

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A0929
Printed On: 10/01/2019

Reporting Period: 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF0A0929

Liberia REDD+ Readiness Preparation Additional Funding FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000345871 - Neeta Hooda
Approving Manager: 00000163235 - Maria Sarraf

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Liberia
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - SAFE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	09/15/2015 to 07/15/2020
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	4,570,172.37 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	2,333,940.14
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 for the additional funding remains unchanged: to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of the different land use options for development of the national REDD+ Strategy for Liberia, to be approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee.

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The team assesses that grant development objective will be achieved.

With the support of the REDD+ Readiness Grant and also from Norway, Liberia is now moving towards achieving REDD+ Readiness and utilizing innovative approaches to protect its forests, including in order to contribute to its achievement of carbon reduction targets set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), under the UNFCCC and to enhance livelihoods of forest dependent communities. Liberia started conceptualizing two jurisdictional ER Programs in the landscapes that are target areas for investments under the Norway-funded Liberia Forest Sector Project (the South East landscape (focused on the Sapo landscape) and the North West landscape (focused on the Gola landscape) - the first step is preparation of the ER Program Action Plans (ongoing). Liberia has prepared a national FREL and intends to submit to the UNFCCC before the January 2020 deadline, with a presentation planned at the UNFCCC COP in Chile. Update of the Liberia Forest Atlas (in cooperation with the World Resources Institute) has been completed, with various documents related to community forests and protected areas now available as in built files in the Atlas. The Safeguards Information System was completed and launched, available as an open-access resource. The FGRM for national REDD+ was developed and validated. Development of a functional MRV system is ongoing.

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

Implementation of the grant has been moderately satisfactory - key activities and consultancies are ongoing, yet are experiencing moderate delays. These delays necessitated an extension of the grant by 12 months, which was approved by the FCPF and the Bank.

Liberia made satisfactory efforts in addressing issues that were identified as requiring special focus in the endorsement of its Readiness Package (R-Package) by the PC:

-#Further promote and strengthen the engagement of the private sector through appropriate incentives in key commodity supply chains and at the local level for incentivizing community enterprise development. As part of the investments avenues around commodities that will also support community livelihoods are being explored.

- Continue to maintain and enhance the multi sectoral coordination platforms created at the national, sub national and local levels for REDD+ readiness while ensuring sustainability by anchoring these platforms in national policy framework in relevant institutions: The established national multisectoral platforms, such as the National Climate Change Steering Committee, the REDD+ Technical Working Group, the REDD+ Safeguards Group, and the Environment Sector Working Group, have been successfully maintained;

- Complete the next steps for developing a functional National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and the SIS, REDD+ registry and FGRM, as planned: Work is well underway (NFMS and REDD+ Registry) or completed (SIS and FGRM) for developing these systems / mechanisms as described below.

- Integrate assessment of forest degradation as part of the approach to establishing a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL): Assessment of forest degradation is an element of the ongoing construction of the FREL.

- Develop an appropriate benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+, taking into consideration existing benefit sharing arrangements nationally and lessons learnt from such arrangements: development of the appropriate benefit sharing will be initiated as part of development of the jurisdictional Emission Reductions programs (ER Programs)

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- Consider developing an Emission Reductions Program to demonstrate results based payments in the near future: Liberia has initiated development of ER Programs in the two target landscapes of the Liberia Forest Sector Project investments, these are the South East landscape (focused around Sapo National Park) and the North West landscape (focused around Gola Forest National Park).

Liberia has developed its draft Reference Level (RL), and is refining it using information from the updated National Forest Inventory and nationally derived emission factors.

Current grant disbursements stand at 91.4 percent, with the remaining balance committed in signed contracts. The grant will be fully utilized.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

The objective of the Additional Grant is to carry out a consultative and quantitative analysis of different land use options for development of the national REDD+ strategy for Liberia to be approved by the National Climate Change Steering Committee. The Additional Readiness Preparation Activities consist of the following components:

Component 1: Support the coordination of the REDD+ readiness process and consultations

Activities under this component will support the coordination of the REDD+ readiness process and consultations, including: building the capacity of various agencies involved in REDD+ coordination including the NCCSC; supporting the continued strengthening of civil society platforms to ensure broad stakeholder engagement in the REDD+ process at the national and county levels; building the capacity of the various agencies involved in monitoring and evaluating the REDD+ programs; analyzing options for channeling climate finance and building the capacity of relevant agencies to effectively manage the financial flows from such climate finance; conducting further consultations on targeted issues related to REDD+ development; and analyzing and consolidating relevant experiences from existing pilots of natural resources based FGRMs in Liberia and lessons from REDD+ demonstration areas.

Component 2: Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy (including design of Emission Reductions Program)

Activities under this component will contribute to the design of the national REDD+ strategy, including: finalizing and validating the national REDD+ strategy by, inter alia, carrying out the necessary assessments including on strategic options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and relevant legal and regulatory frameworks for REDD+; supporting the establishment and operationalization of a REDD+ registry system; and supporting the design of an emission reductions program through, inter alia, designing a benefit sharing arrangement, FGRM and monitoring systems for the program.

