



## REDD+ Country Participant Completion Report Template for the Readiness Fund of the

### About this template

The Grant Agreements for the Readiness Fund of the FCPF with the World Bank require the grant recipients to prepare and furnish to the World Bank a Completion Reporting accordance with the provision of Section 2.06(b) (ii) of the Standard Conditions not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date of the grant. The REDD+ Country Participants who entered into a Grant Agreement with the World Bank should prepare the Completion Report using this template, and submit it to the World Bank Task Teams not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date of the grant.

### FCPF

**Submission Date: June 11, 2022**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>SD - FCPF readiness Grant (P152322&amp;TP06424)</b>
<b>Country</b>	Sudan
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Forest National Corporation -Sudan
<b>Grant Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen Sudan’s capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy.</li> <li>2. The objective of the Grant is to assist the Recipient to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities, and the Grant is intended to reinforce the Recipient’s capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The Readiness Preparation Activities consist of the following parts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for REDD+ readiness management and institutional arrangements</li> <li>- Support for national REDD+ strategy</li> <li>- Support for stakeholder engagement</li> <li>- Support for monitoring, reporting and verification</li> </ul>               The main outcomes were achieved significantly and support Sudan to be ready to implement the emission reduction programs for result-based-payment.             </li> </ol>
<b>Original Amount (US\$)</b>	3.8 million
<b>Revised Amount (US\$)</b>	8.8 million
<b>Actual Disbursed (US\$)</b>	8,681,527
<b>Effectiveness Date</b>	May 13, 2015
<b>Original Closing Date</b>	January 31 2019
<b>Actual Closing Date</b>	31-12-2021

## 1. Overall Outcome and its Sustainability

This section provides overall accomplishment of the objectives of the Grant and a plan designed to ensure the sustainability of the Project's achievements.

The main objective to prepare Sudan for REDD+'s phase one (readiness) by implementing the activities outlines in readiness preparation proposal and consequently lead to the implement the strategy and emission reduction programs to achieve the result base-payment. REDD+ Sudan ready to implement the prepared activities in phase one as listed below:

- **Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation**
- **Component 2: REDD+ Strategy**
- **Component 3: Reference emission level/ reference level**
- **Component 4: Development of monitoring system for Forests and safeguards**

**The Additional Fund (AF) (5 million):** the additional fund supported the following activities: 1) develop the REDD+ Strategy. 2) establishment of the measurement reporting and verification, 3) national Forest monitoring system 4) emission reference level and reference level; 5) preparation of emission reduction program; 6) National Forest and Safeguards Information System; 7) National Environmental and Social Management Framework; 8) gender mainstreaming 9) strengthening the management arrangements, enhancing participation and empowerment of stakeholders

**As a result of the funding and implementation of the various activities the following outcomes were realized:**

- **National REDD+ strategy:** the strategy developed based on all studies addressed the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land use and land tenure, benefit sharing, social and environmental assessment, and wide of consultation carried among the stakeholders. REDD+ strategy. Sudan's strategy considered all the problems faced by the population around forests, based on the studies that were conducted and the people's consultation on all priorities. All relevant sectors such as Range and pastures, agriculture and minerals, wildlife were involved, in addition to studying the private sector and how to involve it in the implementation of the strategy.
- **Forest reference level:** sub-national FREL submitted to the UNFCCC and approved. The first modified sub-national FREL/FRL for Sudan's REDD+ Program was developed and submitted to UNFCCC in January 2020 and resubmit a modified version by August 2020. The Technical Assessment Report (TAR) on Sudan's REDD+ reference level has now been published. The report covers an area that accounts for approximately 11 percent of Sudan's total forest area and around 7.2 percent of Sudan's total area, spanning three states. *The proposed* FRL includes the values of the average annual change in carbon stock due to deforestation (1,223,286 t. CO<sub>2</sub> /y) and the average annual accumulated CO<sub>2</sub> removals (-288,229 t. CO<sub>2</sub>/y) due to afforestation and reforestation (A/R) activities implemented in the FRL region (Sennar, ElGadarif and Blue Nile States), over the reference period (2006-2018).
- **Emission reduction program:** one emission reduction program, comprising of three (3) jurisdictional REDD+ programs **covering the sub-national FRL region was prepared in 2021** in a clear demonstration of Sudan'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 proposed ERP is consistent

with the overall objectives, strategic options and policies and measures (PAMs) of the NRS, in particular its strategic options.

