

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

Assignment: TF0B3547

BF: FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant FCPFR

- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

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Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Burkina-Faso
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - SAWE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	10/15/2020 to 12/31/2022 (Closing date)
Original Grant Amount	3,070,000.00
Grant Amount	3,070,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,927,443.65
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

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

OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments

Grant Objectives:

The proposed Project Development Objective is to reinforce Burkina Faso's capacity to coordinate the REDD+ readiness process including a socially and environmentally sound national strategy and other key governance systems for REDD+ implementation.

Overall progress from 10/15/2020 to 12/31/2022 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The following has been achieved during the reporting period:

- The National REDD + Strategy was validated by the National REDD+ Committee.
- REDD+ was mainstreamed into sectoral policies, including the National Economic and Social Development Plan and the National Rural Sector Program.
- The Forest Reference Level was validated by the UNFCCC and published on its website.
- A draft Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment was produced.
- The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been designed, the institutional arrangements defined, and the standard operating procedures have been developed.

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- The National REDD+ Technical Secretariat was established as a REDD+ Permanent Secretariat for REDD+ (SP/REDD+), directly attached to the Minister of Environment's office. It will benefit from State budget for the implementation of the country's REDD+ agenda.
- The first project from Burkina Faso's Jurisdictional ER-Program became effective in January 2023: the USD 125 million World Bank and PROGREEN funded Community Climate Action and Landscape Management (CCALM) project, covering an implementation period up to 2028. Key outcomes include: (i) one million hectares of land under sustainable management; (ii) 1.75 million people with increased benefits from natural resources; and (iii) 14 million metric tons of net greenhouse gas emissions sequestered during the Project's lifetime.

Overall progress from 10/15/2020 to 12/31/2022 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities: Comment:

The second Readiness Grant became effective in April 2021, delayed relative to its signature date due to the meeting of certain fiduciary conditions. Implementation was significantly impacted during the year 2022, due to two coups d'état (in January 2022 and September 2022) which led to disbursements being paused for the World Bank portfolio in Burkina Faso for a total of 8 months. When the project closed in December 2022, the disbursement pause was still in effect. Despite these challenges, best efforts were made to achieve the grant objectives. Residual REDD+ Readiness activities will be finalized through the CCALM World Bank-funded project.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant: The Additional Grant intended to strengthen the Burkina Faso's enabling environment for the emergence of REDD+ and other carbon finance initiatives, including a socially and environmentally sound national strategy and other key governance systems for REDD+ implementation. The Additional Readiness Preparation Activities consists of the following components:

Component 1 - Integrating REDD+ in Sectoral Strategies:

Carrying out an analysis of multiple sectoral strategies, including: (a) the revision of multiple sectoral strategic documents to include REDD+ strategic options; (b) strengthening the capacity of MEEVCC staff to train and disseminate information on REDD+ across all sectors through the operationalization of training centers, South-South exchanges, inclusion of REDD+, land use planning and improved natural resource management in the curricula in the training centers; (c) designing the training modules for forestry-related or general curricula to reach a large number of students and civil servants; (d) supporting focal points from various sectors to understand the REDD+ strategy and develop REDD+ projects in their respective sectors; and (e) consolidating all carbon sequestration activities under the AFOLU sector to mainstream the REDD+ concepts into a more inclusive approach.

Component 2 - Implementation and Consultation Framework for REDD+:

Strengthening the Recipient's REDD+ institutional arrangements through: (a) completing the operationalization of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat by recruiting additional staff and organizing complementary training for experts; (b) operationalizing and building the capacities of REDD+ various bodies, including, inter alia, the REDD+ focal points in all the Recipient's ministries, the Regional Technical Cells, the Communal Technical Cells, the National REDD+ Committee and the National REDD+ Platform for Consultation.; (c) organizing training for and consultations with CSOs, parliamentarians and private sector organizations and supporting the dialogue with stakeholders throughout the process; (d) organizing and planning consultations on SESA and additional waves of consultations; (e) validating the institutional framework for the safeguard information system, the cobenefits monitoring and the carbon emission reduction measurement, including signing of agreements between the various institutions that are part of those arrangements; and (f) clarifying the legal framework related to REDD+ and carbon credits in general.

