

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

Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA8848  
Printed On: 05/11/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Cleared

Assignment: TFOA8848

## El Salvador FCPF Readiness Additional Grant Funding

### FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000457984 - Philippe Dardel  
Approving Manager: 00000253690 - Valerie Hickey

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	El Salvador
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9272 - SLCEN
Grant Start Date / End Date	06/29/2016 to 12/31/2020
Program Manager	Siet Meijer
Original Grant Amount	2,500,000.00
Grant Amount	2,500,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,836,595 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020	1,336,595
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

*This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Components, Outcome, Execution, Program (FCPFR), Disbursements*

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA8848  
Printed On: 05/11/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Cleared

---

## OVERVIEW

### Overall Assessments and Ratings

#### Grant Objectives:

The development objective of the proposed Project is to strengthen the enabling conditions for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes (EN-REP).

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

**Rating:** Satisfactory (Previously Rated Satisfactory on 06/30/2019)

#### Comment:

With the World Bank and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) financial and technical support, El Salvador has, since 2012, made progress in integrating forest and sustainable rural management and good conservation practices. In 2018, to help the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) consolidate achievements of the original donation, the Government of El Salvador (GoES) obtained an Additional Financing (AF) Grant from the FCPF for US\$2.5 million to continue the Readiness process. The AF prepares MARN for the next stage in the REDD+ Process and supports the development of the implementation framework of the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes.

The MARN has made good progress in FY21. During the reporting period, the Grant has mainly been used for: consultancies, citizen consultations and capacity building with sector stakeholders and local communities on key environmental and social management documents/processes (the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)), the study on the rights of indigenous peoples, and the grievance redress mechanism); capacity strengthening of territorial governance institutions; improving fire control/management (training and equipment); a study on Carbon rights; the completion of the establishment of reference levels with higher accuracy, and related capacity strengthening; the preparation of the protocols to monitor information and the strengthening of technological capacities to operate the Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, with, in particular, the development of the MRV's Information Technology (IT) platform.

However, due to the implementation delays created by the COVID 19 pandemic and to ensure quality completion of the activities and related outputs, a six month extension was approved in April 2020, hence moving the closing date of the AF Grant to December 2020.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

**Rating:** Satisfactory (Previously Rated Moderately Satisfactory on 06/30/2019)

#### Comment:

Implementation of the grant to date has been successful. During FY2020, US\$1,336,595 (53% of the AF) from the AF Grant were disbursed, bringing total disbursement from 20 to 73% of the total AF grant. Despite the current percentage being below earlier plans, full disbursement is expected by the new Grant closure.

### Grant follow-up and structure

#### Description and context of Grant:

The project aims at supporting El Salvador in designing and establishing policies and programs to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which anticipates the full and meaningful engagement of potentially impacted stakeholders. To reflect the progress achieved and reflect better the new objectives of the project, the original PDO has been modified for this AF to strengthen the enabling conditions for the implementation of the EN-REP. The AF grant expands and complements the results obtained to date with the originally proposed components. The main results expected at project closure are listed below:

#### Component 1. Consultation and Awareness Raising

- a. Raising national awareness for the preparation of the EN-REP strategy.

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref.	TF0A8848	Reporting Period:	07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020
Printed On:	05/11/2021	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Cleared

---

- b. Raising awareness about the rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the EN-REP.
- c. Grievance redress and consultation.

### Component 2. Enabling Environment for the EN-REP

- a. Main causes of deforestation and landscape degradation.
- b. Assessment of potential modalities for marginalized groups to access funding for restoration activities within the framework of the EN-REP.

### Component 3. National Forest Reference Level/National Forest Emissions Level

- a. Elaboration of forest emission reference levels, and the preparation of the report for the FCPF and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

### Component 4. National Forest Monitoring System

- a. Operationalization of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system.
- b. Expansion of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system for non-carbon co-benefits and safeguards management.

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

The Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration Project, with a US\$3.6 million grant from GEF-7, is under preparation and will target the El Imposible Barra de Santiago area.

### Comment on follow up:

The REDD+ preparation activities have given the basis for the preparation of other investment operations, which will hence implement the EN-REP strategy: For instance, US\$ 36 million financing have been approved by the Green Climate Fund under the *Reclima* project for sustainable landscape and restoration interventions with an agricultural focus. With technical support from FAO, implementation will cover most of the dry corridor.

### End Date of Last Site Visit:

The last World Bank mission was organized from February 26 to 28, 2020. Since then, actual missions to El Salvador have been interrupted due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

During the reporting period, two World Bank missions were organized in El Salvador, in October 2019 and February 2020, to assess progress and provide support on the implementation of activities described in the Annual Work Plan (AWP). During the last mission, an action plan up to closing was developed.

