



**FINAL REPORT - ADDITIONAL FCPF FINANCING GRANT
FOR UGANDA'S REDD+ READINESS PROCESS**

PERIOD: July 2017 – June 2021

Ministry of Water and Environment
Kampala

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ACRONYMS

ACF	Assistant Commissioner for Forestry
ADC	Austrian Development Co-operation
BSA	Benefit Sharing Arrangements
CoP	Conference of Parties (of UNFCCC)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ED	Executive Director
ER	Emissions Reduction
ERP	Emissions Reduction Program
ER-PIN	Emissions Reduction Programme Idea Note
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FCPF-AF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility-Additional Funding
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
FRL	Forest Reference Level
FSSD	Forestry Sector Support Department
GoU	Government of Uganda
IFPA-CD	Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project
IP	Indigenous Forest Dependent People
IPPF	Indigenous People Planning Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NCCAC	National Climate Change Advisory Committee
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NFIS	National Forest Information System
NFMS	National Forest Information Management System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Planning Authority

NTC	National Technical Committee
PC	Participants Committee
PF	Process Framework
PMF	Performance Measurement Framework
PWD	People With Disabilities
PROBICOU	Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists of Uganda
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFO	Senior Forest Officer
SIS	Safeguards Information System
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WMZ	Water Management Zone

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Uganda received FCFP- Additional Funding (FCPF-AF) amounting to US\$3.75M for continuing REDD+ Readiness preparation until June 2021. Uganda utilized the additional funds to implement activities agreed upon in the FCPF-AF Funding agreement of September 2017 and to kick-start the “Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project activities. The following results were realised:

- a. Uganda became REDD+ Ready (based on the assessment criteria of the Readiness package);
- b. A minimum of two jurisdictional Emission Reductions Programs (ER Programs) were designed;
- c. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was operationalized; and
- d. Indigenous peoples’ organizations became better engaged on REDD+ process.

Uganda further made significant progress towards achieving the following REDD+ Readiness outputs:

- a. Warsaw Documents that included the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan, Safeguards Information System, SESA, FREL and the NFMS were completed.
- b. Completed the REDD+ Readiness Package (R-Package)
- c. The REDD+ Implementation Framework (Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Process Framework (PF), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Summary Report on compliance of the REDD+ Readiness phase to the Cancun Safeguards were completed.
- d. Built National Capacity for REDD+ process and Strategy Implementation, including an updated Monitoring and Evaluating Framework.
- e. Capacity of Forest Dependent Peoples built to engage in REDD+ Implementation
- f. Uganda became the 1st African Country to Submit Technical Annex to the BUR to UNFCCC and
- g. Uganda prepared two ER-PINs for Albert and Kyoga Water Management Zones.
- h. Uganda spearhead the preparation of a six-year USD 178.2 million “Investing in Forest and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project.

ADDITIONAL FCPF READINESS GRANT FOR THE REDD + READINESS PROCESS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is Uganda's Final REDD+ Readiness Program report, covering the period July 2017 to June 2021 for the Additional Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Grant. Uganda received additional funding amounting to USD 3.75 million from FCPF to support REDD+ activities aimed at completing Uganda's REDD+ Readiness by June 2020.

The phase under the Additional funding was effected under the overall coordination by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) through the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD). The FSSD hosted the REDD+ Secretariat consisting of government staff assigned to REDD+ process and consultants. At technical level, the process was supported by a National Technical Committee (Annex 2) and three thematic task forces namely, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA/Safeguards); Policy Legislation & Regulations; and, Methodological/Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) (Annex 3-5).

Uganda's REDD+ Process continued to be steered by the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC), as an official platform for policy-level stakeholder participation and provided policy-level guidance and coordination (Annex 1). The NCCAC was comprised of policy-level representatives from key government and non-government institutions with significant mandate over climate change issues and or interest in the REDD+ process. The NCCAC reported to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for environment, forests, wetlands, water, meteorology and climate change.

A National Technical Committee (NTC) comprised of members from REDD+ stakeholders at managerial or senior level¹, provided technical oversight and guidance to the REDD+ process including among others, ensuring adherence to REDD+ principles, national policy and legal frameworks and World Bank and UNFCCC safeguards. The NTC worked on voluntary basis, reporting to the NCCAC on technical aspects. Three Taskforces, namely: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA/Safeguards); Policy Legislation & Regulations; and, Methodological/Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) served as platforms for specialists and or experts for provision of technical inputs into REDD+ process and activities².

