

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

Report to Donor

Ref. TF0A8327

Reporting Period: 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Printed On:

Report Type: Progress Report

Report Status: Draft

Assignment: TF0A8327

Republic of Nigeria's Additional Finance for REDD+ Readiness Preparation FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader:00000385348- Fisseha Tessema Abissa

Approving Manager: 00000246903- Sanjay Srivastava

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Nigeria
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9268 - SAFE1
Grant Start Date / End Date	01/29/2019 to 12/31/2021
Original Grant Amount	4,940,000.00
Grant Amount	4,940,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,118,452.46
Disbursed 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020	1,118,452.46
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:

To support Nigeria design a socially and environmentally sound strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regards to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory (Previously Rated Moderately Satisfactory on 06/30/2019)

Comment:

Activities undertaken during this period continued to see progress in achieving Grant Objectives. Major activities supported the following:

- Completion of forest cover maps and of forest inventories (based on data collected from Ondo and Nasarawa States and from low intensity sampling in other ecological zones of Nigeria);
- Submission of the national Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. Based on the comments from the UNFCCC, a revised version of the FREL was submitted in October 2019 for final validation. Additionally, there have been refinements towards making the FREL more precise;
- Preparation of a National Forest Monitoring System;
- Writing of the first draft of the National REDD+ Strategy--the process of improving the draft is ongoing--and the establishment of an inter sectoral working group to strengthen government engagement and ownership of the Strategy.

Overall progress from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020 with regards to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory (Previously Rated Moderately Satisfactory on 06/30/2019)

Comment:

Significant achievements in implementation during the period have been in capacity development and reinforcement at the national and subnational levels, inclusive of the setting-up of State Level REDD+ Secretariats in Plateau, Edo, Ogun and Kaduna States, which are tasked with ensuring coordination of the various REDD+ pilot site activities and interfacing with relevant ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) at the State levels. With the Additional Finance approved in 2019, the project scaled up activities to Edo, Ogun and Plateau States and also commenced (i) finalizing the National REDD+ Strategy with a detailed action plan and implementation budget; (ii) reinforcing the capacities of the main stakeholders, including the national-level and state-level REDD+ management bodies and civil society, to provide guidance to the development and implementation of the Strategy; (iii) establishing a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) to follow the evolution of deforestation and forest degradation over time; and (iv) preparing Nigeria to access potential funding for REDD+ investments.

Project implementation became altered from the original schedule due to challenges in establishing a designated account for the additional financing, resulting in delays in disbursement for project implementation. This issue was resolved by October 2019. In addition, since March 2020, operations have been severely disrupted by the public health restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19.

In light of the above, the Bank approved the Federal Government of Nigeria's request for an extension of the project's closing date to December 2021. The pending activities to be completed during the extension are: a) support to REDD+ Readiness Arrangements; b) final revision and validation of the National REDD+ Strategy and streamlining into federal and state government sectoral programs, including endorsement of high-level policymakers; c) further development of the National Forest Monitoring System; e) further development of the national Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL): through ground-truthing at 30 forest sample sites throughout Nigeria to improve accuracy and reliability; f) additional improvements to the ESMF, validated through a national Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process.

Several measures have been put in place to accelerate project activities, including:

- Capacity strengthening will continue throughout the grant period. For the development of the National Forest Monitoring

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System (NFMS), for example, the PIU is building on the results from a needs assessment and planning workshop where they benefitted from expert input and the sharing of lessons from other countries more advanced in REDD+. The outcome was a clear plan to implement the NFMS which is the most challenging component technically, and which accounts for over 20% of the grant amount.

- The task team will monitor implementation of activities closely by organizing weekly meetings with the team to review progress, identify problems and propose solutions.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

Nigeria has been engaged in REDD+ since 2010 with the support of UN-REDD and has been implementing REDD+ Readiness activities as defined in its R-PP since February 2015 with the support of the FCPF. UN-REDD support focused on Cross-River State, which is now developing a proposal for a REDD+ investment program across the forest landscapes of target States. FCPF support has enabled the launch of REDD+ activities at the national level, while enabling a more in-depth engagement in participating states. The total cost of Nigeria's R-PP was initially identified as US\$8 million, of which US\$3.8 million was received from the FCPF. Following Nigeria's self-assessment of progress at mid-term in June 2017, the updated cost needed to complete the REDD+ Readiness process was estimated at US\$4.94 million. This amount was approved by the FCPF and later by the World Bank as an Additional Finance to the Nigeria REDD+ Readiness project.