### Restructuring of Grant:

As a result of the unprecedented Covid-19 emergency, on March 6, 2020, the Republic of El Salvador requested an extension of the closing date for six months. This Level II restructuring was approved by the World Bank on April 24, 2020. Indeed, although MARN has made good progress, the Covid-19 emergency had negatively impacted implementation, hence affecting the ability to deliver on activities that are key for the achievement of the PDO within the existing implementation period:

- a. Although a robust National REDD+ Strategy exists, its implementation requires consolidation at policy level and the finalization of critical activities that demand active engagement of several stakeholders (e.g. continue process of integration and enrollment of the different sectors, valuation and importance of forests for management and development, etc. ).
- b. Developing and establishing an integrated multifunctional system for MRV: In order to visualize information, including spatial, tabular and statistical information, there is a need to establish an Integrated MRV System that combines different information platforms that are already available or under development at MARN.
- c. The Government has generated its first National Forest Inventory for the entire country. However, in order to officially present it the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), El Salvador needs to complete the information of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) at the national level.

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref.	TF0A8848	Reporting Period:	07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020
Printed On:	05/11/2021	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Cleared

---

To complete activities within the extended timeframe, MARN has developed an Action Plan. To facilitate cross-departmental coordination and the adequate provision of resources, MARN has appointed a focal point accordingly.

## OUTCOME

### Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Under the successive grants, El Salvador has progressed towards completion of activities in the project and achievement of REDD+ Readiness milestones. The EN-REP has been built on a broad, legitimate and representative participation and consultation process receiving a strong high-level political support and local engagement. Activities implemented during the last period have furthered the country's preparedness on the implementation of the EN-REP. Key outcomes include:

#### Component 1: Consultation and Awareness Raising

- a. Appropriate institutional arrangements, including with the National Forest Fire Commission, and good forest governance have been established with different institutions to raise national awareness for the preparation of the EN-REP strategy.
- b. Effective channels and mechanisms of participation have been developed to raise awareness for indigenous people's rights. Activities on this topic have included: (i) the delivery of a workshop on feedback process on safeguards documents with indigenous populations; (ii) the organization of 3 workshops on enabling institutions to further propagate the rights of indigenous Peoples; and (iii) the organization of a first meeting between MARN and the National Indigenous Environment Board (MNIMA) to establish plans to publicize the work of the National Indigenous Roundtable.
- c. Various documents, including the Pest Management Plan, the Peoples Planning Framework for Indigenous Peoples and the Involuntary Resettlements and the Procedures Framework, have been drafted and are being validated.
- d. The Grievance Redress Mechanism has been presented in three priority zones (Central Zone, Western and Eastern Zone) and validation is in progress.

#### Component 2. Enabling environment for the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes

- a. Following the development and launch of the REDD+ National Strategy, MARN established a process to integrate it into national policies and programs such as the National Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Program and the National Plan for Climate Change.
- b. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Safeguards Information System (SIS) have been generated and are under validation by the Ministry. The Grievance Redress Mechanism, ESMF and SESA have been submitted for approval to the World Bank in June 2020. The final versions are expected to be published on MARN's website by August 2020.
- c. The development of relevant instruments and plans for implementing the REDD+ National Strategy, such as the Forest Fire Control National and Environmental Zoning and Land Use Planning, is under progress.
- d. Local consultation processes and the stakeholder mapping of the area were delivered in the El Impossible Barra de Santiago Conservation Area (EIBSCA).
- e. The purchase of different equipment for wildfires and deforestation control was completed (e.g vehicles, water tanks and pumps).
- f. An economic evaluation of environmental damages caused by forest fires and related training were completed.
- g. The coordinator for the preparation of the REDD+ proposal, and the legal specialist for the proposal on carbon rights have been hired.

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref.	TFOA8848	Reporting Period:	07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020
Printed On:	05/11/2021	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Cleared

---

### Component 3: National Forest Reference Levels/National Forest Emissions Levels

- The generation and systematization of relevant information to complete the process for the establishment of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) is under progress.
- A time series of land use change and possible scenarios has been established.
- The database of the National Forestry Inventory has been migrated to a new server and the personnel have been trained in their technical use.
- A systematic grid for the visual analysis of the Coverage Change and Land Use from 2000 to 2018 has been designed and implemented based on the interpretation of high-resolution images.
- The development of forest change detection maps, and the definition of the concept, methodology and measurements needed to measure forest degradation at the national level, is under progress with the support of a specialized consultant.
- The establishment of temporary plots for forest growth estimates is under way, with the support of different specialized consultants (coordinator, measurer, and botanist).

