

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A5414
Printed On: 12/05/2019

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

Assignment: TF0A5414

Additional REDD Plus Readiness Preparation Support FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

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Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - SAFE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	09/05/2017 to 03/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Grant Amount	5,000,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,977,275.19 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	1,406,455.49
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 is to reinforce the Recipient's capacity to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

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

Comment:

The Grant is on track to achieve its development objective. The status in achieving key results is as follows:

- 1.#All REDD+ management arrangements are operational, including: The National REDD+ Commission, the REDD+ National Committee, the REDD+ Interministerial Technical Committee and the SEP-REDD+. These entities ensure the management of all REDD+ activities through the regular organization of Steering Committees and other technical meetings that support its implementation.
- 2.#A National REDD+ Strategy has been developed based on relevant studies and validated in November 2017 with the participation of all relevant stakeholders at local and national levels.
- 3.#The Tai national park Emission Reduction Program Document (ER-PD) has been developed with the participation of all relevant stakeholders and validated by the Carbon Fund participants in June 2019.
- 4.#This process has helped sharpen and accelerate the development of REDD + instruments:

a.#The REDD+ grievance redress mechanism has been established and operationalized in targeted areas;

b.#a series of studies have been commissioned to update the country's National Forest Reference Levels (NRF), in order to ensure coherence between the ERP's Forest Reference Levels (FRL) and the NRF which only includes deforestation and increased forest carbon stocks).

c.#a manual for REDD+ project homologation and a project database linked with the REDD+ GIS portal are being developed;

d.#Communication activities were launched/implemented to ensure adequate awareness raising on REDD+ in RCI;

However, the safeguards instruments that should serve as a basis for the development of ERP are still being finalized. This includes the Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA), the Safeguards Information System, and the ER Benefit Sharing Plan, which are preconditions for the approval of the ERP by the World Bank.

The government requested a one-year extension of the closing date from September 30, 2019 to September 30, 2020 to allow it to adequately complete remaining activities. The request was approved by the World Bank in August 2019.

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

Comment:

The Grant Agreement of the additional funding in the amount of USD5 million was signed in September 2017 to support the costs associated with scaling up activities to enhance the impact of the country's REDD+ readiness at the local, regional and national levels based on the R-package published in August 2018 and validated during the October 2018 PC/PA meetings.

Additional needs in the readiness process identified in the R-package have included: (i) further strengthening of national institutions to effectively implement the REDD+ strategy; (ii) increasing awareness of all stakeholders on the national REDD+ strategy; (iii) clearly identifying the underlying causes and direct drivers of deforestation and degradation; (iv) finalizing and implementing a social and environmental impact assessment and a management framework; (v) strengthening the national reference level of CO2 emissions in a credible and transparent manner; (vi) strengthening the system for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gases (GHGs); (vii) developing a Benefit Sharing Plan for REDD+ and (viii) Developing a REDD+ projects/initiative register.

Due to the ongoing Forest sector regulation reform (new forest code validated in July 2019), the need to adapt REDD+ instruments to this new legal context has caused delays in the Grant implementation and in disbursement (48.5 percent in June 2019).

Therefore, a one-year extension of the closing date was requested by the government and approved by the World Bank in August 2019. Remaining activities under implementation include Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA), the Safeguards Information System, and the ER Benefit Sharing Plan, which are preconditions for the approval of the ERP by the World Bank. The full Grant amount has been committed and is expected to be disbursed and planned activities completed by the new proposed Grant Closing Date.

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Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Over the last 50 years, Côte d'Ivoire has lost more than 80% of its natural forests. The practices of slash and burn agriculture, the non-sustainable logging and exploitation of fuel wood, the unregulated artisanal mining and the lack of development, planning and management of territory are the main causes. These trends have been accelerated by a decade of politico-military crisis.

The recovery of the economy following the crisis was mainly based on cash crop agriculture, which contributes nearly one third of GDP and employs nearly two thirds of the population using slash and burn agricultural extension practices and thus maintaining the trends of deforestation and forest degradation.

This significant loss of forest cover has led to reduction of ecosystem services, reduction of climate resilience directly impacting the agricultural sector, loss of livelihoods from forest-dependent communities.

