

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA2855
Printed On: 10/05/2018

Reporting Period: 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TFOA2855

CAR REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION SUPPORT FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000411336 - Pierre Guigon
Approving Manager: 00000251917 - Africa Eshogba Olojoba

| Summary Information | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TF Status | ACTV |
| Recipient Country | Central Afr.Rep |
| Executed By | Recipient |
| Managing Unit | 9268 - GEN07 |
| Grant Start Date / End Date | 04/20/2017 to 12/31/2019 |
| Original Grant Amount | 3,800,000.00 |
| Grant Amount | 3,800,000.00 |
| Outstanding Commitments | 0.00 |
| Cumulative Disbursements | 851,069.21 as of 06/30/2018 |
| Disbursed 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018 | 851,069.21 |
| 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 objective of the Readiness Preparation Activities is to design a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to inform the development of a national reference emission level for REDD+.

Overall progress from 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

FY18 progress towards achieving the grant objective consists in the operationalization of the coordination unit (REDD+ National Coordination or CN-REDD); the development and validation of Terms of Reference for key REDD+ readiness activities (including for the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment); the launch of the related procurement processes for selecting consulting firms and individual experts; and supporting stakeholder engagement activities. Delays are significant and largely due to difficulties faced by the CN-REDD and the fiduciary agency (coordination unit for the Rural Connectivity Project housed within the Ministry of Public Works and Road Maintenance) in implementing and operationalizing the fiduciary arrangements which the grant is subject to (like all World Bank-financed projects in CAR). Given the imminence of the grant closing date (June 2019), an extension will be necessary before key contracts are signed and the related activities start. However, critical fiduciary issues need to be resolved before grant extension is decided upon. The CN-REDD, the fiduciary agency and the World Bank project team are working towards solving the fiduciary issues which will in turn allow for a decision on grant extension.

Overall progress from 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

As described above implementing the grant's fiduciary arrangements has caused significant delays and their operationalization is still facing critical issues. In addition, the CN-REDD which has been supported by civil servants to speed up initial grant implementation efforts and first activities still needs to recruit key experts and support staff.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Sustainably managing the Central African Republic's forests will contribute to the country's crisis response and early recovery. Managing and addressing the principal drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which are currently predominantly linked to anthropogenic activities, are important to developing a successful REDD+ program. Also critically important is supporting sustainable forest management practices that contribute to successful recovery of the state as well as a contribution to supporting basic livelihoods of the population. In this spirit the REDD+ readiness activities will seek to align with the Country Engagement Note that outlines a priority focus on reestablishing basic fiscal management and supporting economic recovery through targeted support to key sectors of growth. The readiness grant will support capacity building for institutions and civil society, seek to improve governance and investment climate and support the design of a grievance redress mechanism, and identify and design investments that will contribute to environmentally and socially sound forest resource management

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up project or grant (non-Bank funded)

Comment on follow up:

The REDD+ readiness activities are being implemented closely with CAFI funding (national REDD+ investment plan) and will seek to identify WB funding for future investments. The REDD+ readiness activities have been planned in a way that is practical and will seek to be pragmatic in taking advantage of the resources to prepare future proposals. Potential sources of future investment funding include CAFI, GCF and GEF, even if proposals are being proposed by other partners, the readiness funds will be used to consolidate a national approach, consistent with a the national REDD+ strategy to the greatest extent possible.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

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No restructuring, although grant extension is being considered and will be decided upon if/when fiduciary issues are solved.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018

Efforts during this period have focused on operationalizing the CN-REDD, developing TORs for key readiness activities and carrying out related stakeholder engagement activities.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1 Institutional arrangements for REDD+ readiness

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Operational Implementation structure, FGRM designed
Actual Output: CN-REDD operational as technical project entity but fiduciary arrangements not yet effectively functional

Component 2 Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

Status: Procurement On going
Planned Output: National REDD+ Strategy prepared, SESA developed, REL developed
Actual Output: Key activities not yet launched hence progress is not yet measurable

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

CAR has maximized the minimal resources that have been made available to them from other sources to continue the REDD+ process: a work plan was developed to utilize and disburse in an effective and efficient manner, terms of reference have been developed for key activities and supported by stakeholder engagements activities. In the meantime, however, efforts to operationalize fiduciary arrangements have been underestimated. Fiduciary issues must now be addressed and solved promptly for the project to unroll technical activities within an adequate fiduciary framework.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P156721 - Central African Republic REDD+Readiness
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: REDD+ Technical Coordination Unit (CN-REDD, within Min. of Env. & Sust. Dev.)
Contact: Igor Tola Kogadou
Address: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fi
Phone: + 236 75 55 82 22
Website:
Email: tolakogadou@hotmail.com

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 FCPF activities are coordinated with CAFI (also managed by the World Bank). The REDD+ readiness activities are also being managed by the Climate Change coordination unit that is seeking opportunities in other mitigation and adaptation initiatives, such as restoration and clean energy efforts that are being advanced by other partners (for example through proposals to GCF, GEF etc.).

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

No notable changes to date.

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

It has been agreed that the Implementing Agency will benefit from capacity building on financial management and procurement and the team will continue to identify technical needs, such as in MRV and social and environmental safeguards during implementation.

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?

Activity not yet launched, however the team will seek to learn from other countries that have implemented REDD+ readiness activities as the studies are launched. The SESA will be coordinated with other initiatives in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

Activity not yet launched.

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

It has been agreed that civil society will play a significant role in conducting stakeholder consultations and several meetings with an environmental civil society platform have already taken place.

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DISBURSEMENTS

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 | 524,475.52 | 524,475.52 |
| 01/01/2018 | 06/30/2018 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 851,069.21 | 326,593.69 |
| 07/01/2018 | 12/31/2018 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 01/01/2019 | 06/30/2019 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 07/01/2019 | 12/31/2019 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |