

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment:

Grant Agreement for Gabon's Readiness Preparation Proposal - Readiness Fund of Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: Fisseha Tessema Abissa

Approving Manager: Sanjay Srivastava

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Gabon
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	SAWE4
Grant Start Date / End Date	7/10/2019 to 12/31/2021
Program Manager	Siet Meijer
Original Grant Amount	1,950,000
Grant Amount	1,950,000
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	684,764.74 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020	684,764.74
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. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments and Ratings

Grant Objectives:

To improve estimates of emissions from the forestry sector and to design and validate with key stakeholders a strategy to reduce emissions from forestry practices at a national scale.

Overall progress from 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN), encountered multiple challenges in implementation that have led to major setbacks to its timeline and hence its ability to achieve grant objectives. The grant will need an extension in order to achieve its objective. It was only after several months of back and forth between the ANPN and the project's primary vendor, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), that the latter signed its contract. Since the crux of the project's objectives are reliant upon this consultancy, which is meant to devise an improved methodology for carbon accounting within forest concessions, much of the project's overall work, outside of the putting into place of implementation arrangement, was held at a standstill.

Overall progress from 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

- Finalization of relevant institutional arrangements (creation of PIU and governmental decree affirming such) (September 2019); appointment of all key team members (November 2019);
- Initiation of procurement plan (December 2019);
- Meetings of the Steering Committee (multiple times);
- Drafting and approval of annual budgeted workplan by the Steering Committee (January 2020);
- The PIU was trained by the Bank's safeguards specialists in the new Environmental and Social Framework (January 2020);
- Opening of the project Designated Account and first disbursement (February 2020);
- Drafting and revision of the Project Implementation Manual
- Terms of Reference drafted for: improved emissions accounting on forestry concessions; certification of timber harvested from concessions using reduced impact logging-carbon (RIL-C) strategies; reforestation strategy; an expert in RIL-C; Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA); external auditor;
- Recruitment of an expert to train a national team to apply the methodology for the measurement of degradation in forest concessions (February 2020);
- Recruitment of an expert in RIL-C (May 2020);
- Recruitment of five national researchers to take emissions measurements (April 2020);
- Contract signed with TNC, the most significant consultancy in the project (June 2020).

As a result of the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project incurred delays to routine planning and implementation, as well as several activities that had been envisioned before the outbreak. Key activities impacted by COVID-19 included: (i) permanent postponement of the project launch; (ii) multiple procurement activities, specifically those related to computer hardware and software, vehicles, and geolocation and other equipment needed for field measurements; (iii) the planning and deployment of field missions.

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Although Gabon signed a R-PP formulation grant in 2009, it did not execute it. In 2017, Gabon reengaged with the FCPF and submitted a R-PP that it had developed with its own resources. The submission of the R-PP was accompanied by a request for a Readiness Preparation Grant, which was approved by the FCPF Participants Committee in 2017 subject to revisions to be made to the R-PP and which were finalized in 2018. In September 2017, the FCPF Participants Committee allocated US\$ 1.95 million to Gabon (Resolution PC24/2017/6.a) for the implementation of its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). The activities to be financed with support from the FCPF are fully integrated into the activities being financed concurrently by the Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI).

In support of Outcome 3 of the Gabon-CAFI partnership, the Government of Gabon (GoG) requested support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to improve emissions estimates from the forestry sector and design a strategy to reduce emissions from forestry practices at a national scale, including examining the potential for reforestation. More specifically, support was requested to: (1) improve knowledge and estimates of current emission levels from forest degradation in logging concessions; (2) define guidelines for improved forestry management, with an emphasis on reduced impact logging-carbon (RIL-C); (3) examine the potential of reforestation, plantations and stock enhancement programs; and (4) examine the potential of a national “label” program to incentivize operators to implement RIL-C, or other best practice forestry guidelines.

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

Comment on follow up:
n/a

End Date of Last Site Visit: November 12, 2019

During the reporting period, the team conducted one brief mission, which was very early on in the project implementation phase. In the absence of site visits afterwards, which were primarily interrupted by the mobility restrictions linked to the outbreak of the global pandemic, the Bank conducted close supervision through regular contact with the project coordinator and videoconferences with the entirety of the PIU.

Restructuring of Grant:
n/a

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020

Due to the fact that effectiveness was reached in September 2019 and that there was a period of delay before first disbursement (February 2020), followed by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, project progress towards achieving outcomes has been limited to those activities necessary to reinforce the institutional arrangement and advance discussions with key consultants.