Component 3 - Development of National REDD+ Strategy:

Developing the National REDD+ Strategy through: (a) Redefining and reformulating REDD+ strategic options; (b) carrying out a wave of consultations at regional level to gauge the applicability of the REDD+ strategic options and refine them for implementation; (c) strengthening the capacity of private actors to facilitate the creation and expansion of emission reduction operations; (d) financing the SESA process with all its components, including the ESMF, the safeguard information system, the grievance and redress mechanism and the registration protocol for future beneficiaries; (e) carrying out a gender assessment to implement a gender approach as part of the REDD+ strategy; and (f) preparing the emission reduction program, including a self-assessment and the preparation of the R-Package, the validation of the documents detailing the content of the ER-Program.

Component 4 - Forest, Carbon and Co-benefits Monitoring System:

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Carrying out relevant MRV related activities through an enhanced forest, carbon and co-benefits monitoring system, comprising (a) (i) revision of the allometric equations and the finalization of the root carbon analysis for enhanced data collection and calibration; and (ii) the use of Collect Earth to establish a new FRL based on sampling; (b) institutional arrangements for a MRV system, through: (i) training and capacity building activities for the future MRV actors; and (ii) the creation of a geomatic laboratory; (c) identification of and setting up the REDD+ co-benefits and the operationalization of a sustainable system for data collection; and (d) creation of a REDD+ projects' registry as well as an emission reduction's registry to monitor the impact of REDD+ and the co-benefits.

Component 5 - Knowledge Sharing: Facilitating knowledge sharing through: (a) support to strengthen the REDD+ communication strategy; (b) recruitment of a deputy communication specialist; and (c) support: (i) for international events, including FCPF meetings and UNFCCC conventions; and (ii) for events related to carbon finance to attract carbon investors.

Component 6 - Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation: Implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities, including: (a) REDD+ self-assessment and the development of the preparatory files; and (b) acquisition of equipment and provision of operating costs.

Expected follow up (if any): N/A.

Comment on follow up: N/A.

End Date of Last Site Visit: TTL is based in-country.

Restructuring of Grant: None

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 10/15/2020 to 12/31/2022

N/A

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1 - Integrating REDD+ in Sectoral Strategies:

- The strategic options of REDD+ have been integrated into the main development frameworks of the Country, namely the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES II) and the National Strategic Plan for Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Investment (PNIASP) 2021- 2025.
- A diagnostic report on strengthening convergence between REDD+ and sectoral strategies has been produced. The report sets out an approach for integrating REDD+ into sectoral policies that do not yet take it into account. The report therefore serves as a guide for integrating REDD+ into sectoral policies whenever these are under review.
- An introductory module for environmental education linked to REDD+ in education curricula has been developed and teachers have been trained to test it. The experimentation of the module took place during the 2021-2022 school year in 12 schools spread over the Sahel, Hauts Bassins and Center regions.
- Multiple training sessions were organized and targeted all categories of stakeholders.
- Three (03) south-south exchanges allowed experience sharing with Mali, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Three (03) training modules on REDD+ have been developed as well as a guide to understanding REDD+ in Burkina Faso. These documents are used to promote REDD+ to a wide audience.
- Two (02) new REDD+ projects have been developed, the CCALM project and the Burkina Faso Agricultural Carbon Project (BUFACAP). CCALM received funding from the World Bank of USD 125 million and a counterpart of USD 12 million. It is under implementation.
- All REDD+ projects fall within the vision of the Emissions Reduction Program for the AFOLU sector in Burkina Faso.

