

# World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF018492  
Printed On: 10/01/2019

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

Assignment: TF018492

## Belize Readiness Preparation Proposal - Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

### FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000371036 - Maja Murisic  
Approving Manager: 00000253690 - Valerie Hickey

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Belize
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9272 - SLCEN
Grant Start Date / End Date	03/14/2017 to 06/30/2021
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	996,335.25 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	581,069.92
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 assist the Recipient in carrying out the Readiness Preparation Activities.

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

##### Comment:

The progress towards achieving the grant objective (which is to strengthen Belize's capacity to participate in future REDD+ carbon payment transactions) is moderately satisfactory despite facing several challenges, including generally low levels of understanding of REDD+ among the stakeholders, delayed project approval and initiation of activities, gaps in project management and oversight, and initially insufficient stakeholder engagement and participation, among others. Even though the tangible outcomes are yet to be achieved, the early implementation efforts are already resulting in establishment of robust and accurate data, which will, in turn, serve as a solid basis for accelerating subsequent activities.

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

##### Comment:

Despite the initial project delay, the implementation of REDD+ Preparation Grant has seen significant progress, in particular in the last 6 months.

Technical implementation involved key activities such as the completion of the Collect Earth training in Rome and a subsequent training in Belize, followed by data collection and analysis. This activity led to the generation of the report on Land Use and Land Use Change (LULUC) of Belize in late 2018. The project also produced and mobilized the draft REDD+ communication strategy.

Several short-term consultants were hired including the Legal Analyst and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Expert. The project also mobilized its PSC and completed its first annual audit. The main challenges encountered in this regard are due to long processes of the TORs development and related procurement processes.

Another noteworthy achievement is the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Desk in February 2019, which serves as the catalyst for facilitating feedback from various indigenous groups on activities related to REDD+. The desk also functions as a focal point for dissemination of information and to aid in enabling planning engagement with communities.

### Grant follow-up and structure

#### Description and context of Grant:

Belize has developed a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) which consists of an initial assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, terms of reference for defining their emissions reference level based on past emission rates and future emissions estimates, proposed activities to establish a monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD+, and actions for integrating environmental and social considerations into the REDD+ Readiness process. Belize submitted the R-PP to the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in July 2013 and was selected into the FCPF as one of the Qualified Eligible REDD Countries. Subsequently, the World Bank signed a Country Participation Agreement with Belize in October 2014 to assist in the Readiness Preparation process. The revised R-PP was cleared by the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) in March 2015.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to assist Belize in carrying out key Readiness Preparation activities in order to strengthen their capacity to participate in future REDD+ carbon payment transactions. The project is being implemented under five components, including four main technical components and a fifth supporting project monitoring and evaluation, that include:

# Component 1: REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress.

# Component 2: Preparation of REDD+ Strategy.

# Component 3: Development of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level.

# Component 4: Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems.

# Component 5: Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

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The R-PP remains relevant to Belize's National Development Framework (Horizon 2030) and its Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2019), supports the country's obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as achievement of objectives of several national and sub-national policies, plans and programs, including the National Forest Policy (2015). It also aligns with the WB Country Partnership Agreement (2018-2022) and the FCPF's strategic objectives.

**Expected follow up (if any):** Expanded capacity

### Comment on follow up:

Through the development of a National REDD+ Implementation Framework, including a National REDD+ Policy, carbon rights, capacity building programs for the REDD+ Strategy options, the grant is expected to result in significantly increased capacity of government institutions to manage REDD process, as well as to improve management of forest resources overall.

### End Date of Last Site Visit:

### Restructuring of Grant:

N/A

## OUTCOME

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

Project did not achieve the performance targets set at design, however significant progress was made on several sub-activities. Despite implementation delays, a key success factor that contributed to the results reported was the technical partnerships forged between project staff, and the Forest Department, externally supported projects that led to several key achievements associated with components 1 to 4.

### Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

#### Development of a National REDD+ Implementation Framework (yes/no)

Baseline	No
Value:	
Date:	03/14/2017
Progress to	No
Date:	
Date:	09/24/2019
Target Value:	Yes
Date:	12/31/2020

#### Government institutions provided w/ capacity building to improve management of forest resources (number)

Baseline	0
Value:	
Date:	03/14/2017
Progress to	2
Date:	
Date:	09/24/2019
Target Value:	TBD

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Date: 12/31/2020

### Direct project beneficiaries (number)

Baseline 0

Value:

Date: 03/14/2017

Progress to 555

Date:

Date: 09/24/2019

Target Value: TBD

Date: 12/31/2020

### Female beneficiaries (percentage)

Baseline 0%

Value:

Date: 03/14/2017

Progress to 34%

Date:

Date: 09/24/2019

Target Value: 30%

Date: 12/31/2020

## COMPONENTS

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

## Comment on planned and actual Output

### Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress

Component 1 has made advancements, in particular, in regard to the stakeholders engagement (including through the operationalization of the Indigenous Peoples Desk and agreed modality for further engagement through Indigenous Technical Team). The process for the establishment of a Technical Working Group to provide guidance to the Indigenous Peoples in the review of technical documents relating to the Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM), Benefit Sharing Mechanism, etc. During the past year, the REDD+ CU has engaged in a great deal of outreach and awareness raising with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Against this backdrop, the project also produced and mobilized the draft REDD+ communication strategy. Lastly, a Project Officer joined the REDD+ Co-ordination Unit (REDD+ CU) in June 2019 to provide monitoring and other support for the project.

