

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF099125
Printed On: 11/05/2013

Reporting Period: 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF099125

Preparation of DRC's Readiness Plan, Readiness Fund of the FCPF FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000092763 - Jean-Christophe Carret
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Congo, Dem Rep
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	8107 - AFTN1
Grant Start Date / Closing Date	03/26/2011 to 09/30/2014
Program Manager	
Original Grant Amount	3,400,000.00
Grant Amount	3,400,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,178,120.44 as of 06/30/2013
Disbursed 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013	1,381,238.53
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 Project Development Objective is to reinforce DRC's capacities to design a socially and environmentally sound national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and to develop a national reference scenario of emissions from deforestation and degradation that takes into account national circumstances.

Overall progress from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

DRC has made significant progress in its REDD+ Readiness process and is on track to achieve the specific objectives targeted by the FCPF REDD+ Readiness support grant at the end of the implementing period, despite the challenges discussed below.

National capacities on REDD-related issues have increased substantially, across a broad range of stakeholders including government officials and CSO members.

Through the Coordination Unit, the REDD+ Readiness process has galvanized government attention beyond authorities in charge of the forest sector.

Four major outputs and/or steps have been reached over the period July 2012 # June 2013:

A- DRC finalized its national REDD+ strategy based on seven pillars (Agriculture, Energy, Forests, Governance, Demography, Country planning and Land Tenure). Presented at the COP/MOP in Doha, the national REDD+ strategy was endorsed by the government in November 2012. This national REDD+ strategy is the result of analytical studies, consultations and on-the-ground activities. Among the analytical studies conducted, it is worth mentioning the in-depth analysis of causes of deforestation and forest degradation which combined remote sensing techniques, field visits to deforestation hotspots and literature review to produce a detailed analysis of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. Both Government and Civil Society Organizations were actively engaged in the preparation of the study, which also aimed at building a consensus on causes of deforestation in the country across stakeholders.

B- DRC self-assessed for the first time its readiness progress in accordance with the set of criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework, based on the findings of the independent mid-term evaluation report completed in June 2012 (by the independent evaluator Henk Hoefsloot). This exercise led to a successful request for additional funding (including a precise three year work program to finalize the REDD+ readiness process at a short run) and the reorganization of the CN-REDD.

C- The SESA process is well advanced with first versions available of the ESMF and its five related frameworks (Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Process Framework, Cultural Heritage Framework, Pests and Pesticides Framework).

D- The DRC formally submitted an ER-PIN to the participants of the FCPF Carbon Fund at its 6th carbon fund meeting held in June 2013, in Paris. Based on a public private partnership with Wildlife Works Carbon, Ecosystems Restoration Associates and the World Wildlife Fund, the proposed Emission Reductions Program developed in the Bandundu Province was welcomed. Not directly part of the readiness process, this initiative nevertheless brings concrete considerations which make the REDD+ readiness process more understandable.

Other REDD+ initiatives led by the donor community supplemented this progress, especially those supported by Norway related to the creation of a National REDD+ Fund and the development of an investment program, and FAO when it comes to MRV and national forest inventory.

Request for additional funding: The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) presented a request for additional funding for assessment by the FCPF Participants Committee (PC) at its 13th meeting held in October 2012 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. At this meeting, the PC adopted a resolution PC/13/2012/3 and allocated funding to the DRC up to an additional US\$5 million to continue with its preparation for Readiness. The PC requested that the DRC submit a revised request for additional funding to the FMT, reflecting the key issues summarized in the annex of the Resolution. The DRC submitted a revised request

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for additional funding to the FCPF FMT on July 12th, 2013. The FCPF FMT assessed whether the issues raised by the PC were addressed and issued a completeness check report on July 17th, 2013. Members of the Participants Committee and Observers were notified on July 18th, 2013 that the revised request for additional funding (in both French and English) and FMT completeness check report were available on the FCPF website at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/democratic-republic-congo>. In accordance with the aforementioned resolution, as the FMT received no objection from the Members of the Participants Committee within a 14-day period (by August 02, 2013), the World Bank, as the Delivery Partner for the Democratic Republic of Congo, conducted its due diligence in order to provide the additional funding of up to US\$ 5 million to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Members of the Participants Committee were notified of this decision to move forward on August 12th, 2013.