Uganda's REDD+ process was integrated into national and sector development plans and processes through the following coordination measures or arrangements within the Water and Environment Sector:

- a. Water and Environment Sector Working Group (WESWG) being the platform for integrating the REDD+ process within the over-all sector, including information sharing and feedback from stakeholders on issues of the REDD+ process in Uganda. Since July 2020, the Sector Working Group has been reconstituted as Program Working Group.

¹Membership to the NTC is based on representation of key government, non-government institutions and Private Sector with significant interest and/or mandate over climate change and REDD+ issues. The NTC members serve on voluntary basis. NTC reports to the NCCAC on technical aspects.

² Membership to the taskforces is based on individual technical relevance to the business of the taskforce. These members are drawn from national stakeholder's institutions or independent specialists who serve on individual and voluntary basis. The Taskforces report to the NTC.

- b. Joint Technical Review (JTR) being a platform bringing together MWE and Development Partners in the Water and Environment Sector to assess overall performance of the Sector, identify sector priorities and allocate sector resources.

The World Bank Missions assessed and monitored implementation progress of the overall REDD+ process and the individual FCPF REDD+ Readiness Process (R-PP) components; and provided a platform for reviewing the progress and work plans of the REDD+ process.

The additional funding grant in support of Uganda's REDD+ Readiness became effective on October 18, 2017, and was utilized to address gaps in REDD+ readiness that were identified through its independent mid-term evaluation report (MTR) and consisted of the following five components:

Component 1: Coordination and Monitoring of REDD+ Readiness Process

The objective of this component was to continue supporting national level coordination and monitoring of the REDD+ process. This support built on structures and processes of the REDD+ processes involving the REDD+ Secretariat and national REDD+ coordination, supervision, and stakeholder participation. Uganda also prepared its Readiness Package (R-Package) for submission to the FCPF Participants Committee (PC) in early 2018.

The FCPF grant supported goods and services, workshops, training, and operational costs for the following:

- a. Provision of Technical Support to the REDD+ Secretariat. This included support from a part-time Lead Technical Advisor, a full time Communications/Projects Officer (who also was responsible for coordinating stakeholder engagement), and inputs from an International Consultant who provided targeted advice on ER Program design, including specific support on safeguards. This support provided inputs and guidance to all aspects of the national REDD+ program;
- b. REDD+ Secretariat office and operational costs (including vehicle running costs);
- c. REDD+ representation in regional/international meetings and a South-South exchange event for learning and sharing experiences and lessons on REDD+ (potentially with Ghana as a country with the much advanced REDD+ agenda);
- d. National level supervisions/coordination and harmonization processes (meetings of NCCAC, NTC, task forces, etc.);
- e. Preparation of the R-Package; and
- f. Revisions and updates of the M&E Framework for REDD+ that included gender-related indicators (this work was led by the REDD+ Secretariat and the validation workshop for these updates was combined with a self-assessment workshop for the R-Package).

Component 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback in Readiness Process

This component supported broad stakeholder engagement – with a particular focus on the implementation of the Uganda REDD+ Gender strategy. The support aimed to implement key actions as identified in the Uganda REDD+ Gender Strategy (that was to be further reviewed prior to implementation) and foster gender integration in national REDD+ processes. The approach

recognized that any future REDD+ investments would need to explicitly acknowledge how gender-specific barriers would be addressed.

The FCPF–AF grant supported goods, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for:

- a. Implementation of key priority activities as identified in the Uganda REDD+ Gender Strategy; and
- b. Capacity building and engagement of indigenous peoples in the Albertine region, a possible jurisdiction for REDD+ implementation.

Support to the forest-dependent communities enabled their meaningful engagement in the REDD+ process and their informed participation. The grant was specifically targeted at an indigenous people's (IP) organization working in the proposed ER program area, to further deepen the capacity of the indigenous peoples in engaging with such proposed ER programs, including building their coordination capacity with other groups. This was a pilot-level activity, building on the lessons learnt from the support provided under another FCPF facility (the Pan African Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples Capacity Building Program on REDD+).

