

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF019030
Printed On: 10/01/2019

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

Assignment: TF019030

Bhutan: FCPF Readiness Grant

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000239109 - Andrea Kutter
Approving Manager: 00000091195 - Hocine Chalal

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Bhutan
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9274 - SSAE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	03/19/2015 to 12/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	3,746,512.49 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	699,099.84
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 development objective of the Grant is to build national capacity of Bhutan to engage in REDD+ efforts at the national as well as international levels, through strengthened policies, increased knowledge on REDD+, and enhanced data on forests and forest management.

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

Comment:

The implementation of the Project is progressing well and is on track to achieve the project objective.

Component 1 - Readiness Organization and Consultation: The institutional arrangement for REDD+ in Bhutan is in place with well-defined roles and responsibilities. The WMD has the overall coordination role; the FRMD implements technical part of the project (reference level and national forest monitoring system); and National Land Commission is responsible for land use planning and zoning. Similarly, Functional Divisions or field offices (DoFPS), the Royal Academy Construction Project, the Royal Education Council, the National Soil Service Center (SPAL), and the Tarayana Foundation are also involved in implementing some of the activities. The Technical Working Group (TWG) provides technical advice and guidance, while the REDD+ Task Force provides the overall direction to WMD, FRMD, and the NLC. Also, as part of capacity building and awareness raising, several training events have been organized, for example, on soil and watershed management, forest fire, waste management, forest management, and forest law enforcement. Component 1 is on track to generate the intended outputs and outcomes.

Component 2 - REDD+ Strategy Preparation: The RGoB has finalized the National REDD+ Strategy which was developed based on through a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders at all levels. Other strategically important documents are being prepared, including the valuation of forest ecosystem services, a wetland inventory framework, strategies and action plans (community forest, non-timber forest product and plantation), business plans for SFM and utilization; and a fundraising strategy for the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy, including the identified policies and measures. Component 2 is on track for delivery of all outputs in a timely and high-quality manner. As part of assessing the potential social and environmental impacts of the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy, an Environmental and Social Management Framework and Safeguard information system are being finalized. The consultant for drafting the feedback and grievance redress mechanism is being procured and will soon start the task.

Component 3 - National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level: The design of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)/Forest Reference Level (FRL) has been completed. The RGoB is planning to submit the FREL/FRL in January, 2019 to the United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCCC). Necessary authorization/approval by the government for submission has already been obtained. Once submitted, the UNFCCC will organize a technical assessment of the FREL/FRL based on which the RGoB will finalize the FREL/FRL.

Component 4 - Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards: FRMD has developed the Forest Information Reporting and Monitoring System (FIRMS), which is an online database repository of all information and data captured by the Department. The Geo-portal is also being developed. FRMD intends to develop a spatial decision support system (SDSS) for forest clearance. For this, TOR are being prepared, and a consultant will be hired. Good progress has been made on other activities supported under component 4 such as preparing a forest type map for Bhutan; developing biomass equations; and establishing permanent sample plots.

10.#The RGoB is planning to conduct a second national forest inventory. The task is expected to commence in 2020 to be finalized in 2023. To support the task, the project has supported e.g. the procurement of inventory equipment and training field crews.

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

Comment:

The REDD Secretariat in the Watershed Management Division, is providing day to day oversight and timely delivery of readiness program activities. The multi-sectoral Technical Working Groups has provided inputs to all ongoing activities,

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including TOR for consultancies. The relationship between the World Bank and the WMD teams is excellent and implementation support is provided on a regular basis. The Secretariat supports collaboration with other key players/donors in the REDD+ field in Bhutan.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Not applicable

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

Comment on follow up:

The RGoB submitted a work plan for the implementation of the remaining activities that would ensure disbursement of the remaining funds. Close monitoring and supervision by the task team remains important.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

Not applicable

OUTCOME

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

Component 1 - Readiness Organization and Consultation:

