

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A2855

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019-04/30/2021

Printed On: 5/19/2021

Report Type: Progress Report

Report Status: Approved

Assignment: TF0A2855

CAR REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION SUPPORT FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: Nyaneba Nkrumah

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Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Central Afr.Rep
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9835 - SAFE4
Grant Start Date / End Date	04/20/2017 to 09/30/2021
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	2,776,389.3 as of 4/30/2021
Disbursed 07/01/2019-04/30/2021	1,666,299.56
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 objective of the Readiness Preparation Activities is to design a socially and environmentally sound national REDD+ strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to inform the development of a national reference emission level and a monitoring system for REDD+. In the end of the Readiness Preparation Activities, step 1 of REDD+ process will be achieved. Therefore, CAR will be able to start REDD+ pilot projects (step 2 of REDD+) and then prepare REDD+ performance-based payments (step 3 of REDD+).

Overall progress from 07/01/2019-04/30/2021 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The FCPF grant has disbursed US\$2.78 million to the client since inception, primarily to equip and run the project implementation unit (National REDD+ Coordination), conduct consultations and stakeholder engagement activities on REDD+ and develop terms of reference and related preparatory technical work for project implementation. However, the SESA, along with other environment and social reports, was not completed during this time. This caused the need for another extension, to be recently approved till September 30, 2021. Another reason for the extension is that without the SESA, the readiness package will not be complete, and the country has no available source of additional funding to finish this work. It has therefore requested that we extend the project. There is approximately US\$1.1 million remaining of the grant. There are no outstanding audits for this grant.

Overall progress from 07/01/2019 -04/30/2021with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

The National REDD+ Strategy is close to finalization after being reviewed and validated within country. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) contract was signed in May 2019 between REDD+ coordination and AGRECO (consultant). The inception report was delivered in September 2019 after a first field mission, but work was stopped due to Covid. This has since resumed with the help of a local partner to do some of the consultations.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Sustainably managing the Central African Republic's forests will contribute to the country's crisis response and early recovery. Managing and addressing the principal drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which are currently predominantly linked to anthropogenic activities, are important to developing a successful REDD+ program. Also critically important is supporting sustainable forest management practices that contribute to successful recovery of the state as well as a contribution to supporting basic livelihoods of the population. In this spirit the REDD+ readiness activities will seek to align with the Country Engagement Note that outlines a priority focus on reestablishing basic fiscal management and supporting economic recovery through targeted support to key sectors of growth. The readiness grant will support capacity building for institutions and civil society, seek to improve governance and investment climate and support the design of a grievance redress mechanism, and identify and design investments that will contribute to environmentally and socially sound forest resource management.

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

Comment on follow up:

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The REDD+ readiness activities have been implemented closely with CAFI funding to develop CAR's National REDD+ Investment Framework (NIF) which has been delivered in its final version in December 2019. The NIF has inspired the REDD+ National Strategy and will be the basis for supporting CAR's engagement with donors and development agencies on financing REDD+ future actions. The World Bank is also working with CAR in developing a programmatic approach for REDD+ investments in South-West CAR. The IDA-financed 10M\$ Natural Resources Governance Project (effective since 2018) will be complemented by additional financing from GEF (7.61M\$) in the context of CAR's participation in GEF's new Cong Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program.

End Date of Last Site Visit: N/A due to Covid

Restructuring of Grant: The first extension was for twelve months, from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the second extension was for six months from June 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020 and the third extension was for three months from December 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021 and the most recent extension is to September 30, 2021.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019-04/30/2021

Efforts during FY20 focused on key readiness activities progress, even if Covid-19 pandemic has caused serious delays.

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Component 1 Institutional arrangements for REDD+ readiness

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	Operational CN-REDD, National REDD+ Committee, consultation and participation process, FGRM
Actual Output:	Operational CN-REDD, National REDD+ Committee, consultation and participation process

Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	Developed National REDD+ Strategy defining strategic options, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment with safeguards instruments, National Reference Emissions Level and MRV framework
Actual Output:	All on-going

Comment on planned and actual Output

There is an alignment between planned and actual output meaning that for the dates under review, all planned output with the exception of the Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) has been completed and delivered. The last remaining work to be delivered on the SESA will be completed by September, 2021, before the closing of the FCPF grant.