To reverse these trends, the country has been engaged since 2011 in REDD+ process. It developed its REDD+ preparation plan (R-PP) which was approved in 2014 by the FCPF Committee of Participants and the UN-REDD Policy Council. This approval resulted in the provision of funding of US\$7 million for the preparation phase (FCPF-Readiness: \$3.8 million, UN-REDD: \$3.2 million). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has been supported by others Technical and Financial partners since 2013, including the French Development Agency (AFD) through the Debt and Development Contract (C2D), the Research and Development Institute (IRD) and the REDD+ facility of the European Union.

Following an independent mid-term evaluation conducted in May 2016, the country obtained an additional financing in the amount of US \$5 million from the FCPF-Readiness Fund: (i) to finalize the preparation phase, (ii) to operationalize the REDD+ instruments in Côte d'Ivoire and (iii) to support the preparation of the REDD+ implementation phase including the Tai ER-PD development.

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

Comment on follow up:

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire (GOCI) is using preparation funds provided by the FCPF Carbon Fund, based on the LOI signed in November 2015, to prepare the Tai National Park ER-Program. The ER-PD was developed and approved in the pipeline of the Carbon Fund portfolio in June 2019. The ER-PD builds on (i) the readiness activities as well as (ii) the investments laid out in the Forest Investment Project (FIP) Investment Plan, approved by the FIP-SC in 2016.

The Forest Investment Project was approved in 2018 and is currently under implementation. It aims to address key drivers of deforestation and carbon stock enhancements that are consistent with Côte d'Ivoire's national REDD+ strategy. These investments are designed to lead to GHG emissions reduction and avoidance which will help achieve the performance-based payments outlined in the ER Program.

A Development Policy Operation (DPO) between the World Bank and RCI was prepared based on the readiness to accelerate ongoing forest and agriculture reforms to facilitate the future implementation phase of REDD+, especially the ER-PD. The prior actions of the DPO include (i) publication of the current boundaries of Gazetted Forests, (ii) development of regulations on agroforests and (iii) development of a national standard on zero-deforestation agriculture.

Follow-up activities include: (i) negotiation, validation and implementation of the Tai ER-PD, (ii) ensure sustainable financing of the institutional REDD+ mechanism including monitoring systems (activities, projects, safeguards and forest degradation and deforestation) by complementing a direct, tailored contribution from the Ivorian State with external financing; (iii) maintain the strong involvement of the authorities in mobilizing external financing for REDD+ financing in the country; (iv) continue to monitor and influence ongoing sectoral and cross-sectoral reforms to ensure REDD+ integration, particularly in the agricultural, forestry, mining and land-use sectors and (v) ensure articulation between national REDD+ methodology and tools and FCPF methodological framework and tools (e.g. international transaction register).

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

The Grant was restructured through an extension of the closing date from September 30, 2019 to September 30, 2020. The development objectives, indicators and components have remained unchanged.

This extension is mainly due to delays in finalizing key analytical studies and instruments in a timely manner as a result of the ongoing Forest sector regulation reform (new forest code validated in July 2019) and the need to adapt REDD+ studies and instruments to this new legal context.

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Currently, all outstanding activities are already planned and underway. This extension will allow Côte d'Ivoire to complete the project and achieve all expected results for the REDD+ implementation phase.

OUTCOME

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

The main outcome of the project during the year was the confirmation of Côte d'Ivoire's sufficient readiness for REDD+ to enter the investment phase with the validation of the ER-P in the project portfolio of the carbon fund.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1: Support to national readiness management arrangements

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: put in place institutional and implementation arrangements to support national REDD+ Readiness
Actual Output: defining implementation arrangements for ER-PD; defining institutional arrangements for implementation of Safeguards Information System; institutional arrangement set for M&E of REDD+ activities

Component 2: Preparation of a national REDD+ Strategy

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: developing key instruments and tools for implementing the national REDD+ Strategy
Actual Output: Most instruments and tools have been developed and/or are being finalized

Component 3: Forest reference emissions level (FREL)

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: improvement of the national Forest reference emissions level (FREL)
Actual Output: support implementation of the action plan for improvement of the forest emissions reference level