Reorganization: The consultant fees of CN-REDD members were supported by the UN-Programme through the end date of the UN-Programme in the DRC (December 2012). As a result and logical continuation, the FCPF had to take over, pending an evaluation of the agency. A new organizational chart was designed concomitantly with the review of the request for additional funding. This reorganization aimed at allocating adequate human resources to the tasks to be implemented in order to achieve a well-advanced or completed Readiness stage within a short period of time. Tasks were identified by comparing the findings of the independent mid-term evaluation of the REDD+ process in 2012 with the set of criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework. The first version of this organizational chart foresaw 22 technical experts dedicated to the implementation of the components of the R-PP, including 11 REDD+ Provincial Focal Points. For the support functions, 13 positions were identified. Theoretically this organization was the most efficient to quickly complete the REDD+ readiness process, however the review of the request for additional funding demonstrated that this was not viable financially. A second version was designed accordingly, with less ambitious deployment. 21 employees have been identified in the final organizational chart.

Decentralization: In accordance with the recommendation of the independent mid-term review, the CN-REDD recruited eleven experts in 2012 as "Provincial REDD+ Focal Points". Unfortunately, operating costs are very high in a vast country like DRC and the Provincial REDD+ Focal Points have never benefited from the necessary means to achieve results. On the other hand, in some remote provinces where the likeliness of REDD+ activities implementation is questionable, the DRC was taking the risk of generating frustrations among rural communities in the long run that would be deceived by the lack of expected benefits (including carbon revenues). Based on these observations, the CN-REDD reduced its ambition and decided to target only five provinces, the #REDD+ Pilot Provinces# of the Investment Program supported by Norway and UNDP (UN-REDD Programme). In terms of mission content, the Provincial REDD+ Focal Points will incorporate the FLEGT agenda into their work programs.

The National Coordination Unit has also done a remarkable job of coordinating different REDD+ interventions in the country. The Forest Investment Program, for instance, is fully aligned with the Readiness process and should directly contribute to the latter by generating important lessons during project design and implementation. The team in charge of managing the FIP is under the overall responsibility of the National REDD+ Coordination.

DRC has carried out a fair amount of consultation and information sharing activities on different components of the Readiness process. These activities so far have been mainly concentrated in Kinshasa but some have also been carried out in the provinces. The REDD+ Readiness process has been conducted in a participatory manner and has brought various stakeholders together to discuss strategic, legal and institutional issues related to REDD+. This has in turn strengthened the role of civil society organizations (including those representing indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities) in policy making. As a result, national CSOs today demonstrate an important level of support to the overall REDD+ Readiness process.

As a result of all these ongoing activities, the capacity of national actors working on REDD+ issues has been significantly strengthened through technical assistance, numerous training events, workshops and on-the-job capacity building. This strengthened capacity is expected to contribute to the broader agenda of sustainable forest management in the country.

Despite the progress, important challenges to the process remain. Primarily, high-level cross-sectoral coordination still needs to translate into concrete actions on the ground. Pressures on forests from development of different sectors, such as transport, mining, oil and agriculture, are likely to increase in the near future. The National REDD Committee and Inter-Ministerial REDD Committee, created to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and high-level steering of the process, have not worked as expected, and should be reformed. For REDD+ to be achieved, the country needs a clear vision on land use planning and management at

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central and decentralized level that can support sustainable use of its natural resources. Further governance reforms are also needed. In the forest sector, the rights of communities to manage forests need to be strengthened, so that they can engage effectively in local forest management, as foreseen by the 2002 Forest Law. Law enforcement need to be strengthened at all levels, and illegal logging tackled more forcefully. For that reason, a special emphasis was placed this year on the review of the Economic Governance Matrix, comprising henceforth criteria and indicators on REDD+. Human and institutional capacities need to be continuously strengthened, most particularly at the decentralized levels. In moving forward, DRC should clarify the institutional framework for REDD+, including the roles and responsibilities of different government agencies at the national and decentralized levels.

