

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

Report to Donor

Ref. TF018492  
Printed On: 03/01/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF018492

## Belize REDD+ Readiness Preparation GRANT

### FCPF - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000371036 - Maja Murisic  
Approving Manager: 000000253690 - 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 12/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	\$2,284,556 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020	\$1,288,220.35
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 Grant Objective is to assist Belize in carrying out Readiness Preparation through a participatory and inclusive process in order to strengthen their capacity to participate in future REDD+ carbon payment transactions.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

The implementation of the REDD+ Grant has seen significant progress during this reporting period. This progress is demonstrated in a significant increase in the disbursement rate which in June 2020 was at 60%. Even though a number of 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 and assisting Belize in meeting its climate objectives through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

The Grant has made progress toward achieving its objective at an advanced level under Component 1 (REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress), 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) and Component 5 (Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). Component 2 (Preparation of REDD+ Strategy) has experienced some delays.

#### Grant follow-up and structure

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.

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):

N/A

#### End Date of Last Site Visit:

March 4, 2020 given COVID-19 related travel constraints for which reason the next site visits are planned to be conducted virtually.

#### Restructuring of Grant:

The Government of Belize sent a request for restructuring/extension of the closing date until December 31, 2021 which the Bank is expected to process and decide on in July 2020. The rationale for this request is a consideration that is not feasible to complete some activities and in particular SESA, land tenure assessment and benefit sharing plan before the original closing date (December 31, 2020). Given that these activities will provide critical inputs for development and finalization of the REDD+

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Strategy for the Project to be successfully implemented and completed, the extension of the Project closing date by 12 months and related changes to the implementation schedule were sought.

## OUTCOME

### Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

The Grant has made progress toward achieving its objective at an advanced level under Component 1 (REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress), 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) and Component 5 (Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). Component 2 (Preparation of REDD+ Strategy) has experienced some delays.

### Grant Outcome Indicators

N/A

## COMPONENTS

### Comment on planned and actual Output

Please see below detailed comments on the planned and actual outputs for each of the components.

### Comment on component implementation progress

Summary of the implementation status for each of the components is as follows:

- a) Component 1 has made advancements, including through the operationalization of an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Desk and the establishment of Technical Expert Group (TEG) to facilitate meaningful and effective stakeholders' engagement. The IP Desk is a unique mechanism in the country which is ensuring ongoing feedback and involvement from the key stakeholder for REDD+ in Belize. During the past year, the REDD+ Coordination Unit (REDD+ CU) has engaged in a great deal of outreach and awareness raising with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Against this backdrop, the draft REDD+ communication strategy was produced and has already started to be utilized.
- b) Component 2 has faced delays in particular related to initiation of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), land tenure assessment studies and benefit sharing plan. These delays were partly reasonable due to extensive consultation process with indigenous peoples and collaborative approach taken in drafting related terms of references (TORs). However, other delays arose because of challenges in the procurement processes. Nonetheless, there have been some advancements in regard to these and other activities under this component. A SESA work plan and TORs have been developed and procurement process is well advanced and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2020. The Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) was finalized. The Project has also made advancement in regard to the TORs for the land tenure study/activities after consulting them with relevant national stakeholders, including the representatives of indigenous peoples prior to Covid-19 pandemic. Considering the inability to hold consultations in person as a result of the pandemic, the TORs are factoring in alternative ways of conducting them via virtual means.
- c) Planned activities under Component 3 are advancing well with some initial delays mostly due to lengthy procurement processes. The Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) has been completed and submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and there have been advancements in the development of the National Forest Monitoring System (Mapping for Activity Data and Field Data Collection for Development of Emissions Factors) and in the Preparation of Land Use, Land Use Change and Land Cover Map using SENTINEL, with both activities being on track.
- d) Under Component 4, the field work aimed at supporting a National Forest Monitoring System for the Measurement, Verification and Reporting (MRV) is progressing at a slower pace than initially envisioned. 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 has also commenced and is expected to finish by mid-2021.
- e) Though there have been some delays in completing the mid-term evaluation to the FCPF and submitting annual progress reports, as carried out under Component 5, both quality and timeliness of reporting have seen progress in the past 12 months. The Project's financial reporting has seen equal improvements with reports being accurate and submitted on time.

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## EXECUTION

### Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P152415 - Belize REDD+ Readiness Grant  
Project Status: Pipeline  
Global Focal Area: Climate change  
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

### Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development  
Contact: Lennox Gladenn, PhD  
Address: Belmopan, Belize  
Phone: Email: policy.coord@environment.gov.bz  
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 funded by others.**

The grant activities are being closely coordinated with other WB projects, 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.

During the reporting period, there were no changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.

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

The capacity of key stakeholders has been improved throughout the Grant implementation and most of these challenges in this regard have been overcome with concrete measures having been put in place to ensure that related risks are mitigated. They include staffing of the REDD+ CU, establishment of the mechanism to facilitate stakeholder engagement with indigenous peoples, and continuous capacity building and support related to procurement aspects of the project, among others.

### 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 initiation of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) was delayed. This delay was partly reasonable due to extensive consultation process with indigenous peoples and collaborative approach taken in drafting related terms of references (TORs). However, other delays arose because of challenges in the procurement processes. Nonetheless, there have been some advancements in regard to these and other activities under this component. A SESA work plan and TORs, which are in accordance with the Common Approach, have been developed and procurement process is well advanced and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2020. The delays in the procurement processes are partly due to COVID-19 related procurement constraints (inability to sign new contracts at the onset of the pandemic). That said, the TOR factors in the new circumstances, with the consultations being planned using virtual means. As a result, it is expected that the SESA will be completed in a satisfactory manner and before the Grant closing.

Compliance with World Bank Safeguards policies is Moderately Satisfactory.

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

The ESMF TOR (part of SESA consultancy) is in accordance with the FCPF Common Approach and related set of guidelines. .

### 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, including through establishing a permanent coordination mechanism for coordination with Indigenous Peoples.

Given that the REDD+CU has already started to receive grievances and requests for information, it was agreed to develop an interim Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) procedures to be followed during the Readiness Phase. The FGRM was finalized accordingly and is now operational.

Lastly, though the REDD+CU has made good progress in ensuring effective stakeholder consultations, COVID-19 related restrictions and an inability to conduct in-person stakeholder consultations have posed some challenges in this regard. The team is proactively working to overcome them, including by utilizing online platforms for delivering workshops and relying on the established coordination mechanisms with local presence, such as the Indigenous People's Desk.

## DISBURSEMENTS

### Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
03/27/2017	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	415,265.33	415,265.33
01/01/2018	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	996,335.25	581,069.92
07/01/2019	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	2,284,555.6	1,288,220.35
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	1,515,444.44	0.00	0.00

