

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

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA2855  
Printed On: 11/06/2019

Reporting Period: 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019  
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	9835 - SAFE3
Grant Start Date / End Date	04/20/2017 to 12/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,110,080.74 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	259,011.53
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 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

##### Comment:

Progress towards achieving the grant objective is upgraded from Unsatisfactory in FY18 to Moderately Satisfactory in FY19 due to significant progress made in FY19 by solving main fiduciary issues which in turn allowed extending both the FCPF and CAFI grants and launch main activities. The CAFI and FCPF grants were extended respectively in December 2018 and March 2019 for the project to close in June 2020. The extension of the grants was granted by the CMU upon completion of an Action Plan, set up by the Task Team, to fix the main procurement and financial management issues (complaints from vendors, switch to STEP, delayed financial reporting etc.). Upon grant extension, the Task Team has been working with CN-REDD to launch activities in consideration of the new timeframe (up to June 2020) which means that only those activities which are key to the grant's objectives and REDD+ readiness will be implemented.

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

##### Comment:

Following the resolution of fiduciary issues and grant extension, key REDD+ readiness activities were successfully launched in March/April 2019 including the National REDD+ Strategy (March 2019), REDD+ Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (April 2019) and REDD+ National Investment Framework (April 2019, CAFI). The CN-REDD, Bank's Task Team and consultants are working closely to ensure robust coordination between activities considering the limited timeframe and capacity. TORs for MRV and REL were developed and it was decided in close coordination with the FCPF Secretariat to merge and adjust them to maximize technical synergies while streamlining implementation. The selection process was completed in October 2019 and this will be the last main activity going through procurement under the project. TORs were developed to support the two main civil society platforms with capacity building and engagement activities, but the Task Team suggested postponing these activities until there is enough progress made on the REDD+ National Strategy, REDD+ Investment Framework and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). It was also suggested by the Bank that the two platforms present their respective TORs for discuss at the SESA workshop in October 2019 after which the TORs will be adjusted and will be submitted to the Bank's non-objection for launching implementation. The significant progress in FY19 reported above, i.e. launch of the main activities, is not reflected in the disbursement level because first payments to contractors are enduring significant delay due foreign exchange issues affecting overseas payments across the whole project portfolios of the Bank and other development partners.

### 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:**

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The REDD+ readiness activities are being implemented closely with CAFI funding to develop CAR#s National REDD+ Investment Framework which will be the basis for supporting CAR#s engagement with donors and development agencies on financing REDD+ action. The World Bank is also working with CAR in developing a programmatic approach for REDD+ investments in South-West CAR. The IDA-financed 10M\$ Natural Resources Governance Project (effective since 2018) will be complemented by additional financing from GEF (7.61M\$) in the context of CAR#s participation in GEF#s new Cong Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program.

### End Date of Last Site Visit:

### Restructuring of Grant:

CAFI and FCPF grants underlying the REDD+ Readiness Project were extended respectively in December 2018 and March 2019 for the project to close in June 2020.

## OUTCOME

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

Efforts during FY19 focused on finalizing procurement for key readiness activities, and launching the activities while ensuring their close coordination and engagement of stakeholders.

### 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 CN-REDD, National REDD+ Committee, consultation and participation process, FGRM
Actual Output:	Operational CN-REDD, National REDD+ Committee, consultation and participation process

#### Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	Developed National REDD+ Strategy defining strategic options, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment with safeguards instruments, National Reference Emissions Level and MRV framework
Actual Output:	All on-going

### Comment on planned and actual Output

### Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Institutional arrangements for REDD+ readiness

Key institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation have been established. CN-REDD was established and operationalized. The government launched in 2017 the operationalization of three Inter-Prefectural Committees (CIP by its local acronym), multi-sector and multi-stakeholder, that has served as consultative platforms for the REDD+ process in key zones. Since then 3 workshops were organized in the prefectures of Ombella M#poko, Kemo et Ouaka (50 attendees each). Two additional workshops are being planned, one in MBaiki and one specifically addressing indigenous populations. A National REDD+ Committee was established in 2018 by Order of the Prime Minister and includes several working groups. Its first meeting initially planned at the end of 2018 didn#t take place due to political instability. Capacity building and engagement activities led by the 2 main civil society platforms will be launched by the end of 2019 after there is enough progress on main REDD+ activities and in close coordination with the SESA process. The sustainability of the REDD+ institutional framework after grant