The reorganization is underway. Most of the newly defined positions are advertised, but unfortunately very few positions are occupied as of June 30th, 2013, due to a very slow recruitment process managed by the financial management unit. If this situation continues, that could significantly slow down the dynamics and the progress of the REDD+ preparation process in DRC.

Overall progress from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities: Comment:

Result 1: A National REDD+ Strategy (including the legal framework) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders. DRC finalized its national REDD+ strategy based on seven pillars (Agriculture, Energy, Forests, Governance, Demography, Country planning and Land Tenure). Presented at the COP/MOP in Doha, the national REDD+ strategy was endorsed by the government in November 2012. The strategy aligns well the proposed strategic options with the identified direct and indirect (underlying) drivers of deforestation, even though it still needs to conduct an exercise of prioritization of the proposed activities. The document is the result of high-level multi-sectoral consultations, particularly through the Thematic Groups. The national REDD+ strategy has been qualified as a « Framework » in order to acknowledge that it was a step in a long-term process necessarily fed by experience and submitted for regular assessments and updating. As such, two « programs » are proposed during the period covered by the FCPF additional funding (2013 # 2015). They seek to; (i) promote sectoral strategies within various ministries, inspired by the national REDD+ strategy, while expecting inputs from discussions with ministries to inform the strategy updating and (ii) draw lessons from pilot REDD+ projects or initiatives. Progress has also been achieved in identifying options for the 'Institutional and Legal' framework for REDD+, including the identification of options for the management of REDD+ funds. Norway supported technically by UNDP is currently supporting the creation of a National REDD+ Fund.

Result 2: National circumstances affecting the reference scenario are identified and quantified.

The country has prepared a roadmap to develop its national reference emissions level, and capacity has been built nationally to conduct the required analysis. A National Household Survey, led by the National Institute of Statistics, will provide detailed household-level on consumption of forest products and needs in terms of land. The Survey is currently under implementation and will generate key data for the preparation of the national reference emissions level. The preparation of the overall reference emissions level has been delayed given delays in conducting the Survey, whose financing by other donors was not concluded in the timeframe originally expected.

The methodological framework of the FCPF is expected to influence the definition of the reference scenario as well. Thanks to the development of the ER-PIN in the Bandundu Province, the DRC has today a good understanding of the importance of such a reference scenario. The DRC applies for a #significant# adjustment of the historical deforestation rate.

Result 3: A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is prepared and validated by national stakeholders.

The SESA process is well advanced. ESMF and five related frameworks are available:

- #Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF);
- #Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);
- #Process Framework;
- #Cultural Heritage Framework;
- #Pests and Pesticides Framework.

A last series of consultations is underway in all the 11 provinces with an interest in finalizing the SESA process in January 2014.

Grant follow-up and structure

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Description and context of Grant:

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

Comment on follow up:

Additional financing

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) presented a request for additional funding for assessment by the FCPF Participants Committee (PC) at its 13th meeting held in October 2012 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. At this meeting, the PC adopted a resolution PC/13/2012/3 and allocated funding to the DRC up to an additional US\$5 million to continue with its preparation for Readiness. The PC requested that the DRC submit a revised request for additional funding to the FMT, reflecting the key issues summarized in the annex of the Resolution.

The DRC submitted a revised request for additional funding to the FCPF FMT on July 12th, 2013.

The FCPF FMT assessed whether the issues raised by the PC were addressed and issued a completeness check report on July 17th, 2013.

Members of the Participants Committee and Observers were notified on July 18th, 2013 that the revised request for additional funding (in both French and English) and FMT completeness check report were available on the FCPF website at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/democratic-republic-congo>.