### Component 4: National Forest Monitoring System

- The Integrated System of MRV has been completed;
- Institutional arrangements have been developed for the MRV System implementation;
- The purchase of hardware, computers, hardware license and equipment for the optimization of the National Monitoring Network has been completed; and
- The development of modules for the MRV at the senior level, the development of modules for the MRV at the junior level, and the definition and identification of the monitoring network, are under way (consultancies).

## Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

## COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

### Output and Implementation by Component (as of 6/30/2020)

#### Component 1: Creation of Awareness and Participation

Implementation Satisfactory

Rating:

Status: Under implementation (almost completed)

Planned Output: Q1: REDD+ communications strategy. Q2: cross-sectoral REDD+ coordination body. Q4: 3+ activities to raise IP rights in relation to the EN-REP.

Actual Output: Communication strategy elaborated and implemented, information materials for the prevention of wildfires produced, campaign to manage the bark beetle pest elaborated, and the Restoration Roundtable established and strengthened.  
National Council for Environmental Sustainability and Vulnerability established.  
Workshops on safeguards and Indigenous rights organized (based on related study). The National Indigenous Round Table on the Environment established.

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA8848  
Printed On: 05/11/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Cleared

---

### Component 2: Enable the Essential Conditions for the EN-REP

**Implementation Rating:** Satisfactory  
**Status:** Under Implementation  
**Planned Output:** EOP: ENREDD+ operating, SESA carried out, ESMF prepared, differentiated mechanisms for vulnerable designed, and safeguards instruments validated. Q6: SIS. Q4: improved capacity for fire fighting.  
**Actual Output:** Finalized ENREDD+ (includes a strategic framework, an operational framework and guidelines for the planning and implementation of local actions) under implementation in the Barra de Santiago area. The Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA) completed. The final documents, including annexes, of the ESMF completed and under validation. The SIS prepared. Capacity on fire fighting (equipment and training) strengthened.

### Component 3: National Forest Reference Level/Forest Emissions Reference Levels

**Implementation Rating:** Satisfactory  
**Status:** Under Implementation  
**Planned Output:** EOP: capacity to establish National FREL/RL. Q4: RL submitted to UNFCCC. Q3: expand RL analysis with new time change series.  
**Actual Output:** Reference Level maps developed. RL expected to be submitted by January 2021. Concept of forests defined. First National Forest Inventory completed and personnel trained in the technical use of the National Forestry Inventory database. Establishment of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) at advanced stage. Time series of land use change and possible scenarios established. A systematic tool for the visual analysis of the Coverage Change and Land Use from 2000 to 2018, designed and implemented.

### Component 4: National Forest Monitoring System

**Implementation Rating:** Satisfactory  
**Status:** Under Implementation  
**Planned Output:** EOP: NFMS for MRV. Q4: framework and arrangements for MRV in place. Q6: MRV system operating.  
**Actual Output:** Capacity building for NFMS involved institutions developed. Institutional arrangements required for MRV System implementation developed. The Integrated System of MRV has been completed.

## Comment on planned and actual Output

## Comment on component implementation progress

As of the end of the Reporting Period (6/30/2021):

### Component 1: Consultation and Awareness Raising

Planned activities have been implemented and expected outputs delivered.

### Component 2. Enabling environment for the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes

Most planned activities have been implemented. However, as indicated earlier, implementation of the national REDD+ strategy requires consolidation at policy level and the finalization of critical activities that demand active engagement of several

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref.	TF0A8848	Reporting Period:	07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020
Printed On:	05/11/2021	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Cleared

---

stakeholders (e.g. continue process of integration and enrollment of the different sectors, valuation and importance of forests for management and development, etc. ).

Pending activities also include:

- a. Completing the hiring of the social and environmental specialists, the Climate Change specialist, the facilitator to strengthen institutional capacity building on the SESA and its linkage to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to avoid forest degradation and deforestation;
- b. Completing the development of the document on the assessment of possible modalities for marginalized groups to access funding for restoration activities within the framework of the EN-REP; and
- c. Completing the hiring of a Fiduciary specialist to work on the Operations Manual and the Procurement Strategy.

### Component 3: National Forest Reference Levels/National Forest Emissions Levels

The main pending activity is the completion of the on-going estimation of Emission Factors, MRV and Forest Reference Level to be submitted to the UNFCCC, and

### Component 4: National Forest Monitoring System

Pending activities include:

- a. Completing the on-going collection, processing, and analysis of information and key data on water regulation (as priority co-benefit); and
- b. Depending on the pandemic environment in November, organizing physical/virtual workshops and consultancies on: (i) analysis and redesign of hydrometeorological monitoring network; and (ii) training on estimation of emission factors, MRV and Forest Reference Level.