Component 4: National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: support implementation of the action plan for the improvement of the NFMS
Actual Output: developed methodology for monitoring of forest degradation, identified types of land use change, HCV & HCS; conducted institutional arrangement study for strengthening the national monitoring system.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Support to national readiness management arrangements:
Following the formal commitment of Côte d'Ivoire in the REDD+ mechanism in 2011, the institutional arrangements of the REDD+ mechanism have been established and promoted nationally and internationally through the Decree No. 2012-1049 of 24 October 2012 concerning creation, organization and operation of the national REDD+ Commission. This Commission provides analysis, advice and guidance for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. It is composed of a National REDD+ Committee (CN-REDD+) in charge of piloting the REDD+ mechanism, a REDD+ Interdepartmental Technical Committee (CTI REDD+) in charge of cross-sectoral coordination and a Permanent Executive Secretariat REDD+ (SEP-REDD+) which is responsible for the

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implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.

During the period from July 2018 to June 2019, the main results achieved in the framework of this component was:

- (i) the definition of implementation arrangement for the ER-PD;
- (ii) the definition of institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Safeguards Information System;
- (iii) institutional arrangement for M&E of REDD+ activities in RCI especially the role of SEP-REDD+ as M&E institution for the Cocoa and Forest initiative with the private sector and the development of a manual for REDD+ project homologation and a register/Database of REDD+ projects.

Component 2: Preparation of a national REDD+ Strategy. The National REDD+ Strategy was validated in November 2017 it is available at the following link: (http://reddplus.ci/download/strategie-nationale-redd-cote-divoire/?wpdm_l=8410).

During the period from July 2018 to June 2019, activities was focused on developing tools for implementing the strategy including:

- (i) Development of the Tai ER-PD to pilot the implementation of the National REDD+ strategy in the south west of the country;
- (ii) preparation of the National REDD+ Safeguards instruments and development of specific instruments for the ER-PD. These are expected to be finalized by December 2019. The REDD+ grievance redress mechanism has been established and operationalized in targeted areas;
- (iii) Design of the REDD+ safeguard information system;
- (iv) Development of communication tools strategy to ensure adequate awareness raising on REDD+ in RCI and initiating the development of a national communication strategy;
- (v) Initiating the development of a Benefit sharing plan based on ER-PD consultations;
- (vi) Initiating the development of specific regulations on carbon rights and title transfer;
- (vii) Initiating studies on good practices for development of zero deforestation agriculture and agroforestry especially in the cocoa sector.

Component 3: Forest reference emissions level (FREL): Côte d'Ivoire submitted its Forest Reference Level (NRF) to the UNFCCC in January 2017. Several activities have been developed since June 2015 to obtain in December 2017, a first national reference level using a clearly documented methodology and based on a gradual approach for its improvement, as more precise data become available. This reference level is based on a methodology respecting UNFCCC requirement and the FCPF methodological framework. The process was conducted in three stages: (i) Technical capacity building of national teams, (ii) development of the NRF and (iii) Implementation of an action plan for the improvement of the NRF.

During the period from July 2018 to June 2019, the project has supported the implementation of the action plan for the improvement of the NRF updated as part of the ER-PD evaluation by the Technical Advisory Committee including the integration of forest degradation.

Component 4: National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS): The Ivory Coast monitoring system is designed to ensure consistent and accurate monitoring of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a participatory manner. This system should allow the country (i) to assess its performance against the baseline, but also (ii) to provide the necessary information for the management and planning of land and natural resource use in a context of sustainable development.

During the period from July 2018 to June 2019, the project has supported the implementation of the action plan for the improvement of the NFMS updated as part of the ER-PD evaluation by the Technical Advisory Committee including:

- (i) development of methodology for monitoring of forest degradation;
- (ii) development of methodology for identifying the types of Land use change (e.g discriminate the type of agriculture that cause deforestation);
- (iii) development of methodology for identifying High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS);
- (iv) conducting an institutional arrangement study for strengthening the national monitoring system.

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EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P149801 - REDD+ Readiness Preparation in RCI
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Contact: Ahoulou Ernest
Address: SEP-REDD, 7eme Tranche, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Phone: 22557237626 Email: ernest.ahoulou@reddplus.ci
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

Coordination with REDD+ Readiness initiatives

To engage in the REDD+ preparation process, Côte d'Ivoire has become a member of two international technical and financial support platforms: the UN-REDD collaborative program carried out by FAO, UNEP and UNDP and the Partnership Fund for Forest Carbon of the World Bank-FCPF.

