

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF012530
Printed On: 10/22/2014

Reporting Period: 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014
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: 00000246903 - Sanjay Srivastava

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Liberia
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	8840 - AFTN3 - HIS
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	594,642.89 as of 06/30/2014
Disbursed 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014	289,349.89
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 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

Relative to previous year, significant progress has been made in implementing the grant supported activities. The PIU is fully functional and contracts have been established for many key aspects of REDD+ Readiness and outputs are in the process of being developed including for the development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment; Land cover and Forest mapping and the production of base maps; the development of the National Strategy; and the process of hiring a consultancy firm to develop the reference scenario is nearly completed. A monitoring framework has been developed and the development of an MRV system has been initiated but is pending the results of several ongoing works.

Consultations with stakeholders continue as part of Liberia's commitment to a highly participatory process. The Civil Society REDD+ Forum continued its outreach by holding a session on the role of community in forest management and REDD+ in Lofa County over the past year, convened by the Skills and Agriculture Development Services. A consultancy firm has been recruited to work on the implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy and design of the activities are underway and will increase the accessibility of information electronically as well as dissemination of information more broadly.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

While \$595 thousand of disbursements are reflected in this GRM, over \$2 million has been committed. Implementation has progressed significantly for the REDD+ Readiness process and contracts have been signed, and funds committed, for many of the key aspects of REDD+ readiness. The commitments not reflected in the GRM total over \$2 million including over \$115,000 for National Readiness Management Arrangements, over \$299,000 for information sharing and dialogue with stakeholders, over \$981,000 for the development of the SESA, over \$477,000 for finalization of the REDD+ strategy, \$240,000 for Forest Cover mapping \$25,000 for activities related to communication on forestry, bushmeat hunting and ebola, and over \$170,000 for other aspects of REDD+ readiness. The commitments plus actual expenditures add up to just under \$2.9 million.

Important funding gaps are emerging in order to consolidate progress on REDD+ readiness in Liberia and Liberia has indicated plans to make a request for additional grant financing of up to \$5 million to the FCPF to complete amongst others, the (i) additional national and regional-level REDD+ dialogue including among others discussions on fund management arrangements for climate finance to be framed within the complex and evolving policy environment, development of draft framework for landscape level, cross-sectoral land use planning (mining), FLEGT and progressing National Climate Change policy ; (ii) on-going capacity building within RIU as well as targeting ministries in sectors outside of the environment sector; (iii) operationalization of the monitoring, verification and reporting system, including a system for co-benefits, impacts/safeguards (iv) design a national registry; and (v) additional communication and information dissemination.

The REDD+ process can be understood as a three-phased approach (i) design of REDD + Strategy (FCPF Grant supported); (ii) implementation of REDD + Strategies that involve investments for further capacity building, technology development and transfer, and results-based activities and, (iii) payments for emission reductions for results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified. Funding for phase ii is currently under discussion with Norway and to be implemented between 2015-2018 as well as for phase iii to be implemented after 2018.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Liberia contains approximately 4.3 million hectares (Mha) of lowland tropical forest, the largest contiguous forest block remaining in West Africa, comprising 43% of the remaining Upper Guinea forests, which extend from neighboring Guinea to Togo. The forests of Liberia represent a great asset for the country with significant potential to boost economic growth,

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support local livelihoods, and provide environmental services.

During the war, forest revenues were used to finance weapons, thus fuelling conflicts. Following the war, the UN imposed sanctions on the import of timber from Liberia until the forest sector was reformed. These sanctions were lifted in 2007, predicated on an ambitious forestry reform process including Policy and Legal Reforms. In 2006, the National Forestry Reform Law (NFRL) was made into law, providing the foundation for a revised process for concession allocation and management, and the re-structuring of the FDA. The NFRL was supported by the National Forest Policy and Strategy, and the FDA Ten Core Regulations. These documents were intended to support a #4 Cs# approach, giving equal balance to community, commercial, conservation and carbon aspects of forestry which has become an example for other countries. An additional law, the Community Rights Law with respect to Forest Lands (CRL), was passed in 2009. This law and its implementing regulations (finalized in June 2011) provide the basis for recognition and regulation of community forests.

The establishment of an international mechanism to compensate countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) offers an opportunity for Liberia to accomplish the common interest in managing its forests in a balanced way along the 4 Cs for long-term sustainable economic growth; to support the livelihood of local and rural communities; and to ensure that its important national and global environmental services (like biodiversity and carbon) are conserved.

The 4Cs of Liberia refer to Commercial Forests, Conservation Forests, Community Forests, and Conservation and REDD+.

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

Comment on follow up:

Follow-up activities will include the completion of REDD+ Readiness implementation that are underway including the SESA development, of a feedback and grievance redress mechanism, land cover and forest mapping and the production of base maps, the development of the national strategy and the process for hiring a consultant to develop the reference scenario is nearly completed. Communication and information dissemination is a continual and ongoing aspect of the work on REDD+.