Given the health emergency and the restrictions in movement, the consultancy for the measurement of soil properties in 600 points of the country as an input to establish a baseline and a monitoring mechanism, was delayed and won't be delivered before grant closure. Related resources will be reallocated to further strengthen MRV related capacity and systems.

## EXECUTION

### Bank project related to the grant

**Project ID / Name:** P124935 - El Salvador FCPF REDD Readiness  
**Project Status:** Lending  
**Global Focal Area:** Climate change  
**Product Line:** CN - Carbon Offset

### Implementing agency and contact details

**Agency:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)  
**Contact:** Lina Pohl  
**Address:** Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
**Phone:** 503-2132-9418 **Email:** [lpohl@marn.gob.sv](mailto:lpohl@marn.gob.sv)  
**Website:** [www.marn.gob.sv](http://www.marn.gob.sv)

## PROGRAM

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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA8848  
Printed On: 05/11/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Cleared

---

## 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 AF Grant complements other World Bank-financed projects such as the upcoming GEF-7 “Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration” project, as well as, other initiatives led by allied international organizations such as the GIZ with its REDD+ Landscape Restoration Program and FAO-GCF’s Reclima project for El Salvador’s dry corridor that seeks to boost resilience by promoting climate adaptation measures.

The country has made a commitment to restore one million hectares by 2030, a pledge that has been reaffirmed by the launch of its National Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Plan. The plan proposes activities for the initial restoration of 100,000 hectares in key protected natural areas, including mangrove ecosystems. To achieve this goal, the government of El Salvador has 20 million dollars distributed in several projects financed by Spain (micro-watershed Water Cooperation Fund), the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation, USAID Regional Climate Change Program, sources of income from national environmental compensations as well as resources managed by El Salvador’s Initiative for the Americas Fund (FIAES), among others. These supporters have contributed with different components and activities laid out in the R-PP.

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

No significant changes in the technical design have been made. The implementation timeline has been extended to ensure quality completion of activities, outputs and outcomes, taking into account delays emerging from the Covid-19 context (see earlier Section on Grant Follow-up and Structure for a description of key directions during the extension).

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

The team of specialists has provided a close collaboration to the Project Implementation Unit team throughout the year. Two missions took place in FY20 to further support implementation, in addition to multiple video-conferences.

### 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 SESA has been conducted in accordance to the Common Approach. As part of the project, the Safeguards Facilitating Team (EFS) and the National Safeguards Committee (CNS) were established. The SESA, the ESMF and the SIS have been generated. The Grievance redress Mechanism, the ESMF and the SESA have been submitted for approval to the World Bank in June 2020. The final versions are expected to be published on MARN’s website by August 2020.

In addition, a consultancy is being conducted to analyze the legal framework in light of the new Environmental and Social Framework of the World Bank, as it will apply to all borrowers applying for funding.

Over the reporting period, the project organized or facilitated over 12 local/national/regional meetings with indigenous communities specifically, for consultation (including on indigenous peoples’ rights study), training or promotion purposes.

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

The ESMF has been completed with the support of CARE and it was prepared in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

At the sub-national level, a process of dialogue, participation and consultations was implemented to inform the population and key sectors in each territory about the EN-REP process, climate change issues, and the Ecosystems and Landscapes Restoration Program. Consultation regarding the definition of the term forest and the techniques for restoring ecosystems and landscapes within the framework of the EN-REP, based on the Marrakesh agreements was also completed. The SESA has been completed. A second round of consultations has been organized with participants from the SESA to validate the ESMF documents. Feedback on



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

---

## Report to Donor

Ref. TFOA8848  
Printed On: 05/11/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Cleared

---

the ESMF documents has also been received during workshops from the Restoration Roundtable, the National Safeguards Committee, and FIAES. Communication activities will continue to be implemented, mainly the disclosure of feedback and results obtained from the different Grants.

The grievance redress mechanism will be driven by FIAES. The FIAES system has been prepared under the safeguard requirements of the Green Climate Fund and reviewed in parallel with the ESMF to align it with the EN-REP for implementation and monitoring. The mechanism constitutes a basic element to conform the country's SIS and the Feedback Grievance redress Mechanism (FGRM) within the Framework of REDD+. A pilot exercise linked to the current FGRM has been undertaken in 3 regions of the country where REDD+ actions are currently being carried out. Based on participatory consultations conducted with local institutions and actors, a proposal on the design of a REDD+ mechanism linked to the MARN Complaints System, was finalized to address citizens' complaints about restoration projects under implementation.

## DISBURSEMENTS

### Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	500,000.00
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	1,343,338.82	843,338.82
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	1,836,594.66	493,255.84