- **National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)** protocols has been developed, including institutional arrangements for National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). Framework systems have also been established for REDD+ safeguards implementation and monitoring, including the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) web platform, which is linked to Sudan's REDD+ website, and a system for Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) was developed.
- **Multiple Stakeholder arrangements** were established including engagement platforms, a nation-wide stakeholder consultation and communication. Sudan developed two national platforms one is informal and the second one is formal and replicated in all states of Sudan (18 states). Technical working groups established comprising of experts from various institutions to support technical backstopping. The Program management unit facilitated the smooth and effective coordination of the Steering committee and advisory committee in working together to achieve the program's objective. The implementation of the benefit sharing plan, safeguards and the feedback and grievance redress mechanism covered relevant NGOs, private sector companies, community leaders and farmer groups and other stakeholders including traditional authorities have benefited directly from workshops and extensive trainings and capacity enhancement activities were carried out to ensure the sustainability of outcomes.
- **Sudan will be looking to sustain the Readiness phase** through the implementation of the NRS and subsequent investment plan with long-term sustainability objectives (sustainability plan developed). The Vision for the Sudan National REDD+ Strategy is 'Achieving sustainable natural resources management for a green economy, while contributing to Sudan's prosperity, livelihoods, and wellbeing'. Within the objective of REDD+ to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon stocks through the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, this strategy seeks to achieve these measures within a far broader vision that provides co-benefits, including enhancing livelihoods, protecting ecosystem services, and conserving biodiversity. To achieve the vision, and to ensure sustainability of the outcomes, the capacity of the National REDD+ program management unit, has been supported through several training and capacity building workshops, training nationally, regionally, and globally.
- **Communication strategy operationalized** and a nation-wide REDD+ awareness programs carried out. 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 outputs for wider audience, both in English and Arabic to enhance understanding to the REDD+ process and promote transparency among all beneficiaries. Sudan used multiple communication platforms including radio, the REDD+ website, among others to disseminate and communicate information to various stakeholders, including communicating with communities, government agencies, donors and the private sector.

## 2. Outcome of each Readiness Grant Activity

This section outlines assessment of achievement of each Activity indicated in the Grant Agreement.

### **Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation**

#### **1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements**

Sudan is making good in terms of institutional arrangement, cross-sectoral coordination, accountability and transparency through the implementation of continued stakeholder consultations and participation. The Forest National Corporation (FNC) hosts the REDD+ institutions and provides offices to facilities at both national and sub-national level, coordination committees are established by the focal points to ensure multi-sectoral coordination. Most of the State-level focal points have reasonable working experience and therefore adequate technical supervision capacity. In addition, finance officers have been assigned to the focal points to ensure proper funds management. A functional structure has been built, with all structures of the REDD+ institutional arrangements in place and operational according to the envisaged structures and developed TORs. They have been integrated into the FNC and were supported by the Government of Sudan. The national REDD+ management arrangements are full range of the functions in the REDD+ process. The institutional arrangements are well recognized at national and sub-national level, the mandates for the focal points at the sub-national level clarified and documented. Most of the involved institutions raised their capacities, where both technical and institutional support considered to continue throughout the entire next phases and beyond.

#### **1b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach**

A very good work was done in delivering a thorough nation-wide communication and awareness raising program for the targeted communities and other related stakeholders through various channels for ensuring widespread consultation and participation in the design of key aspects of REDD+ readiness. In line with the consultation plan, consultation processes at the federal and state level have started with a broad range of all relevant stakeholders, including with local communities and CSOs. The PMU, together with the focal points, conducted three rounds of consultations at the national level and 38 workshops at the sub-national (state) level. These were preceded by further workshops and meeting targeting CSOs and special groups such as women and forest-dependent communities. Platforms at the national and state level have been established with different rationales.

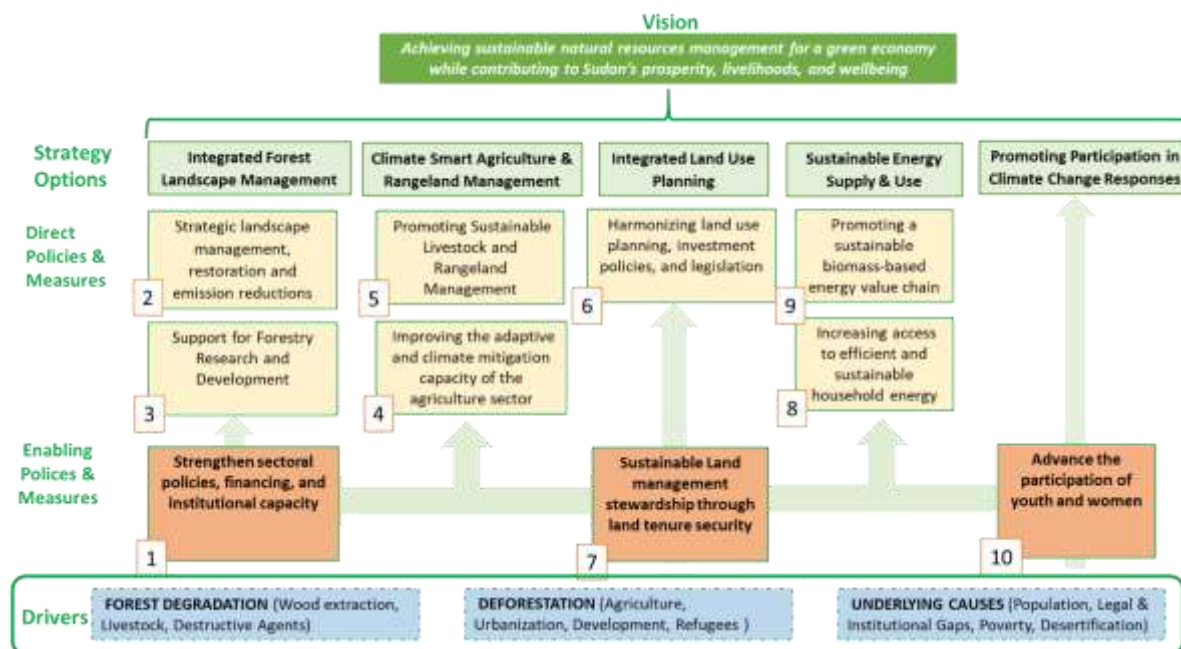
### **Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation**