This grant will enable Nigeria to complete the REDD+ Readiness process at national-level as defined in its R-PP, while deepening its engagement at sub-national and community levels in four additional States to Cross-River, Nasarawa and Ondo, which have benefitted from UN-REDD funding as well as the original FCPF grant of US\$3.8 million. Specifically, the grant will: (i) reinforce the capacities and ensure the operation of the national-level and state-level REDD+ management bodies to provide political and technical guidance to the development of the National REDD+ Strategy; (ii) reinforce the capacities and organization of the main stakeholders for a more effective participation in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy; (iii) finalize the National REDD+ Strategy with a detailed action plan and implementation budget; (iv) strengthen national policies to support REDD+ implementation; (v) establish a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for REDD+; and (vi) prepare Nigeria to access available national and international funding for REDD+ investments.

Expected follow up (if any):

Comment on follow up:

No

End Date of Last Site Visit:

November 25-29, 2019

Restructuring of Grant:

The original Grant Agreement was countersigned on February 25, 2015 and was declared effective on the same date. The original Grant amount was US\$3.8 million and closed with 100% disbursement. The current additional financing Grant Agreement is for \$4.9 million and was countersigned on February 6, 2019.

On March 31, 2020 the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) sent a request to extend the Grant by 18 months with a new closing date of December 31, 2021; the request was accepted.

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OUTCOME

The additional time was approved to allow the achievement of the project commitments and maximize the disbursement rate.

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Activities achieved this period were mostly follow up actions to further strengthen the FCPF readiness in Nigeria to scale-up to the national level, while enabling a more in-depth engagement in two additional states: Nasarawa and Ondo. With the Additional Finance approved in 2019. The key outcomes achieved are: (i) elaboration of a first draft of the National REDD+ Strategy; (ii) the scaling up of activities in Edo, Ogun, Kaduna and Plateau States (iii) finalization of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the elaboration of safeguards instruments (currently undergoing clearance by the World Bank); (iv) finalization of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL), which was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for technical assessment (v) reinforced capacities of the main stakeholders, including national and state-level REDD+ management bodies and civil society, to provide guidance to the development and implementation of the Strategy.

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

REDD+ Readiness arrangements fully functional (including at the sub-national level in six pilot states)

Baseline Value: No

Date: 02/25/2015

Progress to Date: REDD+ Readiness activities have been scaled up to the national level, while enabling in-depth engagement in two states: Nasarawa and Ondo. This leaves Edo, Ogun, Kaduna, and Plateau States awaiting full functionality.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

A National REDD+ Strategy validated through a consultative process

Baseline Value: No

Date: 02/25/2015

Progress to Date: No, the Strategy is in an advanced draft state, but has not yet been validated through a consultative process.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

A National ESMF prepared and validated through a national SESA process

Baseline Value: No

Date: 02/25/2015

Progress to Date: Yes, the ESMF was prepared, validated, and sent to the Bank for comment.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

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A national Reference Emission Level established

Baseline Value: No

Date: 02/25/2015

Progress to Date: Yes, the FREL has been established and accepted by the UNFCCC; it is being further refined.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Monitoring systems for forests and safeguards are established

Baseline Value: No

Date: 02/25/2015

Progress to Date: No; significant delays due to disbursement and fieldwork issues stemming from Covid, other factors.

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: Yes

Date: 12/31/2021

Direct project beneficiaries, including female (%)

Baseline Value: 0

Date: 02/01/2015

Progress to Date: 2,650 (40% female)

Date: 06/30/2020

Target Value: 1,967 (40% female)

Date: 12/31/2021

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Strengthen National and State Level Readiness Management Arrangements

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: REDD+ Readiness arrangements fully functional

Actual Output: Federal and State level secretariats constituted and functional; the selection of 3 additional States to benefit from targeted REDD+ Readiness support have also been constituted and finalized

Develop REDD+ Strategy and Conduct SESA

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: The National REDD+ Strategy is validated through a consultative process; approaches to mobilize resources for their implementation are defined

Actual Output: Planning for the validation of the REDD+ Strategy has been done.