In accordance with the aforementioned resolution, as the FMT received no objection from the Members of the Participants Committee within a 14-day period (by August 02, 2013), the World Bank, as the Delivery Partner for the Democratic Republic of Congo, conducted its due diligence in order to provide the additional funding of up to US\$ 5 million to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Members of the Participants Committee were notified of this decision to move forward on August 12th, 2013.

Grant signing is expected to take place in December 2013.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

Additional Financing operation of US\$5.2 million endorsed by the Participants Committee in August 2013:

Additional activities were identified by the DRC by referring to the set of criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework while taking into account:

-#DRC#s Readiness progress as derived from the independent mid-term evaluation report completed in June 2012 by the independent evaluator Henk Hoefsloot;

-#Other REDD+ initiatives led by the donor community, especially those supported by Norway related to the creation of a National REDD+ Fund and the development of an investment program, and FAO when it comes to MRV and national forest inventory.

The proposed project activities aim at generating the Readiness Package (R-Package) by the end of December 2015, at the end of the readiness preparation phase, at a stage when activities proposed in the readiness preparation proposal (R-PP) are well-advanced or completed.

50.35% of the grant will be dedicated to Project Management, formerly supported by the UN-Programme which ended end of 2012,

29.63% will promote multi-stakeholder consultations, as well as strategic deployment/decentralization in five pilot provinces as recommended by the independent mid-term evaluation,

20.02% of the grant will allow updating the national REDD+ strategy in the frame of a socially and environmentally sound

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framework incorporating SESA outcomes and recommendations.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2013

No outcome indicators are used for this grant, but in order to measure progress towards key results achievement in the course of project implementation, we propose to assess progress in the nine subcomponents by referring to the related 34 assessment criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework. The Readiness Package Assessment Framework was formally endorsed (resolution PC/14/2013/1) by the Participants Committee (PC) of the FCPF at the fourteenth PC Meeting, March 19-21, 2013, Washington, DC.

1. Readiness Organization and Consultation (financed by the FCPF Grant)

1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements

- 1) Accountability and transparency: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 2) Operating mandate and budget: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 3) Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 4) Technical supervision capacity: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 5) Funds management capacity: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 6) Feedback and grievance redress mechanism: satisfactory progress, improvements needed

1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

- 7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders: substantial progress
- 8) Consultation processes: substantial progress
- 9) Information sharing and accessibility of information: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes: satisfactory progress, improvements needed

2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation (financed by the FCPF grant)

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

- 11) Assessment and analysis: substantial progress
- 12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement: substantial progress
- 13) Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities: substantial progress
- 14) Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 15) Implications for forest law and policy: satisfactory progress, improvements needed

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

- 16) Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options: substantial progress
- 17) Feasibility assessment: substantial progress
- 18) Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies: substantial progress

2c. Implementation Framework

- 19) Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 20) Guidelines for Implementation: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 21) Benefit sharing mechanism: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 22) National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities: substantial progress

2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

- 23) Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues: substantial progress
- 24) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts: substantial progress
- 25) Environmental and Social Management Framework: substantial progress

3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels (partially financed by the FCPF)

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- 26) Demonstration of methodology: substantial progress
- 27) Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances: substantial progress
- 28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines: substantial progress

4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards (partially financed by the FCPF)

4a. National Forest Monitoring System

- 29) Documentation of monitoring approach: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 30) Demonstration of early system implementation: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 31) Institutional arrangements and capacities: satisfactory progress, improvements needed

4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

- 32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 33) Monitoring, reporting and information sharing: satisfactory progress, improvements needed
- 34) Institutional arrangements and capacities # Multiple Benefits and Safeguards: satisfactory progress, improvements needed

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1: Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-stakeholder Consultations

- Status: Under Implementation
- Planned Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below
- Actual Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below

Component 2: Contribute to the design of a national REDD+ Strategy

- Status: Completed
- Planned Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below
- Actual Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below

Component 3 - Preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

- Status: Under Implementation
- Planned Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below
- Actual Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below

