

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA1223
Printed On: 08/24/2016

Reporting Period: 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TFOA1223

Congo Forest Carbon Partnership Facility - Additional Financing FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000242041 - Julian Lee
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Congo
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - GEN07
Grant Start Date / End Date	12/08/2015 to 06/30/2018
Original Grant Amount	5,200,000.00
Grant Amount	5,200,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,286,721.97 as of 06/30/2016
Disbursed 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016	1,286,721.97
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:

To reinforce the Republic of Congo's capacities to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and to inform the development of a national reference emissions level for REDD+.

Overall progress from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

Overall progress has been moderately satisfactory. While an advanced draft of the National REDD+ Strategy was prepared by the closing of the reporting period with the joint support of the FCPF and UN-REDD/UNDP, the document is still awaiting finalization. This is now expected in Q1 FY17. Following unsatisfactory performance by the contractor tasked with drafting the SESA and safeguards frameworks in the previous grant period, CN-REDD continued to develop the instruments with support from a Bank specialist, including by holding extensive consultations. However, contracting of a consultant to finalize the instruments was substantially delayed, such that completion of the instruments cannot be expected before Q2 FY17. The national reference emissions level was substantively completed and submitted to UNFCCC in Q3 FY16, and refinements are taking place throughout FY17 with the joint support of FCPF and UN-REDD/FAO.

Overall progress from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

Prioritization of key activities was lacking in the early phase of the grant, however this was gradually restored. Procurement has represented a continuous bottleneck to timely implementation, which has delayed several key activities. However, there were signs of improvement toward the end of Q4 FY16, which have carried over into FY17. The departure of the fiduciary agency's procurement specialist and financial manager in June and July 2016, respectively, posed additional challenges, however recruitment of successors was quickly launched and has since been completed.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up Bank project/loan/credit/grant

Comment on follow up:

In addition to the FCPF Carbon Fund, the Forest Investment Program, the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the Central African Forest Initiative are all lined up to provide REDD+ investments that will operationalize the preparation work carried out under this grant.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

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COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-stakeholder Consultations

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: CN-REDD is functional and equipped.
Actual Output: Some key procurement items have been delayed (internet, vehicles, office equipment), however these are now underway. REDD+ workshops continue

Contribution to the design of a national REDD+ strategy

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: National REDD+ infrastructure: strategy, SESA, ESMF
Actual Output: Draft national REDD strategy, draft SESA and national consultations

Informing the national reference scenario for REDD+

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: None planned
Actual Output: Reference scenario submitted to UNFCCC

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P124292 - CG - FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development, and Environment - CN-REDD
Contact: Georges Bounzdanga
Address: CN-REDD, Quartier OCH, pres de l'Hotel Florida
Phone: +242 06 66 67 321
Website:
Email: bouzgege@yahoo.fr

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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

Several initiatives (support to CACO-REDD, finalization of national REDD+ strategy, refinement of reference level) are being co-funded with UN-REDD. Financing from FIP, DGM, CAFI, GEF, and IDA is being coordinated to maximize success of the FCPF Carbon Fund-led Emissions Reductions Program.

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

Not applicable.

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

Greater emphasis on procurement appears to have borne fruit. A switch in the FEDP's procurement specialist provides an opportunity to further strengthen ties between the fiduciary agency and CN-REDD, and for improving speediness of processes. Performance of CN-REDD's procurement specialist is being closely monitored, including through assessments from FEDP and the Bank.

The annual workplan has been revised and streamlined, and clear priorities have been set.

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?

A draft SESA has been prepared, and extensive consultations have been carried out. An international consultant is being recruited to finalize the SESA.

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

A draft ESMF has been prepared, and extensive consultations have been carried out. An international consultant will soon be on board to finalize the ESMF.

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

CN-REDD uses the national CSO and indigenous peoples platform, CACO-REDD, for regular consultations and to share information. In addition, increased emphasis has been placed on consultations in the departments. Extensive field-based consultations have been held for the SESA. CN-REDD's Documentation Centre has been available for public disclosure of key documents since January 2013. A consultant to create the FGRM is being hired.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	1,286,721.97	1,286,721.97
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00