

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF014777
Printed On: 03/15/2018

Reporting Period: 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF014777

Lao PDR - FCPF REDD+ Readiness FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000269425 - Stephen Danyo
Approving Manager: 00000175113 - Christophe Crepin

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Laos
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9532 - GEN2B
Grant Start Date / End Date	08/11/2014 to 09/15/2018
Original Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,197,700.36 as of 06/30/2017
Disbursed 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017	1,234,492.53
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 contribute to Lao PDR's efforts to design and implement a sound national REDD+ strategy.

Key Results indicators include:

- a) Strengthened technical and institutional capacities, and human resources for effective management, implementation and coordination of REDD+ Programs, projects and policies with DOF and DFRM;
- b) Improved understanding and awareness of drivers of deforestation and degradation and of strategies to address them;
- c) An efficient, effective and equitable REDD+ management framework designed and validated nationally, including an Environmental and Social Management Framework;
- d) Appropriate social inclusion in REDD+ through consultations at the national, provincial, and especially the district and community levels; and
- e) Sub-national dialogue on REDD+ implementation.

Overall progress from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The Project Development Objective is to contribute to Lao PDR's effort to contribute to design and implement a sound national REDD+ strategy. This will help enable Lao PDR to become ready to participate in and benefit from the emerging performance-based payment system from REDD+ within the context of the UNFCCC. The activities aim to develop or enhance socially and environmentally sound policies and programs to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and internationally recognized reference emission level, generate forest carbon emission scenarios, and design technically robust systems of forest monitoring and emissions reporting. This Readiness Preparation grant support assists the GOL in preparing for a comprehensive National REDD+ strategy and setting up necessary instruments including the establishment of the national REDD+ Office in associated Technical Working Groups.

Overall progress from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

The last mission found that progress was moderately satisfactory for the FCPF and REDD+ Readiness operation as a whole. The mission noted that the project had accelerated work demonstrably over the past year and submitted a complete draft R Package in January 2018 covering a SESA, ESMF, Reference Emission Level, MRV design, and National REDD Strategy. An initial review of the package was favorable and it will be presented at the March 2018 PC meeting. The readiness operation works closely with the ER program national team, and has produced detailed provincial REDD action plans for the ER Program area. The REL and SESA both were noted for their high quality by the team. The Bank team also felt that the National REDD Strategy had a sound design for which feedback was provided for finalization.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

The objective of the grant is to assist the recipient to carry out the readiness preparation activities. The FCPF Participants' Committee approved Lao PDR's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and the Readiness Preparation grant of US\$3.6 million in November 2010 and signed in March 2014. The Readiness Preparation supports the GoL in preparing a comprehensive National REDD+ Strategy and setting up necessary instruments including the establishment of the National REDD+ Task Force associated Technical Working Groups and a national REDD+ Office, which facilitate improved inter agency and inter-ministerial coordination and implementation of all REDD+ activities and sustainable management of forest resources.

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

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Comment on follow up:

An additional funding grant has been proposed and was reviewed in December. The grant will continue activities under the original FCPF grant.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

The department of forestry (DOF) has proposed an extension from March 16, 2018 through around July 31, 2018. This would help to avoid a break in activities between the Original and AF operations. This would be especially important as the review of the R Package will take place in March at the next PC. It would also allow a small number of consultants to help with any revisions needed for the ERPD, submitted in January.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2016 to 06/30/2017

Through June 2017, the project developed drafts of a SESA, National REDD strategy, Reference Emissions Level, and ESMF. It also conducted 6 Provincial REDD action plans for the ERPD area and made contributions to the ERPD. Revised versions of each document were submitted in January 2018 for the team's review and an overview of progress is included in the REDD Readiness Package to be presented in March at the next PC meeting.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

There are no components defined for this trust fund / grant.

Comment on planned and actual Output

none

Comment on component implementation progress

There are no components in the project. However, overall progress on Readiness and the R Package progress was reviewed, along with an early draft of the ERDP document in the last mission. Meetings were held with Government counterparts and Development Partners (FAO, GIZ and JICA) to discuss the preparation of the Carbon Fund operation including detailed assessment of methodological requirements for readiness and the ER program. The draft national REDD+ strategy, ESMF, GRM, SESA and 6 provincial REDD action plans have been developed and reviewed by the Bank. Progress is strong but due to initial lag in progress in year 1, the overall project is rated MS. The Readiness Package was submitted in January 2018.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P125082 - LA-FCPF Implementation Support
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dept. of Forestry, REDD+ Office
Contact: Mr. Khamsene Ounekham
Address: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dept. of Forestry, REDD+ Office
Phone: +856 2054466829
Website: **Email:**

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

A National REDD+ Task Force (NRTF) was created in 2008. Since then, the government has worked with many development partners on REDD+ issues, including the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the Government of Finland, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

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

None indicated.

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

The main constraint has been on fiduciary issues including procurement. The national team benefitted from a strong TA contract that paired international experts with them. The government continues to seek international support because the starting point for REDD+ and broader climate change response capacity is characterized by significant financial, human, and technical constraints. Development partners have contributed roughly USD 65 million in the last ten years including the ongoing Forest Investment Program. Anticipated support through the Green Climate fund could increase this value to USD78 million. In addition to the government's own fiscal and indirect contribution.

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 grant is for readiness and there are no physical impacts. However, in preparation for the future a SESA and ESMF have been developed.

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

Yes. A draft ESMF has been submitted and the bank has provided comments for the revision.

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

The REDD+ Division under the Department of Forestry (DOF) in MAF serves as the secretariat to the NRTF, and to the six Technical Working Groups (TWGs), which provide advice to the NRTF on thematic areas of work under REDD+. Coordination on climate change (including REDD+) is also being strengthened including mainstreaming climate finance related reporting and monitoring between the forestry sector (DOF) and the climate change focal point (in MONRE). Through the multi-sectoral and multi-ministerial structure of the NRTF and the six TWGs, discussions and decisions related to REDD+ are consulted across different sectors; coordination is continuing to improve as a result. Consultations and decisions pertaining to the ER-Program have also been taken through both of these mechanisms. To date, information has been primarily provided through traditional means of consultation meetings. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes is ongoing as various elements of the National REDD+ Program have been under development, but further work on communication materials and uploading materials on the website is needed.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2014	12/31/2014	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	305,004.86	5,004.86
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	500,677.67	195,672.81
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	963,207.83	462,530.16
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	1,446,354.39	483,146.56
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	2,197,700.36	751,345.97
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	2,854,843.55	657,143.19
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	3,041,835.66	186,992.11
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00