Assignment: TF010691

Republic of Congo: FCPF Readiness Grant

FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000297108 - Laurent Valiergue
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

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

Overall Assessments

Grant Objectives:
The Project Development Objective is to reinforce the Republic of Congo’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 emissions level for REDD+.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:
Comment:
There has been significant progress in FY14. The preparatory works done in FY13 allowed the launching of four major studies and the selection of the ER-PIN for Northern Congo in the pipeline of the FCPF carbon Fund.
On grant component 1: CN-REDD is operational and functioning. The Presidential Degree on REDD+ institutions is ready and awaits approval by the Council of Ministers. CN-REDD is closely working with civil society and indigenous peoples through an organized national platform with more than 100 member institutions (CACO-REDD).
As regards grant component 2, the study on drivers of deforestation was finalized and endorsed in June 2014 and an expert panel uses the study to elaborate and prioritize strategy options for the national REDD+ strategy. Furthermore, the SESA study began in May 2014 and a major study on the implementation framework (legal framework, benefit sharing, financial instruments etc.) started in April 2014.
Under grant component 3, the national household surveys to support the establishment of reference scenarios are underway. A specific study focusing on Likouala and Sangha departments and assessing the future pressures on forests with an interest in identifying an investment program is also underway.
The ER-PIN for the Northern Congo (Likouala and Sangha Departments) was further developed in partnership with OLAM-CiB and accepted in the FCPF Carbon Fund in June 2014.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:
Comment:
The CN-REDD is fully operational and equipped. Some new team members still need to be trained on specific skills (e.g. M&E).

CN-REDD mobilized necessary funding: UN-REDD program with USD4 million was formally launched this year.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

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

Comment on follow up:
The up-coming mission in October 2014 (including GENDR and FMT members) will focus on the financial management of the grant, status of readiness and planning next steps (including towards R-Package), preparation of the mid-term progress report and request for additional $5 million from the FCPF, M&E training and the SESA study. In addition, the mission will discuss next steps to further develop the ER program (conceptualization of design phase, methodological aspects etc.).

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:
OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014
The major progress in FY14 is that all four major studies are ongoing (implementation framework, SESA, investment program in Likouala and Sangha departments) or completed (drivers of deforestation). The ER-PIN for Northern Congo (Likouala and Sangha Departments) developed in partnership with OLAM-CIB was also accepted in the FCPF Carbon Fund in June 2014. UN-REDD program was formally launched in FY 14 as well, and is coordinated with FCPF through the CN-REDD.

Grant Outcome Indicators
No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component
Coordination of the REDD+ readiness process and multi-stakeholder consultations
Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: 1.1 establishment and operationalization of national REDD+ coordination (CN-REDD); 1.2 promotion of multi-stakeholder consultations
Actual Output: 1.1. CN-REDD is operational and functioning; 1.2 CN-REDD consults with national platform of CSOs and IPs (CACO-REDD) and disseminates information materials along the communication plan

Design of a national REDD+ strategy
Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: 2.1 analysis of drivers of deforestation and strategy options; 2.2. preparation of implementation framework; 2.3 SESA
Actual Output: 2.1 study on drivers of deforestation finalised and endorsed in June; 2.2 study on implementation framework launched in April; 2.3 SESA study started in May

Informing the preparation of a national reference emissions level for REDD+
Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: 3.1 analysis of future pressures on forests; 3.2 support to national household surveys
Actual Output: 3.1 study in Likouala and Sangha departments underway; 3.2 household surveys are underway

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant
Project ID / Name: P124292 - CG - FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset
Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy & Environment - CN-REDD
Contact: George Boudzanga
Address: Brazzaville
Phone: +242066667321 Email: bouzgege@yahoo.fr
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 the UN-REDD program was formally launched. CN-REDD coordinates between the FCPF and UN-REDD activities.

The partnership with OLAM-CIB advances well and has led to the adoption of RoC's ER-PIN into the pipeline of the FCPF Carbon Fund.

2. Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.
No changes to report at this stage.

3. Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant.
GENDR and FMT will conduct a joint mission in October 2014 to discuss further needs (training etc.) within CN-REDD.

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?
SESA has just started.

5. Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?
No activity to report at this stage.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this Grant.
The CN-REDD uses the national CSO and IP platform for regular consultations (e.g. monthly technical working meetings) and to share information (R-PP translated in local languages). A representative of CACO-REDD confirmed satisfactory consultations at the FCPF Carbon Fund meeting in June 2014. CN-REDD's Documentation Centre is available for public disclosure of key documents since January 2013.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

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