#### **2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance:**

A study on land use, land tenure, forest law, policy and governance and In-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation was finalized in line with the agreed terms of reference and following an approach involving consultations with all relevant stakeholders at the sub-national and national level, as well as a validation workshop. The pressures on land use and land tenure include social and demographic, environmental, economic, and political drivers. The land governance and administration include legal and institutional frameworks, traditional systems of land use and land tenure and their implications on forest land use, as well as evolvments of current forest policies and legislation. The outcomes of the studies were used to support the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy.

## 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

The Strategy Options define the general direction that the Republic of Sudan will take to achieve the vision of the REDD+ program. These strategic options will be programmatically implemented through the Policies and Measures (PAMs) and actions. The NRS is supported by a strong social and environmental safeguards framework, benefit sharing framework, national forest monitoring systems encompassing a 5-year action plan, capacity development plan, and monitoring and evaluation. The strategy options were identified through a participatory and inclusive process with different stakeholders, including the SESA process. The national REDD+ Strategy is well-aligned with key national developmental strategies and policies and nationally determine contribution (NDC).



## 2c. Implementation Framework

Significant progress has been made supporting national policy development processes, including efforts to put the REDD+ as priority agenda of the State. However, recent political instability in Sudan means, issues related to high level processes have been postponed. Activity on monitoring system and a data management system have been developed but not yet operational. Sudan paid attention especially on how to define and develop an institutional and organizational framework to use to build an advanced system for REDD+ capacity building. FNC and their partners established the REDD+ framework to raise awareness and capacity building and REDD+ implementation for all stakeholders and communities around the forests. FNC has also established a well-linked system distributed geographically to facilitate the monitoring system. In addition, Sudan envisages establishing a Carbon Registry for National and Sovereign purposes and to avoid double accounting from the likely nested REDD+ activities at national, sub national and local levels. However, Sudan shares the view that the creation of an information hub at the international level could facilitate the transparency and robustness of REDD+ results and the transparency of corresponding payments. Such hub can maintain information on measured, reported and verified results and track payments. Moreover, the hub would also facilitate access to relevant information needed by implementing countries, donors and financial institutions, including how safeguards are being addressed and respected (most of information included on the website).

## **2d. Social and Environmental Impacts**

A thorough process was applied to identify potential risks and impacts associated with REDD+ related activities and the ESMF was developed. The ESMF provides guidelines to mitigate all anticipated adverse impacts of REDD+ Implementation, with guidance to monitoring. The PMU played critical role in ensuring effective SESA was implemented to the development of the ESMF, which in turn informed safeguard considerations in REDD+ Strategy Options and the development of the ER program document.

### **Component 3: Reference Emission Level/ Reference Level**

Sudan established a sub-national Forest Reference Level (FRL) based on national circumstances and in line with UNFCCC guidance. This submission is intended for technical assessment in the context of results-based payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) under UNFCCC. Sudan considers the development of the FRL as very important for enhancing implementation of national forest programme including REDD+ strategy and for contributing to the global climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives through preparation and implementation of NDCs. Sudan has developed a plan to complete the FREL as national version for the rest of states.

### **Component 4: Development of monitoring system for Forests and safeguards**

#### **4a. National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).**

The national forest monitoring system, designed based on the guidelines of the IPCC/UNFCCC standards, will be able to measure deforestation, degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Clear roles and responsibilities have been agreed regarding the operationalization of the NFMS. A transparent and integrated NFMS was developed with complete separate functions of National Forest Inventory, the Land Monitoring System and Green House Gas Inventory in order to estimate GHG emissions and removals from forestry sector through creation of consistent time series of forest cover and periodically assess the on-ground conditions of all forest resources in Sudan (MRV Function) The NFMS is yet to become fully operational and tested for the first monitoring carried out, and is closely linked to the FREL.