National Reference Emissions Level established

Status: Under Implementation

Planned Output: A Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for REDD+ is designed

Actual Output: Field work ongoing for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

As of the end of the Reporting Period (6/30/2020):

Component 1: National and sub-national management arrangements and multi-actor consultation and coordination platforms have been established and are functioning. At national level, the Programme Steering Committee, the National Technical Committee and the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) have been established and are operational. At the subnational level, REDD+ Secretariats have been established in Cross-River, Nasarawa and Ondo States. The State REDD+ Secretariats ensure the coordination of the various REDD+ activities in the state and interfacing with relevant ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) at the State levels. They also oversee the activities of the local governments, NGOs, civil society, academia, the private sector, local communities, and traditional authorities working in the field of environment, forestry and natural resource management. Since its extension, the project selected four additional States to receive targeted support from the program (Edo, Ogun, Kaduna and Plateau States) through a detailed evaluation and field assessment.

Component 2: A first draft of the National REDD+ Strategy was completed. To improve the draft, and to strengthen government engagement and ownership of the Strategy, an inter-sectoral working group was established with key government agencies to refine the proposed strategic options to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and ensure alignment with national and sectoral priorities. The SESA was completed and safeguards instruments were developed to guide the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

Component 3: Following the completion of forest cover maps and forest inventories (based on data collected from Ondo and Nasarawa States and low intensity sampling of other ecological zones), the national FREL was submitted to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. Based on the comments from the UNFCCC, a revised version of the FREL was submitted in October 2019 for final validation. The Additional Finance will update and strengthen the FREL by improving the sampling of the forest inventory and reinforcing national level capacities. Building on this, the Additional Finance will also fund the development and operationalization of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).

Component 4: The objective of this component is to ensure broad stakeholder engagement in the REDD+ process, support communication on REDD+ and conduct consultations on specific issues related to REDD+ Readiness. All available project deliverables have been subject to national validation. In addition, the project has developed a feedback and grievance redress mechanism to accompany the REDD+ Strategy. The Additional Finance will deepen engagements with stakeholders, with a focus on strengthening existing platforms (National and State-level Stakeholder Forums), engaging forest-dependent communities and addressing gender gaps at the community level. It will also support policy and technical engagement with government and other stakeholders.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name: P153732 - NIGERIA FCPF REDD READINESS
Project Status: Lending
Global Focal Area: Climate change
Product Line: CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency: Federal Ministry of Environment
Contact: Moses Ama, National REDD+ Coordinator
Address: Abuja, Nigeria
Phone: +234-8033-4869-09
Website: **Email:**

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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 grant complements and builds upon UN-REDD Programme support (no longer active). The National REDD+ Secretariat ensures synergy and consistency with national policies on forest while avoiding overlaps.

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

N/A

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

Initially, the overall capacity of the National REDD+ Secretariat in project implementation and oversight was quite weak. Under the grant it has since been strengthened with the mobilization of a procurement specialist and the recruitment of a MRV and a Stakeholder Engagement expert, as well as National and International consultants to support in operational and technical matters. The National REDD+ Secretariat has also undergone, and continues to undergo, trainings sponsored by the World Bank in issues such as financial management, procurement, safeguards, and technical matters etc., to build the knowledge base for long term success in 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?

The FCPF is using a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to leverage the integration of key environmental and social considerations into REDD+ Readiness by combining analytical and participatory approaches. The SESA follows the latest UNFCCC and FCPF PC guidance in accordance with international best practices.

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

Yes, preparation of the ESMF is combined with the SESA consultancy.

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

Stakeholder consultations are ongoing through the REDD+ stakeholders' engagement platform. Informed consultations are held with forest depended communities and community based organizations. Major deliverables of the grant go through stakeholder consultations, including the SESA, National REDD+ Strategy (including benefit-sharing), the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM).

DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	1,118,452.46	618,452.46