Component 4 - Project Management

- Status: Under Implementation
- Planned Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below
- Actual Output: See detailed comments under section "Comment on implementation progress by component" below

Comment on planned and actual Output

The components described here are those identified in the R-PP Assessment Note. It should be noted that the DRC will be implementing soon a different set of activities as derived from their request for additional funding. This revised set of activities aim at generating the Readiness Package (R-Package) by the end of December 2015, at the end of the readiness

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preparation phase, at a stage when activities proposed in the readiness preparation proposal (R-PP) are well-advanced or completed. Activities were identified by the DRC by referring to the set of criteria of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework while taking into account:

-#DRC#s Readiness progress as derived from the independent mid-term evaluation report completed in June 2012 by the independent evaluator Henk Hoefsloot;

-#Other REDD+ initiatives led by the donor community, especially those supported by Norway related to the creation of a National REDD+ Fund and the development of an investment program, and FAO when it comes to MRV and national forest inventory.

Comment on component implementation progress

(It should be mentioned that all planned outputs were expected at the end of the grant implementation period)

Component 1: Support to the coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-stakeholder Consultations

1.1 - Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process

Planned activity: Recruitment of provincial focal points for REDD

Actual implementation to date: In accordance with the recommendation of the independent mid-term review, the CN-REDD recruited eleven experts in 2012 as "Provincial REDD+ Focal Points". Unfortunately, operating costs are very high in a vast country like DRC and the Provincial REDD+ Focal Points have never benefited from the necessary means to achieve results. On the other hand, in some remote provinces where the likelihood of REDD+ activities implementation is questionable, the DRC was taking the risk of generating frustrations among rural communities in the long run that would be deceived by the lack of expected benefits (including carbon revenues). Based on these observations, the CN-REDD reduced its ambition and decided to target only five provinces, the #REDD+ Pilot Provinces# of the Investment Program supported by Norway and UNDP (UN-REDD Programme). In terms of mission content, the Provincial REDD+ Focal Points will incorporate the FLEGT agenda into their work programs.

Planned activity: Capacity building for National Coordination and Provincial Coordinator

Actual implementation to date: Formal and informal capacity building is ongoing (including technical assistance, workshops, and international visits).

Planned activity: Equipment for national coordination

Actual implementation to date: Equipment was purchased.

#

1.2 - Promotion of Multi-stakeholder Consultations

Planned activity: Recruitment of a national Information, Education and Communication Specialist

Actual implementation to date: done, reorganization of the CN-REDD underway

Planned activity: Preparation of communication material

Actual implementation to date: communication materials have been prepared (pamphlets, theater plays, calendars, etc.). A national Communication Plan was developed in 2012, but very few tools are currently available to meet the needs in terms of Information, Education and Communication (IEC), particularly at the ground level. The international REDD+ University has gathered over 800 people around intense discussions and capacity building on REDD+ issues in 2011. The FCPF is providing support for the preparation of a high-quality website (www.redd.cd).

Planned activity: Support to national community radio network

Actual implementation to date: This activity was not judged a priority at this stage and was dropped.

Component 2: Contribute to the design of a national REDD+ Strategy

2a - Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

Planned activity: Recruitment of national and international consultants to support preparation of the REDD+ strategy

Actual implementation to date: The National REDD+ Strategy is completed and has been prepared in a highly inclusive process. 16 Thematic Coordination Groups bringing together representatives from government (various Ministries), civil society and have been convened to assess in detail each strategic option identified.

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2b - Preparation of the REDD+ Implementation Framework

Planned activity: Study on the establishment of a national REDD+ Fund

Actual implementation to date: The UNDP launched the preparation of a REDD+ Multi-Donor trust fund (MDTF). Hence, this FCPF activity was dropped, as it was led by the UNDP. FCPF funds may be used for continuing to assess options for the management of the resources, or to furthering the preparation of the National REDD+ fund under consideration.

Planned activity: Assessment of legal and institutional choices for the REDD framework

Actual implementation to date: A study and various capacity building activities on options for REDD+ benefit sharing have been completed. FCPF funds have been mobilized to prepare the Decree on #Registration of REDD+ projects# and to build a first version of the national REDD+ registry.