Comment on component implementation progress

Progress during this period was slow in effect due to the Covid-19 pandemic where there was no activity on the ground from March 2020 throughout the reporting period. Prior to this period Component 1: Institutional arrangements for REDD+ readiness Key institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation have been established. CN-REDD was established and operationalized. The government launched in 2017 the operationalization of three Inter-Prefectural Committees (CIP by its local acronym), multi-sector and multi-stakeholder, that has served as consultative platforms for the REDD+ process in key zones. Since then 3 workshops were organized in the prefectures of Ombella Mpoko, Kemo et Ouaka (50 attendees each). Two additional workshops were completed one in Mbaiki and one specifically addressing indigenous populations. A National REDD+ Committee was established in 2018 by Order of the Prime Minister and includes several working groups. In the meantime, effective mechanisms and capacity to address grievances that may arise are implemented through actual investment

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projects (i.e., the World Bank's Natural Resources Governance Project which will deploy a grievance and redress mechanism in the main forest prefectures of South West CAR. Mechanisms to address broader level grievances on REDD+ will be defined as part of the SESA process).

Component 2: Support for preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy- this work is complete. The national REDD+ strategy was in draft form during the reporting period and has since been reviewed by the Government and the World Bank and the document accepted by stakeholders. There has been considerable delay regarding the development of the National REDD+ Strategy, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments due to Covid after the launch in March/April 2019 along with the National Investment Framework under CAFI financing. This led to a project extension (FCPF) till September 2021 in order to complete the SESA and ensure maximum stakeholder involvement. There has been considerable progress on the SESA and it is clear now that this will be achieved prior to the end of the closing of the FCPF.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P156721 - Central African Republic REDD+Readiness
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	REDD+ Technical Coordination Unit (CN-REDD, within Min. of Env. & Sust. Dev.)		
Contact:	Igor Tola Kogadou		
Address:	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fi		
Phone:	+ 236 75 55 82 22	Email:	tolakogadou@hotmail.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.

The FCPF activities are coordinated with CAFI (also managed by the Bank) which supports the development of the REDD+ National Investment Framework launched in April 2019. The National REDD+ Investment Framework, closed to the REDD+ National Strategy, will be the basis for supporting CAR's engagement and coordination with donors and development agencies and across key Ministries on financing REDD+ action going forward. The World Bank is also working with CAR in developing a programmatic approach for REDD+ investments in South-West CAR. The IDA-financed 10M\$ Natural Resources Governance Project (effective since 2018) will be complemented by additional financing for the GEF (7.61M\$) in FY21 in the context of CAR's participation in GEF's new Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program. Other programs involved in REDD+ readiness activities supported by the grant include the PDRSO project supported by the French Development Agency (REDD+ component with pilot interventions in the Bangui area) as well as FAO's Land Restoration project. CAFI will also be the next main donor for REDD+ process, a CAFI project feasibility study should occur in FY21.

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

Considering the significant delays in starting the implementation of activities and Covid-19 pandemic, and the low capacity overall, only those activities which are critical to achieving the grant's objectives and REDD+ readiness will be implemented (i.e. National REDD+ Strategy, MRV&REL, National REDD+ Investment Framework, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment). Some less critical activities (i.e. REDD+ Registry, Safeguards Information System etc.) will not be implemented. CAFI future project will be able to accomplish less critical activities.

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

Main fiduciary issues which hampered progress in FY17 and FY18 were solved in FY19 and allow an important progress on activities in FY20. However, overall capacity remains low and requires continuous, hands-on involvement of the Bank to support delayed procurement, financial reporting etc. First payments to contractors have been slow to process (some complained) but it is hoped that the international experts that will be recruited by the Bank's Bangui office will help ensure prompt payment thereby avoiding issues after grant closing.

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 development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments is ongoing with an important delay due to Covid-19 pandemic. Two platforms, GDRNE and REPALCA, implemented in FY20 some field workshops to explain REDD+ issues to local communities and indigenous people. The recruited firm has just restarted its work to deliver the SESA on time. The SESA will be conducted in accordance to the Common Approach and WBG safeguard policies.

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

The development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and its safeguards instruments including ESMF is ongoing. Experts hired to support the work have significant past experience working in the sub-region on SESA development and implementation (e.g. DRC) and are preparing safeguards instruments in accordance with the Common Approach and the WBG safeguards policies.

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

The consultative part of the main activities are under implementation in FY21 due to Covid-19 pandemic and other delays as mentioned. The SESA especially, will help identify issues and stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion on REDD+. In the meantime, effective mechanisms and capacity to address grievances that may arise are implemented through actual investment projects such as the Bank's Natural Resources Governance Project are deployed as a grievance and redress mechanism in the main forest prefectures of South West CAR. Mechanisms to address broader level grievances on REDD+ will be defined as part of the outcome of the on-going SESA process.

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	524,475.52	524,475.52
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	851,069.21	326,593.69
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	1,065,588.17	214,518.96
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,110,080.74	44,492.57
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	1,145,886.72	35,805.98

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01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	2,035,830.71	889,943.99
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	0.00	2,490,426.49	454,595.78
01/01/2021	04/30/2021	0.00	0.00	2,776,380.3	285,953.81