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Component 2 - Implementation and Consultation Framework for REDD+:

- The Permanent Secretariat for REDD+ (SP/REDD+), which is the mutation of the National REDD+ Technical Secretariat, currently has twenty (20) public administration staff, two (02) specialists (lawyer and IT specialist), one (01) secretary management, one (01) driver and one (01) liaison officer. This staff may experience an evolution as the new missions assigned to the SP/REDD+ are confirmed. It also has one (01) international REDD+ technical assistant, two (02) national technical assistants (in advocacy and institutional matters) and several other consultants and consulting firms.
- SP/REDD+ agents have benefited from numerous training sessions on the following topics: strategic environmental and social assessment, remote sensing, cartography, development of allometric equations, monitoring and evaluation, setting up projects, carbon rights, integration of REDD+ into policies sectors.
- The steering, consultation and execution bodies of the REDD+ process (SP/REDD+, National REDD+ Committee, Regional REDD+ Committee, Regional REDD+ Technical Unit, Municipal REDD+ Committee, Municipal REDD+ Technical Unit, National REDD+ Platform, Regional REDD+ Platform and Communal REDD+ platform) that lead the REDD+ preparation process and the coordination of its implementation are in place and operational at the central level and in 6 regions (East, Center-South, Center-West, Boucle du Mouhoun, South- West and Upper Basins). These bodies played a decisive role during the preparation of the PGPC/REDD+, in particular through the validation of the project document at the national level by the National REDD+ Committee and the validation of the Communal Integrated Development Projects for REDD+ (PDIC/REDD+) at municipal level by the municipal committees. These bodies will also be involved in monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation of the CCALM project.
- Each year, at least two (02) meetings directly targeted civil society organizations and the private sector. In addition, consultations in relation to key studies such as the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) have involved these actors through the REDD+ bodies at various scales, allowing these bodies to function at the same time.
- A review of the legal framework has been conducted and is being updated by the Department of Legal Affairs and Litigation (DAJC) of the Ministry responsible for the environment.
- A diagnosis of carbon and land rights in Burkina Faso has been developed with a proposal of options for qualifying these rights. The diagnosis made it possible to make a proposal for a legal text to regulate carbon rights in Burkina Faso. With funding from the CCALM and the establishment of a standardized credit framework (SCF) in Burkina Faso, the text will be revised in 2023 and adopted during 2024.

Component 3 - Development of National REDD+ Strategy:

- The national REDD+ strategy has been validated by the National REDD+ Committee. This validation took place following a broad consultation process with stakeholders from the municipal level to the national level through the REDD+ bodies. The National REDD+ Strategy will be provided with an action plan and validated during 2023 thanks to funding from the PGPC/REDD+.
- Three (03) additional waves of consultation were conducted and made it possible to refine the strategic options of REDD+ and to progress with the SESA of the national REDD+ strategy.
- A consulting firm and an international EESS technical assistant have been recruited for the development of the EESS.
- Burkina Faso's self-assessment and R-Package were validated by the National REDD+ Committee and submitted to the FCPF Participants Committee, which also approved them.
- A Program Idea Note for the Emissions Reduction Program has been developed and validated by the LEAF Coalition initiative. The CCALM is the first project of the emission reduction program (ER-Program) and its carbon performance results will be certified by the ART-TREES standard and potentially sold on the platform offered by LEAF Coalition.

Component 4 - Forest, Carbon and Co-benefits Monitoring System:

- The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been designed, institutional arrangements defined and standard operating procedures have been developed. Its operationalization is gradually being put in place.
- Root carbon emission factors have been produced.
- Forest statistics have been produced using FAO's Collect Earth tool and will be used for the revision of the Forest Reference Level.
- An assessment of institutional arrangements was carried out using the REDDCompass tool and gaps to be covered were identified.
- The actors of the measurement, notification and verification (MRV) system have received several training sessions, the most relevant of which are the use of the Collect Earth tool, the development of allometric equations, carbon accounting in the forest sector, the use carbon monitoring tools like Ex-ACT and Kobo collect.
- A geomatics laboratory has been set up and equipped with computers, A0 format printer, server, drones (02), GPS and other relevant equipment.
- A diagnosis of the Environmental Information System was carried out to identify the gaps to be filled with a proposal of REDD+ co-benefits to be collected.