As part of this preparation process, Côte d'Ivoire developed a preparation plan for the REDD+ mechanism (R-PP) approved in 2014 by the FCPF Committee of Participants and the UN-REDD Policy Council. This approval resulted in the provision of funding of US \$5 million for the preparation phase (FCPF-3.8 million, UN-REDD: \$3.2 million). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has since 2013 supported other TFP, including the French Development Agency (AFD) through the Debt and Development Contract (C2D), the Research and Development Institute (IRD) and the REDD+ facility of the European Union.

The FCPF funding provided support for components 1 and 2 and UN-REDD funding components 2, 3 and 4. An evaluation of the preparation process was conducted in May 2016.

Following an independent mid-term evaluation conducted in May 2016, Côte d'Ivoire has mobilized additional funding from the FCPF Preparation fund in the amount of US \$5 million: (i) to finalize the preparation phase, (ii) to operationalize the REDD+ instruments in Côte d'Ivoire and (iii) to support the preparation of the REDD+ implementation phase including the Tai ER-PD development.

Coordination with the Forest Investment Program

The forest investment program approved in 2016 was set up as a contribution to the forest sector pillar of the national REDD + strategy. The inter-institutional REDD + collaboration framework has led to the development of two FIP projects: one amounting to USD15M funded by World Bank and one amounting to USD9M funded by the African Development Bank to support activities which led to ERs.

Coordination with REDD+ pilot projects

The REDD+ readiness process supported by the Grant built on pilot project activities under implementation in particular: (i) the PES scheme with the Zero Deforestation pilot project in the Nawa region. This pilot project tests the PSE approaches for reforestation, agroforestry and conservation. Individual and community PES contracts were signed with the PES operator in this region.

(ii) Agroforestry and land security with the La Mé REDD+ project.

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The REDD+ management framework ensures a harmonized M&E of those pilot project.

Tai ER-Program

The REDD+ instruments and tools developed with the support of the readiness grant formed a basis for the development of the Tai national park Emission Reduction Program Document (ER-PD) validated by the Carbon Fund participants in June 2019.

The Grant funded the preparation of key instruments and studies to prepare the country for the negotiation phase including preparing the benefit-sharing plan, updating safeguards instruments to the Environment and Social Framework and developing the regulatory framework related to the carbon rights and the transfer of title.

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 or in the approach to grant activities.

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

A new REDD+ secretariat was put in place worked on shortcomings identified in the audit report in 2016 to improve the efficiency of the readiness process. This included the restructuring of the REDD+ secretariat in the following functions: (i) administration and financial management, (ii) procurement, (iii) internal audit and management control, (iv) strategy and partnerships, (v) monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification, (vi) planning, monitoring and evaluation and (vii) communication. Continuous capacity building of the secretariat's team members is conducted to maintain their technical capacity.

In addition, an integrated project implementation unit was established to support implementation of all World Bank-funded environmental projects in Côte d'Ivoire, which houses the REDD+ secretariat. Institutional support is provided by the WB to this integrated unit.

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 REDD+ Secretariat has prepared a consistent Environmental and social framework to implement REDD+ activities in RCI. A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA: <http://reddplus.ci/bibliotheques/rapports/>) of REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire has been compiled in a very inclusive way with very strong stakeholder's participation including key civil society. The SESA was conducted in accordance with the common approach in parallel with the development of the national REDD+ strategy framework to ensure consistency with national strategy and the risks/impacts associated with the implementation of REDD+. The SESA include the design of all relevant safeguards instruments for REDD+ activities implementation: the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), the Process Framework (PF), the Physical Cultural Resource Management Framework (PCRMF), and the Pest and Pesticide Management Plan (PPMP). Safeguards instruments are currently under revision by the world bank.

Specific safeguard instruments for the ER-PD in accordance to the new World bank Environmental and Social Framework are currently developed.

