comparative advantages and respective technical expertise in land cover mapping that will facilitate the national land cover mapping activities in a collaborative way.

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- During the period September - December 2019, FAO designed a methodology for an Action Plan for Republic of Sudan's Forest Monitoring System (SFMS) under the REDD+ MRV. It involved an assessment of capacity gaps and needs at national, regional and state level in Sudan. Two technical sessions were organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 to provide inputs to the SFMS action plan. The REDD+ Technical Working Group and other relevant stakeholders at national and state levels participated. 94 persons attended these sessions. The roadmap will become the operating manual for the FNC and other relevant MRV institutions, laying out the work accomplished by the project (including data and methodologies) and describing operation procedures and standards to be used to ensure the continuity of the MRV system, which is under development.
- Four assignments under Sudan Emission Reduction Program were launched in December 2019: (1) National REDD+ Pilot Program Designs; (2) REDD+ Information Tracking System; (3) Proposal writing trainings (for funding REDD+ strategy elements); (4) Mainstreaming REDD+ in national development policies and legislation. Implementation progress has been hampered by the political crisis and the Pandemic lockdown imposed by the government. Work has resumed following lifting of the lockdown restrictions.
- Organized two-day validation workshop (23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019) to inform the various partners including national and international institutions about the results of the National Forest Inventory (NFI). The NFI Sudan was conducted over the period 2017 to 2019 to produce timely and accurate estimate forests resources variable for a variety of users and applications.
- On August 13-15, 2019, delegations from Sudan with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) participated in capacity building workshop on the Design of REDD+ projects in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop provided guidance on the various stages of project preparation and appraisal to facilitate access to GCF and other climate finance sources.
- More than 3000 publications about REDD+ knowledge for the REDD+ have been developed and distributed (booklet showing the progress, Gender Mainstreaming leaflet, and internship program pamphlet).
- REDD+ Sudan launched a redesigned website for the REDD+ Sudan on 25 November 2019, <https://www.reddplussd.org>.
- Final drafts of technical reports from various consultancies have been received (gender mainstreaming; private sector engagement; Forest Landscapes Restoration Assessment & National Strategy Report, Forest and Mining) while inception reports have been received for SESA (Phase 2) The national REDD+ Strategy is being finalized by the Consultant.
- Within the framework of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation on Riverine forests, the riverine region workshop was held in Sennar state on 4 March 2020. The main objective was to identify the current state of the Riverine forest ecosystem; its contribution to mitigating climatic change; and environmental and societal importance. The workshop was characterized by significant participation from wide sectors.

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## Grant follow-up and structure

### Description and context of Grant:

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

The additional grant will support to the PMU and state level focal points (RED+ Management Unit) through goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs covering:

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 the REDD+ Management Unit through goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs covering

- 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 the REDD+ Management Unit through goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for:

- 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 the REDD+ Management Unit through goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for providing:

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- 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

The additional grant will support the REDD+ Management Unit through goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for providing:

- 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

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

#### **Comment on follow up:**

The Bank will expeditiously follow up on the following delayed activities:

- Strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the REDD+ management arrangements particularly at the state level, in areas such as program management (managerial capacity) and communication skills. Technical skills in areas related to REDD+ implementation such as FREL/FRL, NFMS, ESMF, FGRM, benefit-sharing as well as financial management systems of development partners and skills for coordinating the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, including emission reduction programs.
- Finalize translation of documents to Arabic to support the stakeholders to understand the implementation of REDD+.
- With travel restrictions due to COVID-19, launch a virtual south-south knowledge exchange, learning and sharing of experiences on fund mobilization with Rwanda's FONERWA.
- Finalization of National REDD+ strategy.
- Finalize endorsement of the Benefit sharing mechanism and Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism reports by relevant authorities
- Advance delivery of the linformation system for multiple benefits, impacts, governance and safeguards
- Complete the development of NFMS/MRV, including the dissemination of the NFI, institutional arrangements by March 2021.
- Finalize the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Comprehensive Workshop Series (final draft received).
- Finalize and disseminate the Private Sector Engagement in Reforestation Initiatives Report.
- Complete the mining study (final draft received).
- Complete the SESA /ESF phase two
- Finalize the design National REDD+ Pilot Program (first draft received) and subsequent submission of a proposal to GCF.
- Continue enhancing GHG inventory and remote sensing.

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End Date of Last Site Visit: October 2018

## Restructuring of Grant:

Not applicable. A closing date extension has been approved for December 2021 from December 2020 to make up for the implementation time lost from March-July 2020.

## OUTCOME

### Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

While the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced unprecedented setbacks, the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project activities continue 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. The REDD+ program is supporting Sudan to undertake a participatory national forest and land use planning exercise that will contribute to mitigating impacts of deforestation and forest degradation, including from developments in other sectors (such as agriculture and energy), and existing land tenure arrangements. The Project has helped build strong collaboration across sectors such as forestry, agriculture, and economic planning. It has strengthened collaboration across government, civil society and academia in identifying solutions to forest loss. The private sector is keen and have been contributing to meaningful dialogue on leveraging financing to support investment operations. The cross-sectoral governance mechanism involving the Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee, the Technical Working Groups has promoted innovative solutions to tackling forest loss.

### Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

## COMPONENTS

There are no components defined for this trust fund / grant.

### Comment on planned and actual Output

### Comment on component implementation progress

Most draft technical reports have been received from requisite consultancies launched under this grant as of July 2020, during the Bank's virtual Technical and Implementation support mission.

## 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. Where needed 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. As a result, progress has been significant to date. In line with the project objectives and the project components, the PMU has organized targeted awareness and information sharing activities for stakeholders, 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 has ensured to 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 TORs 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 and ESMF are expected to be finalized by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

The REDD+ Social and Environmental information System (SIS) will articulate 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 receives recognition for the extensive consultation and broad participation of various stakeholders carried out prior submission of UNFCCC. This consultative approach has been sustained continued during the grant implementation as well. The Safeguards technical working group includes 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 has continued to strengthen its partnership with the REDD+ CSOs. A robust feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) has been developed as part of this project phase. As of July 2020, total of

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1011 (620 males, 391 female) individuals attended consultations on REDD+ topics such safeguards, REDD+ knowledge, gender mainstreaming, and the role of private sector REDD+.

The PMU has organized various technical and advisory committee meetings, capacity building workshops and consultations Workshops, and published various communication, awareness raising and capacity-building activities including publishing a blog on the contributing of the REDD+ program as it to social cohesion and peace building:

<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sudan%E2%80%99s-redd-work-strengthens-social-cohesion-needed-peacebuilding>.

## 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	0.00	0.00
01/01/2021	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00