

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

Report to Donor

Ref. TF018492  
Printed On: 09/30/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF018492

## Belize REDD+ Readiness Preparation GRANT

### FCPF - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000371036 - Maja Murisic  
Approving Manager: 000000253690 - Valerie Hickey

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Belize
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9272 - SLCEN
Grant Start Date / End Date	03/14/2017 to 12/31/2021
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	\$2,967,523.75 as of 06/30/2020
Disbursed 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	\$682,968.15
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. TF018492  
Printed On: 09/30/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Approved

## OVERVIEW

### Overall Assessments

#### Grant Objectives:

The Grant Objective is to assist Belize in carrying out Readiness Preparation through a participatory and inclusive process in order to strengthen their capacity to participate in future REDD+ carbon payment transactions.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

The implementation of the REDD+ Grant continues to demonstrate significant progress during this reporting period which entails the extension of the Grant closing date for additional year (until December 31, 2021) which was approved by the World Bank in July 2020. This progress is demonstrated in a significant increase in the disbursement rate which in June 2021 was at almost 80% of the total grant funding. In addition to the establishment of robust and accurate data that underpin readiness process that Belize is undertaking, some tangible outcomes have been achieved too. All of them combined serve as a solid basis for accelerating subsequent activities and assisting Belize in meeting its climate objectives through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

#### Overall progress from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

The Grant has made progress toward achieving its objective at an advanced level under Component 1 (REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress), Component 2 (Preparation of REDD+ Strategy) which is in the final stages of refinement/finalization), Component 3 (Development and final submission of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level to the UNFCCC), Component 4 (Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems) and Component 5 (Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework).

#### Grant follow-up and structure

Belize has developed a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) which consists of an initial assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, terms of reference for defining their emissions reference level based on past emission rates and future emissions estimates, proposed activities to establish a monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD+, and actions for integrating environmental and social considerations into the REDD+ Readiness process. Belize submitted the R-PP to the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in July 2013 and was selected into the FCPF as one of the Qualified Eligible REDD Countries. Subsequently, the World Bank signed a Country Participation Agreement with Belize in October 2014 to assist in the Readiness Preparation process. The revised R-PP was cleared by the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) in March 2015.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is "to assist Belize in carrying out key Readiness Preparation activities in order to strengthen their capacity to participate in future REDD+ carbon payment transactions". The project is being implemented under five components, including four main technical components and a fifth supporting project monitoring and evaluation, that include:

- Component 1: REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress.
- Component 2: Preparation of REDD+ Strategy.
- Component 3: Development of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level.
- Component 4: Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems.
- Component 5: Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The R-PP remains relevant to Belize's National Development Framework (Horizon 2030) and it supports the country's obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as achievement of objectives of several national and sub-national policies, plans and programs, including the National Forest Policy (2015). In addition, Belize has started work on the Technical Annex (TA) along with the revision of the National Determined Contributions (NDC) which is set to be submitted by the end of August 2021 for review in November 2021. Finally, the Grant is also aligned with the WB Country Partnership Agreement (2018-2022) and the FCPF's strategic objectives.

Expected follow up (if any):  
N/A

#### End Date of Last Site Visit:

March 29 - April 1, 2021 (Given COVID-19 related travel constraints, the last implementation support mission was conducted virtually).

#### Restructuring of Grant:

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

The Government of Belize sent a request for restructuring/extension of the closing date until December 31, 2021 which the Bank processed and approved in July 2020. The rationale for this request was a consideration that it was not feasible to complete some activities and in particular SESA, land tenure assessment and benefit sharing plan before the original closing date (December 31, 2020). Given that these activities will provide critical inputs for development and finalization of the REDD+ Strategy for the Project to be successfully implemented and completed, the extension of the Project closing date by 12 months and related changes to the implementation schedule were granted. During the extension period, Belize continued to make significant progress on all of these outputs (see detailed report on the outputs achieved under each of the components in the subsequent section(s)).

### OUTCOME

#### Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021

The Grant has made progress toward achieving its objective at an advanced level under Component 1 (REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress), Component 2 (Preparation of REDD+ Strategy) which is in the final stages of refinement/finalization), Component 3 (Development and final submission of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level to the UNFCCC), Component 4 (Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems) and Component 5 (Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework).

#### Grant Outcome Indicators

N/A

### COMPONENTS

#### Comment on planned and actual Output

Please see below detailed comments on the planned and actual outputs for each of the components.

#### Comment on component implementation progress

Summary of the implementation status for each of the components is as follows:

