



REDD+ Country Participant Completion Report Template for the Readiness Fund of the FCPF

About this template

The Grant Agreements for the Readiness Fund of the FCPF with the World Bank require the grant recipients to prepare and furnish to the World Bank a Completion Report in accordance with the provision of Section 2.06(b) (ii) of the Standard Conditions not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date of the grant. The REDD+ Country Participants who entered into a Grant Agreement with the World Bank should prepare the Completion Report using this template, and submit it to the World Bank Task Teams not later than six (6) months after the Closing Date of the grant.

Submission Date:

Project Name	Colombia FCPF REDD Readiness
Country	Colombia
Implementing Agency	Fondo Acción
Grant Objectives	to support a participatory and inclusive process with key stakeholders for the preparation of Colombia's REDD+ strategy.
Original Amount (US\$)	3.600.000
Revised Amount (US\$)	
Actual Disbursed (US\$)	3.600.000
Effectiveness Date	August 27 2015
Original Closing Date	March 31 2018
Actual Closing Date	January 30 2019

1. Overall Outcome and its Sustainability

The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) prepared by the Government of Colombia identified the necessary activities to strengthen Colombia's technical and institutional capacities to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism. The overall financial envelope needed for achieving REDD+ Readiness in Colombia has been estimated to US\$ 27.5 million. The FCPF Participants Committee approved Colombia's R-PP November 2013 and granted the Republic of Colombia a US\$3.6 million readiness preparation grant. The FCPF preparation process, however, was delayed and the grant was only signed on April 29, 2015. This delay was due to i) conditions made by the task team towards the counterpart (Ministry of the Environment) to implement initial consultation workshops before allocating the grant, and once those conditions were met subsequently ii) the need to clarify the legal and fiduciary arrangements between the World Bank, the Ministry of the Environment (MADS) and Fondo Acción, the grant executing entity. For this reason, some activities in the beginning were delayed, although the executing agency managed to fully implement the committed activities and the full disbursement of the grant by its closing date.

Overall implementation progress of this grant is considered Satisfactory. An additional grant (TF0A7032) has been given to the Recipient in the amount of USD 4.93 million that would contribute to consolidate achievements under the original grant and strengthen the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable

Development (MADS) capacity to transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation. The additional grant would finance the costs associated with scaling up and expanding Component 1 (Consultation and Participation) and Component 2 (Strategy preparation) of the existing Project and adding a new Component 3 (National Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards). This will support MADS in (i) strengthening ongoing participatory processes, by building the capacity of the indigenous and afro-Colombian population, civil society and forestry sector organizations, thus increasing their engagement in the REDD+ process; (ii) creating appropriate conditions at an institutional, technical and operative levels to enable the ultimate implementation of the REDD+ Strategy to halt deforestation in active deforestation hotspots, (iii) continuing the establishment of a robust national forest monitoring system, by implementing a protocol for community monitoring that allows to reinforce tracking of the drivers and agents of deforestation; (iv) and establishing a Safeguards Information System. It is also proposed that the original Grant's Project Development Objective (PDO) be modified, given the expanded scope of REDD+ readiness activities, and that the additional grant be implemented over a period of two years. The new PDO reads "Strengthen the enabling conditions for REDD+ Strategy (EICDGB) implementation".

The Recipient prepared and delivered biannual reports by the agreed dates and the requirements established in the Standard Conditions of the Grant Agreement. Reports have shown the gradual accomplishments of the purposes of the grant. A final Report was submitted on March 15, 2019.

2. Outcome of each Readiness Grant Activity

Component 1: REDD+ Readiness Organization and Consultation

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory

Planned Output: ENREDD Strategy.

Actual Output: Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management (Estrategia Integral de Control de Deforestación y Gestión de Bosques – EICDGB). The REDD+ Strategy Financing Strategy; Participation Plan have been finalized.

Subcomponent 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements

Under this component, the FCPF supports the Ministry of Environment (MADS) by strengthening it with a team of multi-disciplinary experts to coordinate and support the design of the REDD+ strategy.

- MADS and the implementing agency Fondo Accion have consolidated a team of experts that supported the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy. 60 technical experts were hired to prepare National REDD+ Strategy, as well as to provide support to the Ministry and the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies – IDEAM in things related to the AFOLU GHG inventory and the Causes and Drivers of Deforestation.
- Among the international REDD+ related meetings attended by MADS representatives are: The Global Landscape Forum, Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), FCPF Participants Assembly (PA10; PA11)/ Participants Committee (PC24; PC 25; PC26), TFA 2020 Latin American Regional Meeting; Bonn Climate Change Conference, 13th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13); CMNUCC/ AILAC/coordination meeting of the G77+China; COP 14 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt); COP24 Climate Change (Katowice, Poland).
- Finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy - Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management.
- Grievance and Redress Mechanism designed and operational, under the Ministry of Environment's Grievance System.

- Transparency and Anticorruption Mechanism formulated.
- Communications Strategy designed and with the following products: i) construction and design of a webpage www.bosquesterritoriosdevida.com; ii) photography contest “El resto es Selva”, photograph exhibition and book published; iii) “Relatos Pacifico” Briefcase published and the production of 5 Audio-stories; iv) Journalist School developed in the Amazon and Pacific regions; v) Specials published in the national newspapers - El Tiempo, El Espectador, El Colombiano; Deforestation Special for Semana Magazine; free press in 9 Media; vi) Production of 6 videos of the REDD+ Strategy and its formulation process.

