Assignment: TF015355

Second Grant Agreement for the Republic of Cameroon Readiness Preparation Proposal-Readiness Fund of the FCPF

FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000275867 - Emeran Serge M. Menang Evouna
Approving Manager: 00000086169 - Benoit Bosquet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Information</th>
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<td>TF Status</td>
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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 Cameroon’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 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:
The activities scheduled during Grant Report and Monitoring period remains consistent with the Grant development objective and the Readiness Preparation Plan.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:
After the Grant effectiveness in December 23, 2013, the initial grant advanced was transferred to client account in March 2014. The Project activities were officially launched on June 11, 2014 during a national workshop with the participation of more than 150 main stakeholders’ representatives.

The National REDD+ Coordination Unit launched the Terms of Reference of the main staff to be recruited under the Technical Secretariat. The modalities to involve Civil Society Organizations during the grant management period were defined between the two Civil Society Organizations platforms and the Ministry of Environment.

The Second session of the REDD+ Steering Committee was organized by the Ministry of Environment with the participation of the members including the IPs representatives.

The Partners platform continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Environment through the REDD+ Thematic working group.

The Grant was counter signed by the Government of Cameroon on December 23, 2013. The initial disbursement arrived 4 months later. Only the activities related to component 1 effectively started. The recruitment of a logistic officer, a driver for the coordinator as well as two general assistants have been completed. An office space has also been acquired and the national workshop for the launching of the REDD+ national strategy took place on the 11-12 of June 2014.

Interim management of Technical secretariat: The technical Secretariat is leading by Civil servants but for fiduciary issues, we have an arrangement with WB REDD Regional Project fiduciary team. Due to the fact that, Civil servants, currently in the technical secretariat are not paid through FCPF, they are losing motivation. We are also progressively also losing the expected Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development team leadership.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up project or grant (non-Bank funded)

Comment on follow up:
As the grant remains at it initial stage of implementation, a close follow up will be needed with the Ministry of Environment. The collaboration with other partners will also be important due to the financial gap mentioned above and the need to leverage it.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:
OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2013 to 06/30/2014

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

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component
SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL READINESS MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Streamlining the utilization of REDD+ funds by setting up a Technical Secretariat team
Actual Output: Few staff is available in the technical secretariat

SUPPORT TO THE DESIGN OF A NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY
Status: Planned
Planned Output: Analytical reports
Actual Output: No expected reports available

INFORMING THE NATIONAL REFERENCE SCENARIO FOR REDD+
Status: Planned
Planned Output: Model potential future pressures on the forests in Cameroon
Actual Output: Not yet available

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress
Component 1: The fiduciary team, consisting of a financial management specialist, a procurement specialist, and an accountant is under recruitment process.
The acquisition of equipment, such as computers and at least one vehicle is also underway.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
Contact: Dr. Amadou Wassouni
Address: Yaounde, Cameroon
Phone: +237 99 75 14 84
Email: wassouni.amadou@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 Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those f
Coordination with the other partners is currently ensured through: (i) participation to the REDD+ partners technical working group meeting on the monthly basis, (ii) meeting with them during supervision mission and (iii) coordination through Technical Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment.

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

3. Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant.
The capacity issue is currently addressed through the recruitment of the Fiduciary team staff. The World Bank procurement team organized also in house training sessions on the World Bank procurement and financial management procedures. More training will be organized once the whole Technical Secretariat team will be in place.

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 Environmental and Social issues were addressed through a consultation mission led by the World Bank Social and Environmental consultant in March 2014. This mission allowed among other to define the Civil Society organization involvement procedures including their implication on the SESA process.

5. Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?
The ESMF preparation is not started.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this Grant.
The stakeholders consultation continues to be led by the Ministry of Environment, Civil Society organization Platforms. The Launching workshop of the Grants allowed the participation of more than 150 persons with a media coverage.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

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