Component 3: Support the development of a reference emission level, MRV system, and indicators for information system on safeguards and co-benefits

Activities under this component will support the development of a reference emission level and MRV system, including: supporting the development, refinement, and validation of national reference emission level by, inter alia, conducting necessary analyses, and carrying out a national forest inventory; designing, operationalizing, and testing an MRV system through, inter alia assessing the linkages between the MRV system with existing, subnational monitoring systems; building capacity of relevant implementing agencies to manage and update the MRV; and developing specific indicators for an information system on safeguards and co-benefits.

Component 4: Project Management

Activities under this component will support, inter alia, supervision, monitoring and evaluation, preparation of readiness package, management of Additional Readiness Preparation Activities, financial management and audits, and monitoring and updating the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), as necessary.

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

Comment on follow up:

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The Liberia Forest Sector Project (US\$37.5 million) builds heavily on REDD+ Readiness processes. This project funded through a single country Trust Fund from NIFCI (Norway) was approved in April 2016 and has a closing date of June 2020. Norway also committed to purchase emissions reductions from REDD+ if generated, monitored, and properly verified; the FCPF grant supports preparation of potential ER Programs.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

A 12-month extension of the grant was requested by the Government of Liberia in October 2018. This was approved in November 2018. The current closing date of the Grant is January 15, 2020.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019

See grant specific outcomes indicators below.

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

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

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Date: Yes (National REDD+ Strategy prepared and endorsed by the National Climate Change Steering Committee in June 2017; it formed part of Liberia's R-Package endorsed in September 2017)

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target value achieved prior to start of the reporting period)

Date: 01/15/2019

2. Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is finalized and validated by relevant stakeholders

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Date: Yes (The ESMF was prepared as a result of the SESA process, consulted upon and validated; it formed part of Liberia's R-Package endorsed in September 2017)

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target value achieved prior to start of the reporting period)

Date: 01/15/2019

3. Quantitative analysis of land use in forested and mixed agricultural lands prepared and validated by the national stakeholders

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Date: Yes (as part of the National REDD+ Strategy, see above)

Date:

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Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target value achieved prior to start of the reporting period)

Date: 01/15/2019

4. Consultations on REDD+ Strategy conducted (at county level)

Baseline 0

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to 9 (nine consultations specifically on REDD+ Strategy were conducted; other consultations were conducted as part of the SESA process and on other elements of REDD+ Readiness)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: 8 (target value achieved prior to start of the reporting period)

Date: 01/15/2019

5. Consultations on land-use options with GoL and stakeholders (at county level)

Baseline 0

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to 2 (two consultations specifically on land use were conducted; other consultations were conducted as part of the SESA process and on other elements of REDD+ Readiness). Further consultations on land use supported under the follow on operation - the LFSP.

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: 4

Date: 01/15/2019

6. Quantified Reference Emissions Level (REL) prepared and validated by the REDD+ Technical Working Group

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (preparation of the REL using country-specific data, based on the national forest inventory, is ongoing)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target date changed to the new grant closing date)

Date: 01/15/2020

7. Emission Reduction Program designed for a targeted forest landscape to pilot REDD+ Strategy and key aspects of readiness implementation framework

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (jurisdictional boundaries for the two ER Programs determined; further elaboration of Action Plans ongoing)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target date changed to the new grant closing date)

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Date: 01/15/2020

8. Measurement, Reporting and Verification system for REDD+ is designed

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to No (design and development of the MRV system, including strengthening of local capacities for managing the system, is ongoing)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target date changed to the new grant closing date)

Date: 01/15/2020

9. Information system for co-benefit / safeguards established

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Yes (Liberia's Safeguards Information System completed and operational)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target date changed to the new grant closing date)

Date: 01/15/2020

10. Readiness package prepared and finalized

Baseline No

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to Yes (Liberia's R-Package was endorsed by the FCPF PC in September 2017)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: Yes (target value achieved prior to start of the reporting period)

Date: 01/15/2019

11. Government institutions provided with capacity building support to improve management of forest resources

Baseline 0

Value:

Date: 07/15/2015

Progress to 3 (these are Forestry Development Authority (both at central and decentralized level), Environmental Protection Agency, and LISGIS)

Date:

Date: 06/30/2019

Target Value: 6 (target date changed to the new grant closing date)

Date: 01/15/2020

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COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

1. Support the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness process and consultations

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Continuous support to the NCCSC, RTWG, and REDD+ Safeguards WG; M&E function maintained; Forest Atlas updated to incorporate monitoring functions
Actual Output: As planned. See below for details.

2. Contribute to the design of the national REDD+ Strategy (including design of Emission Reductions Program)

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: ER Program design ongoing; FGRM design completed; forest household survey completed.
Actual Output: Moderate delays: FGRM and forest household survey completed; ER Programs design being initiated. See below for details.