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Component 5 - Knowledge Sharing:

- A communication strategy for REDD+ has been developed with an action plan.
- A communication assistant was recruited for two (02) years. Among other activities, the latter supported the development of quarterly information bulletins, the development of a directory of all REDD+ stakeholders, the animation of STN/REDD+ platforms on social networks, and the preparation of the communication component of workshops.
- The country participated in the UNFCCC COP 25 in Spain, COP 26 in Glasgow and COP 27 in Sharm El Sheick where the country's experience and lessons learned were shared and sparked technical and financial partnerships like those with the LEAF Coalition, the ART-TREES Secretariat, and Winrock. The country has also participated in other international meetings such as the sessions of the committees and sub-committees of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), as well as national ones.

Component 6 - Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Extensive consultations were conducted during the self-assessment. The conclusions of the self-assessment can be found in the self-assessment report sent to the World Bank with the "R-Package" file. Several consultation tools have also been developed.
- Activities were monitored.
- Operational costs were borne, and numerous equipment acquired such as four wheel vehicles and one mini bus for field missions, as well as computer and office equipment.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P149827 - Burkina Faso-REDD Readiness Preparation
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	FIP Coordination Unit
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PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

1. Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives.

The REDD+ process has been well coordinated with the Forest Investment Program, which has tested investments according to the draft REDD+ strategy. All activities are coordinated through the REDD+ Focal Point and the REDD+ Permanent Secretariat who oversee all REDD+ activities in the country. For issues related to the NDC, Burkina Faso's UNFCCC Focal Point is involved.

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

The development of a Grievance and Redress Mechanism was merged with the SESA. The work was trusted to a firm but due to delays and poor quality of products, the contract had to be terminated. The work is being finalized in-house through a multi-disciplinary government team and the support of an international technical advisor. This, along with the pauses in disbursement, has resulted in the activity being significantly delayed. In addition, the support to the FREL and MRV took a larger amount of resource than expected. A new methodology for collecting activity data that is less expensive and time-consuming is being developed.

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

The grant financing provided capacity building and support the REDD+ Permanent Secretariat and other institutional actors, NGOs and the private sector. Multiple trainings have been organized for parliamentarians, Civil Society Organizations, and local populations to explain the importance of REDD+. Targeted capacity building was also provided in the area of MRV.

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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?

Yes, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and safeguards instruments are in accordance with World Bank safeguard policies, which are in line with the Common Approach. A draft SESA is available.

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

The ESMF and the other safeguards instruments are in accordance with World Bank safeguard policies, which are in line with the Common Approach. These are in draft.

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

The preparation of the REDD+ Strategy and conduct of the SESA have been highly participatory in nature. The REDD+ Communication Strategy enhances collaboration between key partners, increases the visibility of the REDD+ program, supports a consultation process at local level and promotes a common understanding of REDD+ across all levels of interventions. A REDD+ website exists with all key documentation published. Information is also disclosed through local channels (i.e., radios). A draft version of the FGRM is available.

COMPLETION

Overall Assessments and Lessons Learned

Main lessons learned:

The political commitment to the REDD+ process in Burkina Faso was decisive to its success and to it becoming a pillar of sustainable development in the country. Despite the socio-political difficulties experienced by the country, all successive administrations have demonstrated unflinching support for the development of REDD+. In addition, ownership of the REDD+ process by actors from all social strata is a guarantee of success. In Burkina Faso, the mobilization of actors around the REDD+ process is commendable. Agents of public administration, the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, journalists, universities, musicians... have taken ownership of the REDD+ process.

A good institutional anchoring is fundamental for the success and the sustainability of the REDD+ process. This must be considered from the initial stages of development. The consideration of REDD+ in sectoral policies making its objectives the sovereign missions of sectoral administrations is a key factor of sustainability.

However, insufficient funding, both nationally and internationally, to create enabling conditions throughout the country and invest in reversing trends in the loss of forest areas is a challenge. This leads to the adoption of phased approaches based on the availability of funding, which at times result in the loss of consistency of the interventions.