Component 2: Preparation of REDD+ Strategy:

An activity covering in-depth analysis of synergies and/or conflicts among various sector policies and strategies, including an analysis of REDD+ international framework/requirements, analysis of Institutional framework and stakeholders mapping, analysis of Legal Framework on REDD+ to recommend on the REDD+ Coordination Mechanism is ongoing. In addition, the REDD+ Coordination Unit is currently finalizing a SESA work plan following the feedback received during the SESA launch workshop which took place in June 2019. The SESA-related activities are expected to accelerate shortly. The Project has also made advancement in regard to the terms of references for the land tenure study/activities after consulting them with relevant national stakeholders, including the representatives of indigenous peoples. The TORs are expected to be finalized in October 2019 and the work will be initiated shortly thereafter. Several short-term consultants were hired including the Grievance

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Redress Mechanism (GRM) Expert.

Component 3: Development of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level:

Even though the planned activities under Component 3 experienced some delays due to lengthy procurement processes, they are advancing well with the contract for the consultancy for the preparation of a 2017 LULC map of Belize based on Sentinel 2 imagery recently being initiated. The analysis of all the activity data information to enhance understanding of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with focus on the hot spots took place. The ongoing procurement process for Emission Factors Analysis and Reference Emissions Level has seen progress, though the scope of work may have to be reconsidered since some of the activities already took place with support from other initiatives/projects.

Component 4: Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems:

A re-stratification exercise was conducted to select the additional sampling plots which will be added to the existing network in Belize and the development of comprehensive methodology for the other land use classes. The process of establishing several additional sampling plots to ascertain the emissions factor for different land uses across the country is commencing soon. The methodology for these plots were discussed during the working group sessions conducted in July 2019 with representatives from the FD, NCCO and REDD+ CU among others.

Component 5: Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:

The main achievement under this component is the effective mobilization of the Project Steering Committee. The project has also completed its annual audit and is in the process of finalizing the mid-term review report.

## EXECUTION

### Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P152415 - BZ FCPF REDD Readiness
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

### Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	MAFFESD		
Contact:	Percival Cho, CEO, MAFFESD		
Address:	H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Blvd., Belmopan City, Belize C.A.		
Phone:	5016018037	Email:	
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 grant activities are being closely coordinated with other WB projects (e.g. KBAs), Government-led activities in the area, as well as other development partners# initiative (e.g. GiZ).

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

There have been no changes in the technical design of the project in the last year. That said, following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, a review of Belize's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019, and National Environmental Action Plan 2015-2025, an assessment of the R-PP was carried out and related #roadmap# was proposed. The roadmap in essence represented a prioritization exercise and focused on a need to first update the database related to the forestry sector for which reasons these activities were prioritized in the activities timeline.

In addition, changes regarding the approach in carrying out the Grant activities mostly related to the stakeholders# engagement by which the project has been increasing its adaptive management to stakeholder engagement. An example is with ingenious peoples where an Indigenous Peoples Desk was instituted to improve channels of communication with the IP communities and an ITT was established with a consultant of their choice to be hired to support IP engagement in REDD+ technical matters.

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

The governmental agencies in charge of forest management are generally understaffed and are sometimes lacking capacity and awareness on REDD+ process. Even though the grant is still in early implementation phases, an important achievement so far has been an improved understanding of REDD+ within the Forestry Department, the NCOO, the MAFFESD, the University of Belize, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, which are all considered to be important national stakeholders in the context of Belize.

### 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?

In June 2019, the PIU hosted the SESA Launch Workshop for the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Project. The workshop covered an introduction to REDD+ and what can be expected during the Readiness phase, an overview of World Bank Safeguards, presentation of SESA activities and break-out sessions to gather feedback from stakeholders on SESA related activities. The REDD+CU is in the process of finalizing the SESA work plan based on the feedback received (expected to be completed by the end of September 2019). The SESA TOR, in accordance with the Common Approach is being finalized as well (expected to be completed by mid-October 2019).

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

The preparation of ESMF, in accordance with the Common Approach, is yet to be initiated.

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

Despite initial challenges, the REDD+CU made good progress thus far with respect to national-level awareness-raising and public education on climate change and the REDD+ process in Belize. Going forward, the additional focus will be placed on developing stakeholder-focused communications materials.

Given that the REDD+CU has already started to receive grievances and requests for information, it was agreed to develop interim FGRM procedures to be followed during the Readiness Phase. Such procedures are being finalized at the moment. In addition, the work on developing the FGRM for the REDD+ implementation phase will be finalized by November 2019.

## DISBURSEMENTS

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## Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	415,265.33	115,265.33
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	671,518.15	256,252.82
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	996,335.25	324,817.10
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
01/01/2021	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00