3. Support development of a reference emission level, MRV system, and indicators for information system on safeguards and cobenefits

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Land cover map updated; NFI, FREL and MRV design completed; SIS design completed.
Actual Output: Moderate delays: land cover map updated; oDraft FREL completed; being revised with national Emission factors; other outputs under implementation. See below for details.

4. Project management

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: REDD+ implementation unit (RIU) operational
Actual Output: As planned. See below for details.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Overall, activities are progressing under each component. It is expected that the activities will be completed within the grant lifetime.

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1:

The National Climate Change Steering Committee was reconvened and held a regular meeting, supported by the grant. The REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG) had an organized retreat to reposition the group to suit the current status of progress in REDD+ readiness. The REDD+ Safeguards working group continued being actively involved in the process of formulating indicators for and design of the safeguards information system and in the validation of the national FGRM for REDD+. The update of the Forest Atlas (in partnership with the World Resources Institute) was completed # it is expected to improve monitoring capabilities at the Forestry Development Authority. <https://lbr.forest-atlas.org/>
Following the 49-member technical sector specific stakeholders# validation of the national forest definition, FDA Board endorsed Liberia#s national forest definition for REDD+ in December 2018.

Component 2:

The Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) is one of the major milestones for FCPF recipient countries. In fulfilment and compliance of this, the Government of Liberia has developed and validated an FGRM for REDD+. Initial discussions on the appropriate design of the Emission Reductions Programs (two programs in the two target landscapes of the Liberia Forest Sector Project) have started and the Government of Liberia has contracted an organization to support development of initial Action Plans for these ER Programs # this work is at the inception phase.
Data collection for the first national forest survey (in a representative sample of forest-dependent communities) was

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completed - the objective of the survey is to analyze dependence on forest resources, in support of policy- and decision-making. Preparation of the report is ongoing; it is expected to be launched in December 2019. Data collection was led by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS).

Component 3:

As Liberia has only recently formally endorsed a new national forest definition, an earlier produced forest cover map required an update # this update was completed during the reporting period. To ensure that the entire MRV system setup and functionality is made efficient, the Forestry Development Authority entered a Technical Assistance agreement with the FAO to support the MRV system setup process. FAO support (under two formal agreements, one under the FPCF grant and another under the Liberia Forest Sector Project) covers the National Forest Inventory, the Forest Emissions Reference Level, and the MRV system. NFI was completed; and FREL revision is underway.

Liberia's safeguards information system was developed, operationalized and piloting using two ongoing REDD+ projects in Liberia. It is publicly accessible at <https://liberia-redd-sis.info/>

#

Component 4:

The REDD+ Implementation Unit (at the Forestry Development Authority) is fully functional and leading implementation of REDD+ Readiness activities. The REDD+ Implementation Unit is also responsible for implementation of the REDD+ Communication Strategy.

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:	Forestry 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

Several CSOs are engaged in various initiatives which are complementary to the national REDD+ Readiness activities and are thereby continually offering useful lessons and insights to guide and strengthen the national REDD+ Readiness process. As an example, a REDD+ project implemented by the Fauna and Flora International in Gola served as a pilot project for the Safeguards Information System. CSOs are active members in the REDD+ Technical Working Group and the REDD+ Safeguards Working Group.

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

At the design stage, it was envisaged that preparation of the ER Programs will advance further with the FCPF grant support, which would require better definition of the appropriate benefit sharing arrangements. As the ER Programs are at a fairly rudimentary stage, development of the benefit sharing plan (planned under Component 3) is premature and will not be undertaken with grant support.

Under Component 2, a new activity was added, relating to a conduct of a first ever national forest household survey - using a nationally representative sample of forest-dependent communities. The objective of this survey is to analyze dependence of rural populations on forest resources, in support of policy- and decision-making.

Also under Component 2, work related to the REDD+ Registry will be limited to the scoping, not fully-fledged development.

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

The grant financing provides support to key management capacity activities aimed at the Forestry Development Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, and LISGIS. The Bank team also provides technical support as needed to the Government of Liberia team.

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?

SESA was conducted in accordance with the Common Approach. SESA was prepared, including through a series of consultations, and validated. Six short case study reports on drivers of deforestation were also produced as part of the SESA process.

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

Yes.

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

There are various working groups - the REDD+ Technical Working Group and the REDD+ Safeguards Working Groups; their meetings are held regularly. The preparation of the REDD+ Strategy and conduct of the SESA have been highly participatory in nature. The National REDD+ Communication Strategy aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the REDD+ Strategy in Liberia by enhancing collaboration between key partners, increasing the visibility of the REDD+ program, supporting a consultation process and promoting a common understanding of REDD+ across all levels of interventions. The Communication Strategy was developed and approved in May 2015. Its implementation is ongoing.

The FGRM for Liberia REDD+ was developed and validated by the stakeholders.

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	300,000.00	300,000.00
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	727,984.93	427,984.93
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	937,755.69	209,770.76
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	1,250,897.59	313,141.90
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	2,236,232.23	985,334.64
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	3,630,520.62	1,394,288.39

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07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00