#### **4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards.**

Robust work was done with the design of SESA and REDD+ strategy, the ESMF, RPF and SIS. Safeguard information system developed and designed within the Sudan REDD+ website and they will become functional when the ERPs are implemented. The 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 in Sudan. The proposed safeguards monitoring system (SMS) is complementary to the REDD+ MRV framework, to achieve and ensure that safeguards are protected and promoted during the implementation of REDD+ activities. Institutional arrangements are proposed to ensure effective operation of the SMS and SIS. The main institutions cover national, state and forest level responsibilities involving key stakeholder groups. In addition, number of reforms are required to ensure building enabling environment for effective implementation of the safeguards framework. The safeguards working group, formed under this component, supported the development of the SIS. A series of awareness raising and consultation workshops on environmental and social safeguards have been conducted covering various relevant

stakeholders in all 18 states of Sudan. In total, 261 participants have been engaged in these events, of which 191 were men and 70 women. Furthermore, a national level survey and consultations have been conducted for establishing baseline data for the preparation of a safeguards monitoring, and information and tracking systems.

### **3. Lessons Learned**

This section briefly presents the most significant positive and negative lessons learned from the operation's experience.

- A permanent office was established for REDD+ program by the Government of Sudan to implement the REDD+ program over the three phases.
- During the preparation period, development of REDD+ structure for multi-stakeholders, at national and sub-national; at sub-national managed by the focal points in all states of Sudan including formal and informal platforms under the supervision of the focal points to facilitate the process of consultation and spread awareness of the program.
- Disclosure of Information, transparency and sharing of knowledge are important principles of the REDD+ process that Sudan adheres to that make information relevant to REDD+ and Sudan's national REDD+ process publicly available and accessible. Further using a variety of avenues, social networks and establishment of national REDD+ website, in English and in Arabic, play important role in obtaining and understanding this information large sector of the readers.
- Provision of incentives for the related institutions and other national REDD+ partners result in effective participation in the preparatory REDD+ program and will support its implementation framework.
- Building trust of local communities during the REDD+ program readiness phase was reflected positively on their contribution and support to the REDD+ program
- Strengthening 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 as well as financial management systems of development partners and skills for coordination will be a key for sustaining the success of REDD in the subsequent phases.
- The Civil society organization & Private Sector platforms are useful mechanisms for enhancing consultation, participation and information sharing on REDD+, at the national and state levels. They also play an active role and support to organize the meetings and engagement with the REDD+ program on a more regular basis.
- 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.
- Integration of REDD+ in the FNC general directorate of extension and information ongoing and future plans and activities is very crucial for effective participation and community mobilization during the formulation of REDD Readiness activities.
- Coordination between different stakeholders at state and federal levels, multi-sectoral structure of the Technical Working Group (TRWG) has been most useful and has supported integrated REDD+ management in the preparation of REDD readiness phase.

- Capacity built through excellent coaching program organized for the coordinator and strong leadership training course in two rounds for all focal points and related institutions to support the REDD+ future.
- Regional experiences and lessons from other African countries shared through organized workshop in Khartoum to support the Sudan REDD+ process remain critical.
- Continued communication strategy needs to be in place and to cover more areas, in addition to test the safeguards and benefit sharing among the stakeholders.
- In order to involve the private sector, we need more awareness campaigns, dissemination of the results of the study to the private and public sector, and to encourage the partnerships to work with REDD program
- For Sudan to move to REDD+ implementation and carry out the ERP document, additional funds will be required.
- The program management unit prepared sustainability plan to sustain and bridge the gaps between the REDD+ phases
- Political stability remains critical for continued sustainability of activities implemented through Sudan’s REDD+ Readiness and progress towards implementation phase.

#### 4. Project Cost by Readiness Grant Activity

Components	Amount at Approval (US\$)	Actual at Project Closing (US\$)	Balance	Percentage of Approval
Support for REDD+ Readiness Management and Institutional Arrangements	2,550,000	2,444,527	105,473	96%
Support for National REDD+ Strategy	2,295,000	2,285,000	10,000	100%
Support for Stakeholder Engagement	495,000	492,000	3,000	99%
Support for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification	2,960,000	2,960,000	0	100%
Development of a National Reference Level	500,000	500,000	0	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,800,000</b>	<b>8,681,527</b>	<b>118,473</b>	<b>99%</b>

**Note:**

The activities were implemented 100%, while the financial performance shows only 99%, that is due to the following:

- 1- most of the contracts under the main grant were signed in SDG equivalent (not in USD) which led to small saving from the total grant due to the inflation in the local currency
- 2- a considerable financing from the government during implementation of the additional fund also led to a small balance of the grant)