Planned activity: Conceptualization of an Integrated Excellence Center on Climate

Actual implementation to date: This activity was not deemed a priority at this stage and will not be implemented with FCPF funding, but rather with funds from other partners currently under identification.

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2c - Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment

Planned activity: Consultancy to support the National SESA Commission for REDD in DRC.

Actual implementation to date: The SESA process is well advanced. ESMF and five related frameworks are available:

-#Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF);

-#Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);

-#Process Framework;

-#Cultural Heritage Framework;

-#Pests and Pesticides Framework.

A last series of consultations is underway in all the 11 provinces with an interest in finalizing the SESA process in January 2014.

Component 3 - Preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

Planned activity: Support to the national household survey in DRC

Actual implementation to date: The National Household Survey will provide important household-level data for the preparation of the reference scenarios. The Household Survey has been delayed due to difficulties faced by the National Institute of Statistics in securing financing for the whole Survey exercise. However, the survey has now been launched and data should be available by mid 2014.

Planned activity: Study on spatial analysis

Actual implementation to date: The modeling exercise has not been launched yet. This activity might be redesigned according to the Methodological Framework (reference levels) still under discussion.

Planned activity: Analysis of quantitative data

Actual implementation to date: This activity has not been launched yet. This activity might be redesigned according to the Methodological Framework (reference levels) still under discussion.

Component 4 - Project Management

Status: The FCPF funds are managed by the #Unité de Coordination du Projet Forêt et Conservation de la Nature# (UCP-PFCN).

They have financial management and procurement competency to deal with World Bank fiduciary rules. Unfortunately, the UCP-PFCN performance is often low. Delays are frequent. This has been particularly true this year for the reorganization of the CN-REDD. The Ministry is currently thinking about possible changes in the frame of the discussions related to the additional US\$ 5.2 million.

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EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P124072 - DRC-FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: National REDD Coordination Unit, Ministry of Environment, Nature Cons & Tourism
Contact: Victor KABENGELE wa KADILU
Address: National REDD Coordination Unit, MECNT, Kinshasa
Phone: +243 999 995 462 Email: abckab@gmail
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 others.

##The National REDD+ Coordination in DRC should be commended for its efforts of coordinating a complex process with multiple donors and stakeholders. They have managed to keep donor efforts coordinated by engaging all the key stakeholders including all technical and financial partners in one single REDD+ process and by maintaining a relatively simple institutional set-up. The R-PP has served as the roadmap around which other donors# and partners#initiatives are coordinated.

##The FCPF support is fully embedded in the larger REDD+ Readiness process. There is a high-level of coordination with the UN-REDD program. The same team on the government side manages both programs. Various staff members previously financed by UN-REDD are now financed by FCPF. The two Programs have shown flexibility in responding to the needs of the process by reallocating some budget as priorities evolved. The FCPF and UN-REDD programs are fully committed to the principle that in DRC there is only one Readiness process, although it is supported by different donors.

##The FCPF has been coordinating closely with the Forest Investment Program. Some of the studies conducted during the FCPF phase have been used in the preparation of the FIP Investment Plan. The institutional arrangements for the FIP build on those put in place by the government with the support from the FCPF and UN-REDD, such as the National REDD Coordination, National REDD Committee and the network of CSOs involved in REDD (GTCR). The FIP is also the first building block of an Emission Reductions program in the Bandundu Province submitted to the FCPF Carbon Fund Participants at the June 2013 meeting of the Carbon Fund.

##The National REDD Coordination Unit has been active in seeking additional collaboration for other donors, including Norway and the European Union to finance other Readiness activities (National REDD+ Fund, FLEGT agenda as part of the mission of the provincial REDD+ Focal Points).