- a) Component 1 has made significant advancements. The operationalization of an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Desk and the establishment of Technical Expert Group (TEG) which were achieved in the last reporting period continue to facilitate meaningful and effective stakeholders' engagement. The IP Desk is in fact a unique mechanism in the country which is ensuring ongoing feedback and involvement from the key stakeholder for REDD+ in Belize, including for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) development which are ongoing. During the past year, the REDD+ Coordination Unit (REDD+ CU) continued to engage in a great deal of outreach and awareness raising with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including through utilizing virtual means of communication (due to COVID-19 related constraints for in-person meetings and development of a range of products, such as videos, presentations, etc.
- b) Component 2 has initially faced delays in particular related to initiation of the SESA, land tenure assessment studies and benefit sharing plan, but their implementation/development has accelerated in the past year. The draft SESA report have been finalized and is going through the rounds of feedback and revisions as of now and is expected to be finalized by mid-November. The land tenure study/activities are also under implementation and so is the development of the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) for which the consultations with stakeholders are ongoing. Though the COVID-19-related in-person meeting restrictions are in effect, the REDD+ CU is using virtual means, when possible, and conducting smaller groups consultations to adhere to the public health guidelines. The REDD+ Strategy is also being developed and is now at the final stages of refinement/validation.
- c) Planned activities under Component 3 are advancing well. Following the completion of the Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) for Belize which was submitted to the UNFCCC for review in January 2020, the Government of Belize (GOB), through the Belize Forest Department (FD) and Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) have submitted final review and approval of the FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC in June 2021. The Grant has also supported the development of a Land Use Land Cover Map for Belize using Sentinel 2 maps, supplemented by Rapid Eye Imagery, which will serve as a part of the QC/QA process.
- d) Under Component 4, the field work aimed at supporting a National Forest Monitoring System for the Measurement, Verification and Reporting (MRV) is progressing at a slower pace than initially envisioned. The Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Consultancy TOR was approved by the WB in May 2021 and the contract is being finalized. There's also continued work on the already operational National Forest Monitoring System for Belize with the successful completion of Establishment of six (6) Permanent Sample Plots in Pine and Secondary Broadleaf Forest categories in Belize in 2020. In addition to these, the year 2021 saw the establishment of 23 Destructive Sample Plots in Grasslands The finalization of the methodology for the Destructive Sample plots for Agriculture is also being carried out.
- e) Though there have been some delays in completing the mid-term evaluation to the FCPF and submitting annual progress

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

reports, as carried out under Component 5, both quality and timeliness of reporting have seen progress in the past 12 months, including through timely submissions of FCPF-related reporting requirements. For example the mid-term evaluation was finalized in December 2019 and subsequent progress reports were submitted on time. Project's financial reporting has seen equal improvements with reports being accurate and submitted on time.

## EXECUTION

### Bank project related to the grant

**Project ID / Name:** P152415 - Belize REDD+ Readiness Grant  
**Project Status:** Pipeline  
**Global Focal Area:** Climate change  
**Product Line:** CN - Carbon Offset

### Implementing agency and contact details

**Agency:** Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development  
**Contact:** Lennox Gladenn, PhD  
**Address:** Belmopan, Belize  
**Phone:** **Email:** policy.coord@environment.gov.bz  
**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 funded by others.**

The grant activities are being closely coordinated with other WB projects, Government-led activities in the area, as well as other development partners' initiative (e.g. GiZ)

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

During the reporting period, there were no changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.

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

The capacity of key stakeholders has been improved throughout the Grant implementation and most of these challenges in this regard have been overcome with concrete measures having been put in place to ensure that related risks are mitigated. They include staffing of the REDD+ CU, establishment of the mechanism to facilitate stakeholder engagement with indigenous peoples (the IP desk), and continuous capacity building and support related to procurement aspects of the project, among others. The only challenge faced during the reporting period was the change in staff covering communications aspect of the grant implementation, but that has been overcome with appropriate replacements.

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

## Report to Donor

Ref. TF018492  
Printed On: 09/30/2021

Reporting Period: 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021  
Report Type: Progress Report  
Report Status: Approved

#### 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 initiation of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), which are in accordance with the Common Approach, was delayed. This delay was partly reasonable due to extensive consultation process with indigenous peoples and collaborative approach taken in drafting related terms of references (TORs). However, other delays arose because of challenges in the procurement processes. Nonetheless, these challenges have been overcome and there has been significant progress in regard to SESA development. Both virtual and in-person Consultations are carried out, with in-person sessions primarily conducted for indigenous peoples and other stakeholders from local communities due mainly to remoteness of communities and residents not having access to telecommunications. In-person meetings with stakeholders, however, continues to be a challenge given the current atmosphere created by the COVID-19 Pandemic and are being carried out in accordance with the Belize Ministry of Health regulations and guidance provided by the World Bank. Compliance with World Bank Safeguards policies is Moderately Satisfactory. Following the finalization of SESA, the compliance is expected to be upgraded to Satisfactory rating.

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

The ESMF TOR (part of SESA consultancy) is in accordance with the FCPF Common Approach and related set of guidelines and is progressing well.

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

Despite initial challenges, the REDD+CU made good progress thus far with respect to national-level awareness-raising and public education on climate change and the REDD+ process in Belize, including through establishing a permanent coordination mechanism for coordination with Indigenous Peoples.

Given that the REDD+CU has already started to receive grievances and requests for information, it was agreed to develop an interim Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) procedures to be followed during the Readiness Phase. The FGRM was finalized accordingly and is now operational.

Lastly, though the REDD+CU has made good progress in ensuring effective stakeholder consultations, COVID-19 related restrictions and an inability to conduct in-person stakeholder consultations have posed some challenges in this regard. The team is proactively working to overcome them, including by utilizing online platforms for delivering workshops and relying on the established coordination mechanisms with local presence, such as the Indigenous People's Desk.

## DISBURSEMENTS

### Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
03/27/2017	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	415,265.33	415,265.33
01/01/2018	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	996,335.25	581,069.92
07/01/2019	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	2,284,555.6	1,288,220.35
07/01/2020	06/30/2021	0.00	0.00	2,967,523.75	682,968.15