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closing is, however, uncertain. The Bank is working with CAR and partner to ensure close coordination with current and future REDD+ investment projects so that the capacity and REDD+ instruments (.e.g. safeguards, MRV etc.) are leveraged. The consultative part of the main activities now under implementation, and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) especially, help identify issues and stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion on REDD+. In the meantime, effective mechanisms and capacity to address grievances that may arise are implemented through actual investment projects such as the Bank's Natural Resources Governance Project which will deploy a grievance and redress mechanism in the main forest prefectures of South West CAR. Mechanisms to address broader level grievances on REDD+ will be defined as part of the SESA process.

Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

The development of the National REDD+ Strategy, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments were launched in March/April 2019 along with the National Investment Framework under CAFI financing. The selection process for firms supporting the development of National Reference Emissions Level and MRV framework was completed in October 2019 and activities will be launched in November 2018 until June 2020.

## 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

### 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	Email:	tolakogadou@hotmail.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

The FCPF activities are coordinated with CAFI (also managed by the Bank) which supports the development of the REDD+ National Investment Framework launched in April 2019. The National REDD+ Investment Framework will be the basis for supporting CAR's engagement and coordination with donors and development agencies and across key Ministries on financing REDD+ action going forward. The World Bank is also working with CAR in developing a programmatic approach for REDD+ investments in South-West CAR. The IDA-financed 10M\$ Natural Resources Governance Project (effective since 2018) will be complemented by additional financing for the GEF (7.61M\$) in FY20 in the context of CAR's participation in GEF's new Cong Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program. Other programs involved in REDD+ readiness activities supported by the grant include the PDRSO project supported by the French Development Agency (REDD+ component with pilot interventions in the Bangui area) as well as FAO's Land Restoration project.

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

Considering the significant delays in starting the implementation of activities, and the low capacity overall, only those activities which are critical to achieving the grant's objectives and REDD+ readiness will be implemented (i.e. National REDD+ Strategy, MRV&REL, National REDD+ Investment Framework, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment). Some less critical activities (i.e. REDD+ Registry, Safeguards Information System etc.) will not be implemented so the FCPF grant will not be fully used at closing in June 2020.

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

Main fiduciary issues which hampered progress in FY17 and FY18 were solved in FY19, which in turn allowed extending the FCPF and CAFI grants and launch main activities. However, overall capacity remains low and requires continuous, hands-on involvement of the Bank to support delayed procurement, financial reporting etc. First payments to contractors have been slow to process (some complained) but it is hoped that the international experts that will be recruited by the Bank's Bangui office will help ensure prompter payment thereby avoiding issues after grant closing in June 2020.

## 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 development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments is ongoing. The Task Team requested CN-REDD to only launch capacity building and engagement activities led by the two main civil society platforms after there is sufficient progress under the main activities and to ensure close coordination with SESA. It was also suggested by the Bank that the two platforms present their respective TORs for discussion at the SESA workshops in October 2019 after which these TORs will be adjusted and will be submitted for the Bank's non-objection to launch implementation.

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

The development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments including ESMF is ongoing. Experts hired to support the work have significant past experience working in the sub-region on SESA development and implementation (e.g. DRC) and are preparing safeguards instruments in accordance with the Common Approach and the WBG safeguards policies.

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

The consultative part of the main activities now under implementation, and the SESA especially, help identify issues and stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion on REDD+. In the meantime, effective mechanisms and capacity to address grievances that may arise are implemented through actual investment projects such as the Bank's Natural Resources Governance Project which will deploy a grievance and redress mechanism in the main forest prefectures of South West CAR. Mechanisms to address broader level grievances on REDD+ will be defined as part of the outcome of the on-going SESA process.

## 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	1,065,588.17	214,518.96
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,110,080.74	44,492.57
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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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