

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF012530
Printed On: 04/05/2014

Reporting Period: 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF012530

Liberia FCPF Readiness Grant

FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000084421 - Paola Agostini
Approving Manager: 00000086248 - Magdolna Lovei

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Liberia
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	8840 - AFTN3
Grant Start Date / End Date	06/29/2012 to 11/30/2015
Program Manager	
Original Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	305,293.00 as of 06/30/2013
Disbursed 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013	305,293.00
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 Project Development Objective is to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy for Liberia approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee.

Overall progress from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The team continues to engage stakeholders on issues relevant to REDD+ and the development of a national REDD+ strategy, building on the extensive stakeholder consultations that were carried out during the R-PP preparations. One of the most recent examples was a multi-stakeholder workshop on forest governance for REDD+ held in April 2013.

The national REDD+ Implementation Unit is now complete, most recently hiring a national SESA coordinator, which has allowed them to move forward on key aspects of the Readiness phase of REDD+. The coordination team developed and launched terms of reference for a consultant(s) to carry out work related to the national SESA process and is in the process of making a final selection. Additionally the team is finalizing the terms of reference for the definition of a national reference level, for which a company has already been selected to carry out the work.

At the national level, Liberia took a significant legislative step when the Land Commission approved the National Land Rights Policy on May 21, 2013. This Land Rights Policy concerns four land rights categories (Public Land, Government Land, Customary Land, and Private Land), and a cross-cutting sub-category called Protected Areas, which must be conserved for the benefit of all Liberians. For Public Land and Government Land, the Policy sets forth critical policy recommendations regarding: how the Government transfers such land, and how the Government acquires land, especially through the exercise of eminent domain (i.e. forced acquisition). This is a major accomplishment and will be a bedrock of land rights issues related to REDD+.

Overall progress from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

While implementation is still in the early stages several important advances have been made in key aspects of the REDD+ Readiness process.

The national REDD Implementation Unit is complete, members recruited include a Project Coordinator, REDD Technical Working Group Coordinator, Procurement Specialist and SESA Coordinator.

A REDD Technical Working Group has been convened and held meetings including one (1) this past FY.

The SESA process has been launched with the solicitation of services to recruit a consulting firm to facilitate the development of the SESA.

Key institutional MOUs have been signed (between FDA and the EPA) or are in the the process of signing (between FDA and LISGIS), that is facilitating the operationalization of the activities.

An RPP national monitoring and evaluation plan has been completed and endorsed by the REDD Technical Working Group members.

The definition of the final output for the reference level is being defined with the consulting firm that has been selected to carry out the work.

An assessment of key governance issues related to REDD+ was published in March 2013 in preparation for a workshop on the same theme that was held in April 2013 highlighting how many of the challenging issues related to REDD+ are being addressed through a national process.

Grant follow-up and structure

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Description and context of Grant:

Liberia held a workshop on forest governance and the implementation of REDD+ in Monrovia on April 22-23, 2013.

Expected follow up (if any): Policy Reform/legal change

Comment on follow up:

Activities for R-PP implementation that are currently planned include: Supporting the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations; Contributions to the design of the national REDD+ strategy; and developing Reference levels and/or Scenarios.

The national REDD+ Implementation Unit has advanced on all of the given activities planned in the context of a progressive program. As the development of a national strategy will build on the inputs from the other activities its development will come at a later stage.

The Implementation Unit is currently operational with key staff in place and is receiving support as needed. Consultations with key stakeholders continue and the national coordination team is working with social development specialists to ensure that consultations ensure appropriate levels and means for stakeholder engagement, including for the SESA process. These efforts will continue as the SESA process is rolled out during the forthcoming FY.

The detailed workplan for the creation of national reference level scenarios is in the process of development, with the final output being defined with the consulting firm that has been hired and thus activities will be launched in the forthcoming FY.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

Consultations on land-use options with GoL and stakeholders

Baseline 0

Value:

Date:

Progress to 0

Date:

Date:

Target Value: 4

Date:

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Consultations on REDD+ Strategy

Baseline 0

Value:

Date:

Progress to 2

Date:

Date:

Target Value: 4

Date:

Quantitative analysis of land use in forested and mixed agricultural lands prepared and validated by the National Climate Change Steering Committee

Baseline No

Value:

Date:

Progress to No

Date:

Date:

Target Value: Yes

Date:

Quantified reference scenario prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group

Baseline no

Value:

Date:

Progress to no

Date:

Date:

Target Value: yes

Date:

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) drafted and validated by relevant stakeholders

Baseline no

Value:

Date:

Progress to no

Date:

Date:

Target Value: yes

Date:

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National REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders

Baseline no

Value:

Date:

Progress to no

Date:

Date:

Target Value: yes

Date:

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and consultations

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: REDD Technical Working Group (RTWG) operational, REDD+ consultation activities at local, sub-national and national level carried out

Actual Output: RTWG established, initial consultation sessions have been conducted and are ongoing

Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy

Status: Planned

Planned Output: Finalized national REDD+ strategy

Actual Output: Key processes related to REDD+ strategy launched, ongoing activities will inform an eventual national REDD+ strategy

Develop a reference level or scenario

Status: Procurement On going

Planned Output: National reference level or scenario (including forest cover mapping and inventory in priority areas) finalized

Actual Output: Definition of output is currently underway with the implementing consulting firm that has already been selected

Project management

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: REDD Implementation Unit formally established, key positions filled, and supporting implementation of REDD+ readiness activities

Actual Output: REDD Implementation Unit has signed, or in the process of signing, key MOUs with partner agencies allowing for the unit's operationalization

Comment on planned and actual Output

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Comment on component implementation progress

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P124073 - Liberia-FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Forest Development Authority
Contact: Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr.
Address: Whein Town, Mount Barclay, Liberia
Phone: +231886513358/777513
Email: hkarnwea@yahoo.com
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 others.

The FCPF grant activities are being coordinated with EU-funded VIPA and with Norway partners that are exploring potential for future funding of REDD+ activities.

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

There has not been any significant changes in the technical design or approach to the Grant activities.

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

Procurement was a challenge at the outset of the FCPF grant, but FDA members have been attending training sessions to increase familiarity with the Bank procurement systems and capacity.

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?

Not yet applicable. The SESA process is being launched, with considerations of the Common Approach. It will be more appropriate to describe progress in the coming FY.

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

The Common Approach is being taken into consideration and more details will be available in the forthcoming FY.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this Grant.

Liberia presented its RPP at the FCPF PC meeting in July. This past FY a workshop on key forest governance issues for REDD+ implementation was held in Liberia where a diverse group of stakeholders participated. In building on the extensive consultations that were carried out during RPP development, the SESA process will be launched, in consultation with a social development specialist, to ensure that the consultation plan provides adequate consultation opportunities and platforms to include the voices of those that will be affected at the local level.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2012	06/30/2012	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2012	12/31/2012	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
01/01/2013	06/30/2013	0.00	0.00	305,293.00	5,293.00
07/01/2013	12/31/2013	0.00	0.00	371,177.70	65,884.70
01/01/2014	06/30/2014	0.00	0.00	457,670.77	86,493.07
07/01/2014	12/31/2014	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00