- institutional arrangement for REDD+ in Bhutan in place with well-defined roles and responsibilities.
- Technical Working Group (TWG) provides technical advice and guidance, while the REDD+ Task Force provides the overall direction to WMD, FRMD, and the NLC.
- Capacity built and awareness raised through several training events

Component 2 - REDD+ Strategy Preparation

- National REDD+ Strategy finalized
- Other strategically important documents are being prepared, including the valuation of forest ecosystem services, a wetland inventory framework, strategies and action plans (community forest, non-timber forest product and plantation), business plans for SFM and utilization; and a fundraising strategy for the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy, including the identified policies and measures.
- Environmental and Social Management Framework and Safeguard information system being finalized
- drafting the feedback and grievance redress mechanism is advancing

Component 3 - National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level:

- design of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)/Forest Reference Level (FRL) completed.
- submission of the FREL/FRL to the United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCCC) is imminent .

Component 4 - Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards:

- Forest Information Reporting and Monitoring System (FIRMS) developed,
- Geo-portal being developed.
- TOR for development of a spatial decision support system (SDSS) for forest clearance approved.
- advances on other activities such as preparing a forest type map for Bhutan; developing biomass equations; and establishing permanent sample plots.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

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COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Readiness Organization and Consultation

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: See below
Actual Output: See below

REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: See below
Actual Output: see below

National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: See below
Actual Output: See below

Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: See below
Actual Output: See below

Comment on planned and actual Output

N/a.

Comment on component implementation progress

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EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P150177 - Bhutan REDD Readiness
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	The REDD+ Secretariat, Royal Govt of Bhutan, Dept of Forests and Park Services		
Contact:	The Director General,		
Address:	Department of Forests & Park Services		
Phone:	+975 2 323055	Email:	cndofps@gmail.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

N/a.

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

None.

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

Capacity building is an integral part of the project.

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?

To assess the potential social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ Strategy and document the results, the RGOB hired the UK-based firm Climate Law & Policy (CLP) in 2017. CLP has undertaken a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)

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and prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), in accordance with the FCPF's Common Approach. It has also developed a Safeguard Information System (SIS), in accordance with the UNFCCC Decisions related to REDD+ safeguards. CLP recently submitted the reports on SESA, ESMF and SIS to WMD, and these are currently being reviewed.

The RGOB is also committed to developing a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+, as a means to address any feedback and grievances that various stakeholders may have in the course of REDD+ Readiness, and ultimately as a result of REDD+ Strategy implementation. The WMD is behind schedule on the hiring of consultants to undertake this assignment, and they have been advised by the mission to accelerate this process to the extent possible.

Options for the Benefit Sharing Mechanism have been outlined by Indufor, a Helsinki-based consultancy firm, in relation to the implementation of the national REDD+ Strategy. This work is also behind schedule. WMD staff are currently reviewing the draft report and providing comments to Indufor. It has been agreed that the draft Mechanism will be shared with the Bank team once has been revised by Indufor in response to the government's comments.

Compliance with World Bank Safeguards policies is #Moderately Satisfactory#.

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.

To assess the potential social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ Strategy and document the results, the RGOB hired the UK-based firm Climate Law & Policy (CLP) in 2017. CLP has undertaken a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), in accordance with the FCPF's Common Approach. It has also developed a Safeguard Information System (SIS), in accordance with the UNFCCC Decisions related to REDD+ safeguards. CLP recently submitted the reports on SESA, ESMF and SIS to WMD, and these are currently being reviewed.

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15.#Compliance with World Bank Safeguards policies is #Moderately Satisfactory#.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	637,044.12	637,044.12
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	637,044.12	0.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	1,008,916.25	371,872.13
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	1,252,758.76	243,842.51
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	1,988,908.01	736,149.25

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07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	2,563,946.37	575,038.36
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	3,047,412.65	483,466.28
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	3,560,311.44	512,898.79
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	3,746,512.49	186,201.05
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