1b. Stakeholder consultation and participation

This component supports a highly participatory process with key stakeholders, especially Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombian communities, and campesinos, at the regional and national levels in the process of designing the national REDD+ strategy. The grant strengthens participatory platforms and funds the consultation processes. During this grant reporting period, the following have been achieved:

- The REDD+ consultation process included 205 consultation workshops reaching 7.596 participants representing afro-Colombia, indigenous and campesino communities in five eco-regions: Amazon, Pacific, Andes, Caribbean, Orinoquia between 2015 and 2019. 39% of participants have been women. Participants have also included National and regional environmental authorities, Climate Change Regional Nodes, technical teams of the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, IDEAM, Municipalities and regional Governments, NGOs, and Civil Society.
- During the reporting period strengthened participation platforms and processes include: Women’s Platform AsoManos Negra, Climate Change Regional Nodes (Eje Cafetero, Antioquia, Noranino, Centro Oriente Andino, Orinoquia, Amazonía Pacifico Sur, Pacífico Norte, Caribe e Insular); Forestry Round tables (Caquetá, Guaviare, Santander, Antioquia); Campesino Reserves National Association– ANZORC; and continuous dialogues with the 4 Indigenous communities of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.
- Formulation of six (6) regional Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy.
- Additionally, the following instances were created: National REDD+ Forests Round Table; Environmental and Afro-communities Rights Round Table; Indigenous rights Round Table (Pacific region); Impulse Commission for the creation of the National Indigenous Environmental Commission – CNAI.
- The preparation of a Participation and Consultation Plan based on national legal framework, and in collaboration with afro-Colombian, indigenous and campesino communities of the Pacific, Caribbean, Amazon, Orinoquia, Andes, Antioquia and Coffee triangle regions.

Component 2: Assessment of social and environmental impact

Under this component, the FCPF supports the continuation of the SESA process in Colombia, through the implementation and preparation of the SESA Work plan and building on the early consultations in the Amazon, Pacific, Orinoquia and Caribbean regions.

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory

Planned Output: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Actual Output: SESA process concluded in four regions (Amazon, Pacific, Orinoquia and Caribbean), The ESMF has been finalized and it includes the Institutional Safeguards Framework.

- SESA Document finalized. It collects the identification of the environmental and social risks and benefits from the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (EICDGB), the main drivers of deforestation per region, and the policies, actions and measures prioritized by communities. Additionally, the National ESFM was developed. The document collects information on the assessment of the social and environmental risks associated to the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy, mitigation and control actions, the WB Safeguards and operational policies triggered. The ESFM includes the Institutional Safeguards Framework that points out the competent entities and their roles in the implementation of the REDD Safeguards of Cancun and their national interpretation.
- The REDD+ Feedback and Grievance Mechanism was designed and under implementation. It allows the citizens to access to accurate information and to express concerns regarding the implementation of the REDD Strategy and any other REDD+ initiative. It also allows Government to have a better control, accounting records and transparency in processes and procedures. The Mechanism receives complaints regarding the implementation, respect or omission of safeguards.

Component 3: Program monitoring and evaluation framework

Under this component, the grant covers the third-party independent audits as required by WB procedures.

Implementation Rating: Satisfactory

Planned Output: External Audits

Actual Output: There are no pending audits.

External Audit were done for the periods: 2015 (Fondo Acción Tax Audit); 01/01/2016-12/31/2016; 01/01/2017-12/31/2017; 01/01/2018-01/31/2019.

All audits have been satisfactory to the World Bank.

Main Lessons learned:

The main challenges encountered during the readiness preparation, and that were fully overcome, were (i) the articulation of the FCPF, GIZ and ONUREDD + projects for the successful formulation of the EICDGB; (ii) awareness-raising work with the afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, rural producers and settlers from all regions of the country (Pacific, Amazon, Orinoquia, Caribbean, Andean, Antioquia and Coffee Triangle); (iii) to gain and rebuild trust bonds between local communities and the government to build spaces for dialogue and participation; and (iv) to achieve all the expected results of the project.

The understanding of the REDD+ concept is no longer one of the challenges for Colombia and its rural communities. At the beginning, it was noticed that the REDD+ concept and its benefits was complicated to explain, but committed and patient work was done with the different stakeholders, considering their cultural background, ethnicity and particularities. The high deforestation levels, combined with severe El Nino and La Nina events, are giving a warning on the need to understand the emergency of embracing to actions that will contribute to REDD+ initiative.

As the main target of the EICDGB are the local communities, a strong communication strategy was developed and in place contributing significantly to build awareness regarding the sustainable use of forests and land use practices.

On the Government's side, deforestation control has been a priority for the past years, and a multisectoral approach is now the way of tackling this issue. Several attempts to control deforestation and to create the enabling conditions for a sustainable use of the forests have been led by the Ministry of Environment alone, unsuccessful results so far, are the basis to change the approach and to bring on other Ministries, and public and private stakeholders. Many things have been learnt from the past the obstacles and now the engagement and coordination are becoming a reality.

3. Project Cost by Readiness Grant Activity

Activities	Amount at Approval (US\$)	Actual at Project Closing (US\$)	Percentage of Approval
Activity 1 REDD+ Readiness Organization, Consultation and Grievance Redress	2,850,000	2,818,372	98.9%
Activity 2 Assessment of Social and Environmental Impacts	630,000	738,261	117%
Activity 3 Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	120,000	43,367	36%