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

Methodology for calculating emissions from forest degradation implemented

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, finalization and signature of contract with the consultancy charged with devising the methodology

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

National emissions reduction strategy for the forestry sector designed and validated with all key stakeholders

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, Contingent upon the previous outcome being executed and field missions to obtain statistical data.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Inventory team trained on methodology for calculating emissions from forest degradation

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, Contingent upon the elaboration of the methodology.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Methodology for calculating emissions from forest degradation implemented by inventory team in forestry concessions at national scale

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, Contingent upon the elaboration of the methodology.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Strategy to reduce emissions from logging operations designed and validated and validated with all key stakeholders

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, Contingent upon the elaboration of the methodology and field collection of data.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Potential of reforestation and/or wood plantation programs evaluated and integrated into the national emissions reduction strategy for the forestry sector

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, terms of reference being drafted.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Strategy for certifying forestry concessions engaged in Gabon emissions reduction program with “Green Gabon” label designed and validated with all key stakeholders

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, contingent upon the development of carbon accounting methodology and field missions to obtain statistical data.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

SESA conducted, and safeguards instruments developed and integrated into the national emissions reduction strategy for the forestry sector

Baseline Value: No

Date: 09/01/2019

Progress to Date: No, but finalization of Terms of Reference for consultant selection.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

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

Component 1: Improved baseline emissions calculations from the forestry sector

Implementation Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory

Status: Under implementation

Planned Output: (i) Implementation of a methodology to calculate emissions from degradation in forestry concessions at national scale

Actual Output: None as of yet.

Component 2: Design of a national emissions reduction strategy for the forestry sector

Implementation Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: (i) Design and validation of strategy to reduce emissions from logging operations; (ii) Evaluation of potential of reforestation and/or wood plantation programs, particularly in highly degraded forests as an additional means of reducing emissions from the forestry sector; (iii) Design and validation of a strategy for certifying forestry concessions reducing emissions; (iv) Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and development of safeguards instruments; (v) Consultations with stakeholders

Actual Output: None as of yet.

Component 3: Project coordination

Implementation Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: (i) Reinforcing capacity and training; (ii) Office supplies, materials and other goods; (iii) Financial audit and fees

Actual Output: (i) Reinforcing capacity and training in safeguards; (ii) Office supplies, materials and other goods

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

As of the end of the Reporting Period (6/30/2020):

Under Component 1 after a lengthy delay and much back and forth that lasted for a full year, the project was able to sign a contract with the consultancy that will implement the improved carbon accounting methodology and reduced impact logging knowledge transfer: The Nature Conservancy. As of the end of the reporting period, TNC has begun to write-up the curriculum for imparting the methodologies to researchers and foresters. A formal training session is slated to occur early in the next reporting period.

Heading into the next reporting period the project intends to advance activities through increasing reliance on videoconferencing instead of in-person meetings so as to compensate for the time lost due to mobility restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the signing of the contract by TNC, the project has planned to work hand-in-hand with the consultancy's technical expert to expedite the development of the methodology so that field missions can take place as soon as COVID restrictions are eased. The project will also seek special dispensation from government authorities to allow for mobility as soon as is possible, given of course, strictly following all COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Under Component 2, there was no progress, save for the drafting of terms of reference for several consultancies meant to implement this component.

The project will work more closely with TNC to make all necessary preparations allowing for the consultants to begin drafting the national emission reductions from forest concessions strategy once field work is nearing completion. Consultancies for the reforestation and forest certification reports are being recruited and should have deliverables under preparation and near finalized before the end of the next reporting period (provided no additional unforeseen pandemic related restrictions).

Under Component 3 the project was able to finalize all necessary institutional arrangements and receive formal appointments for all key members of the PIU; this includes the opening of the project's Designated Account after a several month delay and its first disbursement, which did not occur until a full six months after project effectiveness. The project's high-level Steering Committee was able to meet several times and to provide strategic orientation to the project and to approve the annual budgeted work plan. The procurement plan was finalized and 2/3 of recruitments were launched.

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status:

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P167065 - Gabon FCPF REDD+ Readiness
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line:

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux
Contact: M. Christian Tchemambela (Executive Secretary)
Address: Libreville, Gabon
Phone:
Email: tchemambela@gmail.com

PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

1. Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those funded by others.

In support of Outcome 3 of the Gabon-CAFI partnership, which is “Efforts to maintain carbon sequestration by forests, reduce emissions related to forest degradation and improve inclusive forest governance” the GoG requested support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to improve emissions estimates from the forestry sector and design a strategy to reduce emissions from forestry practices at a national scale, including examining the potential for reforestation. The activities to be financed with support from the FCPF are fully integrated into the activities being financed by CAFI.

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.

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

The Bank has been providing continued guidance to improve financial management and procurement aspects. The PIU has undergone a training in implementation of safeguards under the new Environmental and Social Framework. Major implementation issues remain outstanding and will be tackled in the next reporting period.

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 project is only at the stage of drafting the Terms of Reference for the SESA, which will be conducted in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

Similarly, the ESMF has not yet been prepared.

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF080617
Printed On: 04/28/2021

Reporting Period: 07/10/2019 to 06/30/2020
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status:

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

Stakeholder consultation and participation has been stymied by the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2020	01/31/2020	0.00	0.00	391,363.02	391,363.02
02/01/2020	02/29/2020	0.00	0.00	391,363.02	0.00
03/01/2020	03/31/2020	0.00	0.00	391,363.02	0.00
04/01/2020	04/30/2020	0.00	0.00	393,679.74	2,316.72
05/01/2020	05/31/2020	0.00	0.00	393,679.74	0.00
06/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	684,764.74	291,085.00