Overall outcome (and its Sustainability): Satisfactory

Comment:

The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grants closes with high political commitment and a strong institutional anchoring, with a REDD+ Permanent Secretariat that is expected to implement the REDD+ agenda with support from the national budget and through international funds that it has the mandate to mobilize. In addition, US\$ 125 million were recently mobilized from the World Bank and PROGREEN to implement the first investment project of Burkina Faso's Jurisdictional ER-Program.

Bank Performance: Satisfactory

Comment:

The World Bank undertook regular supervision of the project (TTL based in country since 2020) and assisted the government to overcome difficult challenges (socio-political and operational). It was also key in mobilizing the US\$ 125 million for the implementation of the ER-Program.

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Additional Assessment

Development / strengthening of institutions:

Comment:

As mentioned in the report, the capacity of several institutions were reinforced and several other were created to support the REDD+ process, and are operational to ensure its sustainability: REDD+ Permanent Secretariat, the different platforms at national level and particularly those at local level (Regional REDD+ Platform and Communal REDD+ platform).

Mobilization of other resources:

Comment:

US\$ 125 million were mobilized from the World Bank to implement Burkina Faso's Jurisdictional ER-Program and continue supporting the development of the REDD+ process.

Knowledge exchange:

Comment:

Burkina Faso became an example to other countries in the Sahel that did not participate in the REDD+ process (Mali, Niger), as well as to other countries in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo) where it had important lessons to share through knowledge exchanges.

Client's policy / program implementation:

Comment:

REDD+ has been integrated into the main development frameworks of the Country, namely the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES II) and the National Strategic Plan for Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Investment (PNIASP) 2021- 2025. Further mainstreaming of REDD+ into sectoral strategies will continue through the recommendations of a diagnostic report produced with support from the FCPF grant.

Efficiency :

Comment:

Despite important high-level achievements and the prospects for sustainability of the process, the grant did not complete all its planned activities (SESA is in a draft stage, and the NFMS is not yet operational). The socio-political issues of 2022 (coups d'état) significantly impacted implementation. In addition, the national procurement procedures lead to considerable loss of time and sometimes inefficiency.

Replicability:

Comment:

The experience of Burkina Faso in developing its REDD+ process offers useful lessons that could be replicated in other countries (particularly, the institutional anchoring).

Main recommendations to stakeholders:

In the current socio-political context, it is important that REDD+ efforts are aligned to contribute to the pressing needs of the country and local populations (food security, competition over natural resources, improved livelihoods).

Main recommendations to Bank Management:

The REDD+ process has demonstrated how environmental and socio-economic objectives can converge to the benefit of local population. The REDD+ process contributes to the World Bank intervention strategy in Burkina Faso and to address drivers of fragility. In addition, it has piloted an approach for the decentralized management of natural resources (through municipalities) that can pave the way to mobilizing State budget to complete the transfer of competences and financial resources to municipalities for natural resource management (reducing reliance on external funding), with demonstrated impact for local populations.

DISBURSEMENTS**Disbursements Summary in USD**

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2021	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	461,458.95	461,458.95
07/01/2021	09/30/2021	0.00	0.00	576,034.04	114,575.09
10/01/2021	12/31/2021	0.00	0.00	843,036.95	267,002.91
01/01/2022	05/31/2022	0.00	0.00	1,108,798.08	265,761.13
06/01/2022	06/30/2022	0.00	0.00	1,226,410.07	117,611.99
07/01/2022	08/31/2022	0.00	0.00	1,514,361.40	287,951.33
09/01/2022	09/30/2022	0.00	0.00	1,839,255.09	324,893.69
10/01/2022	03/31/2023	0.00	0.00	2,107,573.84	268,318.75
04/01/2023	04/15/2023	0.00	0.00	2,526,431.40	418,857.56
04/16/2023	04/30/2023	0.00	0.00	2,927,443.65	401,012.25