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

In managing the FCPF grant, the World Bank has sought to remain flexible to respond to the emerging needs of this innovative process. Following the recommendations of the independent mid-term evaluation, the government has proposed a step-wise approach to developing the strategy. The country completed a framework REDD+ strategy in November 2012, which will be updated in the course of the REDD+ preparation process based on i) lessons from ongoing pilot REDD+ projects; ii) and ongoing decentralization of the REDD+ process.

In June 2012, the World Bank agreed to reallocate some funds to the Provincial Focal Points, including equipment and operational funds, and to the Thematic Coordination Groups in charge of contributing to the strategy preparation. It should be noted that these new activities fall within the scope of the R-PP.

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

National capacities on REDD+ in general, and specifically on the identification of strategic options to reduce emissions from forest and forest degradation and of associated social and environmental risks, have increased substantially. This capacity is spread across different sets of stakeholders, including the Government (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy, Land Issues, among others) and civil society organizations. The capacity of national actors, including the government and civil society has been strengthened, on REDD+ issues through technical assistance, numerous training events, workshops and on-the-job capacity building.

As to financial and procurement capacity, the FCPF / WB have worked closely with the Coordination Unit in charge of the Forest and Nature Conservation project. They have Financial Management and Procurement competency to deal with World Bank fiduciary rules. Efficiency could be improved nevertheless through shortening execution delays.

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 Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the REDD+ process is well advanced. An international consultancy firm (AGRECO) was hired to support the Ministry of Environment in conducting the exercise. A national consultant was hired to follow the process from the National REDD+ Coordination on a continual basis. The mainstreamed SESA methodology developed by the FCPF was used at the start of the process to allow for an early identification of strategic options, whose social and environmental risks could be analyzed. Along with the low level of capacity within government on this issue, the timing of this exercise posed a great challenge. The process needed to be launched early, so as to enable the consideration of social and environmental risks in the choice of strategic options for the Strategy, but not too early, otherwise the strategic options would not yet have been identified.

A last series of consultations is ongoing in all the 11 provinces to get comments and recommendations on the ESMF and its five related frameworks:

- #Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF);
- #Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);
- #Process Framework;
- #Cultural Heritage Framework;
- #Pests and Pesticides Framework.

A special emphasis will be placed on the national social and environmental standards as part of the ESMF. Once completed, a national workshop will be held in Kinshasa to validate all the frameworks and to have a SESA process deemed finalized. Simultaneously, the missing tools, products or guidelines necessary for operationalizing the SESA process will be developed (Safeguards Information System (SIS), Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Benefit Sharing Plan) in order to envision experimentation (based on existing REDD+ activities) and vulgarization of the related-ESMF products (social and environmental standards, etc.).

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

Refer to comments on SESA. DRC aims at completing all the management frameworks by the end of January 2014. As of today, they are on track to achieve their objective.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this Grant.

As to consultations, the National REDD Coordination has played a commendable role of involving various stakeholders throughout the process. Consultations are held every time ToRs for a new study are prepared, when the study is launched, during the study and when outputs are validated. CSOs are often invited to implement parts of these studies. A strong partnership with the Working Group on Climate and REDD+ (GTCR) has allowed the Coordination to reach out to various organizations through the networks built by CSOs themselves. The relation with the GCTR itself has not been easy due to internal conflicts among different NGOs groups, but the Coordination has taken a very proactive role in mediating these conflicts. Most of the consultations are concentrated in Kinshasa, which has attracted some criticism. However, it is expected that consultations will be increasingly decentralized now the Provincial Focal Points are in place. It should also be noted that not all aspects of the process need to be discussed at the decentralized level, and that there is a real danger of consultation fatigue and raising expectations too high.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2011	06/30/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2011	12/31/2011	0.00	0.00	400,000.00	400,000.00
01/01/2012	06/30/2012	0.00	0.00	796,881.91	396,881.91
07/01/2012	12/31/2012	0.00	0.00	1,270,810.39	473,928.48
01/01/2013	06/30/2013	0.00	0.00	2,178,120.44	907,310.05
07/01/2013	12/31/2013	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2014	06/30/2014	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2014	12/31/2014	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00