

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF019204
Printed On: 12/02/2016

Reporting Period: 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016
Report Type: Progress Report
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF019204

FIJI: FCPF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: 00000188675 - Ms. Anisi
Approving Manager: 00000066054 - Iain G. Shuker

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Fiji
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9269 - GEN2A
Grant Start Date / End Date	05/13/2015 to 12/31/2019
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	286,677.40 as of 06/30/2016
Disbursed 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016	286,677.40
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 development objective of Grant is to assist Fiji to carry out the Readiness Preparation Activities by supporting the preparation of its REDD+ strategy through a participatory and inclusive process, the establishment of a national MRV system, and by producing technical work and policy advice to help strengthen sustainable land and forest management practices.

Overall progress from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The project is making progress towards achieving its development objectives but with delays. An important component for development of the REDD+ strategy - the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment has started implementation with contract signed. The Measurement, Report and Verification consultancy, which will contribute to the second part of the PDO, is at the shortlisting stage and its contract is expected to be signed by end of November 2016. However, certain critical activities continue to be delayed such as the procurement of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation study and other analytical work due to issues with project management, and lengthy internal government vetting processes for procurement. Specific actions are to be taken as detailed in the Aide-memoire to address these issues to accelerate implementation in order to achieve its development objectives by the closing date, including improving project management and coordination and expediting the internal approval process.

Overall progress from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

The overall disbursement now stands at USD 286,677, accounting for 7.5% of the total grant amount, versus USD 108,000, 2.8% of the total grant amount at the previous mission. One of the two biggest contracts #Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) consultancy has just been signed and first payment will be made shortly. The other one # Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) consultancy is expected to be in the range of USD 800,000 # 850,000 and to be signed by November 2016. By that time the total committed amount will account for about 30% of the total grant amount, and disbursed amount will be around 10%. The Project Mid-term-Review (MTR) originally scheduled for December 2016 will have to be postponed to June 2017, the earliest date possible given the implementation delay. All efforts should be made to achieve that target because the GoV is planning to apply for additional financing at MTR and the likelihood of receiving AF is decreasing rapidly due to international competition for the funds.

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:

The Emission Reduction Program of Fiji has been accepted into the pipeline of the programs at the 13th meeting of the FCPF Carbon Fund and the Letter of Intent (LOI) has been signed by the Bank. It has also been approved by the Cabinet and is expected to be counter-signed by the Ministry of Economy on behalf of GoF by end of October, 2016. It is critical to expedite the implementation of the ongoing FCPF Readiness Plan Preparation Project to generate outputs that contribute to the design of the ERP. At the same time the financing plan for the ER program needs to be discussed and adopted as part of the project design in order to ensure timely preparation and implementation of the ER program.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

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OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Institutional strengthening for REDD+

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Establishment and operationalization of REDD+ Unit, and (ii) strengthened FGRMs and establish a new FGRM if needed
Actual Output: REDD+ Unit established and operational with challenges of project management, coordination and teamwork. FGRM consultancy is to be mobilized.

Development of a REDD+ strategy for Fiji

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: National REDD+ strategy, ESMF developed and validated by stakeholders through SESA
Actual Output: SESA contract signed and inception report completed, including development of ESMF, and expected to be completed by April 2017.

Establishment of a monitoring system for REDD+

Status: Under Implementation
Planned Output: Reference Emission Level or Reference Level, MRV system and a safeguards information system established
Actual Output: MRV/REL contract procurement is underway and expected to be signed by end of November 2016. Completion of contract expected by April 2017.

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P151209 - Fiji: FCPF Implementation Support
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	Department of Forestry, at the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests		
Contact:	Permanent Secretary Fisheries and Forests Inoke Wainiqolo		
Address:	PO Box 2218, Government Building, Suva, Fiji		
Phone:	+679 3301 611	Email:	wainiqoloinoke@gmail.com
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

Fiji is already implementing many adaptation projects as well as REDD+ pilots that would serve as valuable lessons for informing the development of the national REDD+ strategy. These sites include the Emalu REDD+ pilot site and the Nakavu SFM research project in Viti Levu implemented by FD with SPC/GIZ support; an Afforestation/Reforestation project in Ra, Viti Levu, by Conservation International; and a REDD+ project in Drawa, Vanua Levu, supported by Live and Learn. In addition, new REDD+ related activities including the Ministry of Agriculture's coconut tree planting and adaptation projects, the SPC and EU reforestation program, UNDP-GEF's proposed Ridge to Reef program to preserve ecosystem services and enhance carbon stocks across six watershed areas, and potential pilots by Fiji Pine Trust and Fiji Mahogany Trust are underway. Furthermore, the diversity of government funded projects for both climate change and disaster risk reduction projects such as mangrove restoration, biogas, mini-hydro, reforestation and agroforestry would all contribute to the design of the REDD+ strategy.

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

NA.

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

The REDD+ unit is established and staffed and now working closely with the REDD+ Secretariat to strengthen project management, outreach and teamwork. Capacity building activities and training have been provided to the REDD+ Unit, including implementation support, technical advice and training sessions for financial management and procurement. Furthermore the refurbishment of the REDD+ Unit offices and procurement of office equipment and vehicles are now completed. The REDD+ Unit staff has moved into their new office and is benefiting from the vehicles for project related work. Capacity building and awareness workshops would be provided to senior policy makers to include Permanent Secretaries from all sectors engaging in land use, as well as the Climate Change Committee, to raise the awareness of REDD+ and help elevate the program to higher levels such as the Cabinet. To enhance institutional strengthening at decentralized levels, the REDD Working Groups will be set up at divisional levels by December 2016, and their capacities will be built and strengthened for them to be engaged in readiness and ER program design.

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 consultancy contract has been signed with the Institute of Applied Science (IAS) within the University of South Pacific (USP) to implement the SESA process, including the development of the ESMF. Meetings were held between the consulting firm (IAS USP), The REDD+ Secretariat/Unit, the Steering Committee and the mission to go over the SESA work plan and timeline for delivery of the SESA process, and the work plan was approved by the Steering Committee. Discussions with USP also focused on the important linkages between all 9 elements of the readiness grant, and highlighted the importance of addressing the FCPF Methodological Framework Indicators and the Cancun safeguards in the design of the Safeguards Information System (SIS). The SESA contract also calls for the design of the Safeguards Information System (SIS). This design will then be integrated into the larger database development planned for the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) contract. SESA will be conducted in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

The SESA will develop an ESMF that outlines the procedures for managing potential environmental and social impacts resulting from REDD+ implementation including guidance for the preparation of future environmental and social safeguard instruments. The ESMF will be prepared in accordance with the Common Approach.

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

Despite some delay the CSO platform formation has been finalized. Its TOR has been finalized and approved by its executive committee. The CSO work plan is yet to be finalized to better synchronize the platform's activities, including awareness/capacity building and outreach activities, to those of the REDD+ Unit's overall work plan. It is encouraging to see that the CSO platform members have demonstrated stronger commitment in REDD+ and are establishing closer linkage between their mandates with REDD+. The next training event is expected to be organized the first week of October on awareness building for the representatives of the CSOs to further strengthen their understanding and knowledge of REDD+. This will enable them to reach out to their communities and carry out awareness building activities effectively. A proposal, including work and budget plan of the CSO platform should be discussed and submitted to the REDD+ secretariat and unit in early October. Mobilization of FGRM study is delayed and its TOR is expected to be submitted to the Bank for review in October.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2015	06/30/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2015	12/31/2015	0.00	0.00	235,100.00	235,100.00
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	286,677.40	51,577.40
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00