Follow-up activities that are planned but still need to secure funding include the development of a monitoring system for carbon, safeguards/impacts, non-carbon benefits and carbon finance tracking, development of a registry for carbon finance, expansion of communication particularly at sub-national levels, national level dialogues on key REDD+ related aspects such as climate finance management, offsets related to mining and other sectors, forest governance and FLEGT, policy frameworks and other important areas. These activities can be possibly financed by the additional \$5.2 M grant from FCPF. While negotiations are underway to secure funding for phase ii investments additional financing is being sought from the FCPF to consolidate achievements in the \$3.8 Readiness grant and continue activities while the development of phase ii investments is ongoing.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

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Consultations on land-use options with GoL stakeholders

Baseline 0
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to 3
Date:
Date: 09/05/2014
Target Value: 4
Date: 06/30/2015

Consultations on on REDD+ strategy

Baseline 0
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to 2
Date:
Date: 09/05/2014
Target Value: 4
Date: 08/30/2015

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: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:
Date: 09/05/2014
Target Value: Yes
Date: 09/30/2015

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

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:
Date: 09/05/2014
Target Value: Yes
Date: 08/15/2015

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

Baseline No
Value:
Date: 06/29/2012
Progress to Partial
Date:
Date: 09/05/2014
Target Value: Yes
Date: 07/31/2015

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

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

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) operational, REDD+ consultancy firm at local, sub-national, and national level carried out
Actual Output: RTWG established and operational, consultations have been initiated at different levels and will continue as part of the participatory REDD+ process

Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ Strategy

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Finalized REDD+ strategy
Actual Output: Key REDD+ processes have been launched and a consultancy firm has been engaged to develop the REDD+ strategy.

Develop a reference level or scenario

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: National reference level or scenario (including forest cover mapping and inventory of priority areas) finalized
Actual Output: A consultancy firm has been engaged to carry out forest cover mapping and the procurement of a consultant to develop the reference scenario has been launched

Project Management

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: REDD+ Implementation Unit (RIU) formally established, key positions filled, and supporting implementation of REDD+ readiness activities.
Actual Output: RIU is operational and all positions have been filled and REDD+ Readiness activities are ongoing.

Comment on planned and actual Output

While significant progress has been achieved, the outbreak of ebola has meant that some activities will be put on hold in order to enable the government of Liberia to work towards controlling the outbreak. For example, the contracts for SESA and the REDD+ strategy were put on hold in September 2014 since consultations can not be carried out. The initial outputs such as inception reports have been completed.

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Comment on component implementation progress

The progress made on the implementation of REDD+ readiness components of the R-PP most relevant to this preparation grant, are summarized below as reported in the Mid-Term Report.

Component 1 Organize and Consult-Significant Progress

1a) National Readiness Management Arrangements-Significant Progress

1b) Stakeholder Consultation, Participation & Information Sharing-Process Initiated

Component 2 Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy

2a) Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance-Significant Progress

2b) REDD+ Strategy Options-Significant Progress

2c) REDD+ Implementation Framework-Process Initiated

2d) Social and Environmental Impacts-Process Initiated

Component 3 Develop Reference Emission Level/Reference Scenario-Process Initiated

Component 4 Monitoring Systems For Forests And Safeguards Design Measurement, Reporting and Verification-Process Initiated

4a) Emissions and Removals-Not Yet Demonstrating

4b) Other Benefits and Impacts-Process Initiated

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 Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those f

The FDA as the lead REDD+ Agency is coordinating different REDD+ initiatives and continuing to seek collaboration and complementarities among different sectors. The WB team is seeking to enhance collaborations with other sectors and initiatives to develop a more robust and multi-sector approach to the sustainable management of forests and reducing deforestation. For example, a joint multisectoral WB/IFC/GoL workshop was held in Monrovia in April in order to discuss the progress of the country's REDD+ agenda. This workshop was a milestone for Liberia since it was able to gather for two days all the main stakeholders involved in land use planning to discuss land use mapping under the REDD+ Strategy. Representatives of the pertinent public sector (Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, FDA, EPA, Land Commission, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, LISGIS), civil society organizations, international agencies, private companies working in the sectors (agriculture,

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mining, forestry and charcoal) identified as possible drivers of the country's deforestation and forest degradation were present at the event discussing land use options within the four uses of forest: community, conservation, carbon and commercial. The workshop was able to enhance key decision makers' understanding of cross-sector linkages between forestry, aggregate biodiversity offsets, natural resource governance, private sector engagement, tree crops, carbon finance, land administration and mapping, in order to address the drivers of deforestation. This was the first of a series of strategic discussions about land use options as more workshops are expected to occur for the preparation of the REDD+ Strategy. The WB has also been working with different sectors as well as with IFC on strategic engagements that support a common vision.

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

There have not been any significant technical design changes in the Grant activities.

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

Financial Management and Procurement processes of the WB were initially a cause of delays as the country team did not fully understand the processes. Once the problem was identified a series of capacity building sessions and trainings were conducted with national WB as well as FDA staff which greatly improved the delivery and progress of the grant and the REDD+ Readiness process overall.

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 SESA Working Group is established and providing oversight, the project finalized selection and contracting for the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), the SESA work plan was validated, There has been considerable governmental and non-governmental consultation facilitated by the RTWG, regarding the development of the SESA Roadmap and the Consultation & Participation Plan. This consultation has included discussion on timeframes, indicators, stakeholders and monitoring protocols, as well as linkages to the SES/SIS and project-level REDD+ safeguard monitoring.

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

The ESMF will be developed in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

Consultations with stakeholders continues as part of Liberia's commitment to a highly participatory process. The Civil Society REDD+ Forum continued its outreach by holding a session on the role of communities in forest management and REDD+ in Lofa County over the past year, convened by the Skills and Agriculture Development Services. A consultant has been recruited to work on the implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy and design of the activities are underway and will increase the accessibility of information electronically as well as dissemination of information more broadly. The RTWG is a knowledge hub of REDD+ in Liberia, providing a platform where all REDD+ actors (i.e. the associated affected parties, practitioners and specialists, government, private sectors, development partners and CSOs) activities are coordinated.

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	594,642.89	223,465.19
07/01/2014	12/31/2014	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00