A Safeguards Information System has been designed in line with the UNFCCC directives. The SIS framework document emphasizes (i) SIS objectives, (ii) the data collection, analysis and management mechanism, (iii) the principles, criteria and indicators relating to the Cancun safeguards, (iv) the institutional arrangements indispensable for SIS operationalization, and (v) the technological platform for SIS activities.

The integration of the SIS to the national REDD+ GIS portal is currently is ongoing.

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

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared in accordance with the Common approach, as part of the SESA process. It contains a screening mechanism used for (i) a preliminary assessment of the environmental and social impacts of the different strategic options; (ii) a definition of the mitigation measures, of the political, institutional, legal and regulatory framework, of the implementation; (iii) the elaboration of a monitoring and surveillance environmental program, a capacity reinforcement program, and of an implementation budget.

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

Stakeholder consultation-participation

The participation of all stakeholders has been central to Côte d'Ivoire's approach, with the involvement of the National REDD+ Commission in activities and decision-making processes. A stakeholder engagement plan was developed in 2015 that includes mapping of stakeholders, awareness, consultation and training activities adapted to each of the following categories:

(i) Technical and financial partners including the FCPF, UN-REDD and the AFD, in the framework of the C2D and the EU REDD+ Facility, (ii) sectoral ministries in the context of the interministerial National REDD+ Commission, (iii) local communities and traditional authorities, (iv) Local elected officials, (v) private sector (forest, agribusiness) civil society organizations (vi) Research institutions, (vii) Youth and women associations.

Several joint working initiatives among certain categories of stakeholders were also undertaken during the REDD+ readiness process to unify and strengthen their contributions to the process: (i) Ivorian Observatory for the sustainable management of natural resources (OI-REN) a platform for effective and coordinated participation of CS in the FLEGT process and REDD+ and (ii) the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (ICF) a public private partnership involving more than 30 cocoa companies.

Specific consultation and engagement processes of key stakeholders have been implemented for each of the REDD+ preparation projects: (i) Preparation of the R-PP, (ii) elaboration of the SN-REDD+, (iii) Elaboration of ER-PIN, (iv) Realization of the SESA (and production of the framework documents), (v) Elaboration of the document of the information System on safeguards, (vi) Establishment of the baseline and national Forest Monitoring System and (vii) process for developing a PES guide.

Information and awareness

Information and awareness sessions and tools used to consult with and inform all stakeholders and relevant actors include:

-#The use of new information and communication technologies (ICT): A website dedicated to REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire has been developed and is regularly updated and publishes information regarding the preparation process of all RCI REDD+ related documents on <http://reddplus.ci/>. A "YouTube" REDD+ Côte d'Ivoire channel created to ensure the diffusion and storage of films made on REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMpQE6Hv74n3ssa5XHBBIBg>. Social networks are also used to regularly share information about the process with a "Facebook" page:

<https://www.facebook.com/REDD-C%C3%B4te-dIvoire-1603079076575939/> and a "Twitter" account:

https://twitter.com/sep_redd

The National REDD+ Commission also uses traditional means of communication to reach a large number of people in Côte d'Ivoire, especially in rural areas with: (i) the dissemination of information spots on national television channels; (ii) the dissemination of information through national and local radio; (iii) the dissemination of articles in the written press; and (vi) the preparation and dissemination of information brochures. Information and awareness campaigns were also organized in rural areas by the SEP-REDD+ communication unit. A network of journalists on REDD+ and climate change issues has been established to improve the coverage and quality of press articles on these issues.

A TV show on REDD+ is currently being developed to ensure awareness raising at a larger scale at the national level.

Feedback, Grievance, and Redress Mechanism (FGRM)

A FGRM, designed with all relevant stakeholders was validated in June 2018. It proposes grievance management, with different territorial entities (FGRM committees) locally and nationally: village - sub-prefectural - departmental - regional - and national with CN REDD+. It is intended to have customary, administrative and legal authorities intervene and to have a mediation authority at each level.

In order to make the process efficient, the arrangements proposed rely on committees favouring women and youth and disadvantage groups as members, and existing customary and administrative institutions at different territorial levels, adding to these institutions# specific prerogatives on REDD+. The FGRM is currently operational in targeted regions. The document is available on the reddplus.ci website.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	570,819.70	570,819.70
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	1,453,420.96	882,601.26
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,977,275.19	523,854.23
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