Component 3: REDD+ Strategy and SESA

This component continued to support the National REDD+ Strategy process and its environmental and social elements. The initial design of Uganda's National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Plan and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and ESMF had been completed in June 2017 with support from the original FCPF grant. However, the National REDD+ Strategy being a living document, it was found important that the lessons from the ongoing global, national and sub-national REDD+ processes (including the development of the ER Programs) feed into the REDD+ Strategy and the safeguards instruments.

Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that seven safeguards should be promoted and supported when undertaking REDD+ activities. These safeguards were agreed upon at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) in Cancun in December 2010 and are known as the 'Cancun safeguards. To help Uganda comply with this agreement, this component supported the development of the Safeguards Information System for Uganda REDD+ as an integral component of the REDD+ strategy.

Under this component, the FCPF Grant supported procurement of goods and services, workshops, training, and operational costs for:

- a. Revision and update of key Readiness documents (Uganda's REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Plan; finalizing safeguards instruments (the ESMF, Process Framework, and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework), and
- b. Design and establishment of the Safeguards Information System (based on the roadmap earlier developed with the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC support).

Component 4: REDD+ Implementation Framework (ER Programs)

This component advanced the design and development of ER Programs nested in the National REDD+ Strategy. In this regard, the FCPF AF grant supported the development of design options and outlines for Albertine and Kyoga Water Management Zones. The outline of the ER Program packages included complete documentation covering implementation, financing, and safeguards aspects.

The FCPF grant supported the procurement of goods and services, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for the design of at least two ER programs.

Since Uganda did not have a committed buyer for emissions under these potential ER Programs, the development of short idea notes on design options and the outline of ER Programs were to be a first step and the Government of Uganda would be able to use these short idea notes to seek potential investors and buyers (including under the emerging REDD+ financing window of the Green Climate Fund).

Component 5: National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources

This component refined the National Reference Scenario / FREL – most notably by undertaking analysis to better determine forest degradation levels as well as establishing and institutionalizing the NFMS as approved by the national REDD+ structures. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) supported the Government of Uganda (GoU) in the implementation of activities under this component, under a Technical Assistance framework agreement.

The FCPF AF grant support procurement of goods and services, workshops, training, services, and operational costs for:

- a. Improvement in estimation of emissions from forest degradation. Emissions from degradation were at the time poorly understood and yet could comprise one of the largest sources of national Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Uganda was at the time considering the use of RADAR technology, although other options would be explored (including a system piloted by Ghana which is reportedly less costly to operate).
- b. Implementation of the 2018 National Forest Inventory to update forest inventory and quantify biomass and stock estimates for trees outside “forests”. This undertaking included updating the database of inventory data and training the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff (and others) in forest inventory and data analysis. Inventory work was carried out at the national level with a particular focus on the landscapes / areas proposed for the ER-Programs.
- c. Institutionalization of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and its deployment at regional/zonal level – as per the approved design.
- d. A specific activity to pilot community-led monitoring and integrating community-based data into national MRV systems was supported. This undertaking included ground truthing of forest inventory land cover changes. It explored the existing community monitoring practices in Uganda, and how these could be beneficial in support of forest co-management, monitoring, benefit sharing and the design of landscape programs.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

The achievements during the 2017-2021 are presented in Table 1 below

Table 1 : Achievements during 2017-2021

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
Component 1: Coordination and Monitoring of REDD+ Readiness Process	
Provision of Technical Support to the REDD+ Secretariat in form of: Part-time Lead Technical Advisor A full time Communications/Projects Officer International Consultant to provide targeted advice on ER Program design	The contracted REDD+ Secretariat Technical Staff continued to support the REDD+ Readiness Activities. The Short-term Consultant for Emissions Reduction Programs provided home based and in country support to the Emissions Reduction activity. The specific outputs of this support are spread in the deliverables/outputs under respective components. Over-all, the REDD+ Secretariat and national REDD+ Process continued to function throughout this period.
REDD+ Secretariat office and operational costs (including vehicle running costs).	The FCFP-AF and Government of Uganda (GoU) budget continued to support the Office operational costs covering vehicle running costs, office space, office supplies, internet services and support to communication component activities. The Office hosted working sessions of PROBICOU, Arbonaut, FAO and Winrock consultants as well as some of the Taskforce meetings between July 2020-March 2021. The office could not continue to provide venue for Consultants work due to restrictions imposed by government measures against spreading Covid-19 Virus.
REDD+ representation in regional/international meetings	The Alternate National REDD+ Focal Point represented Uganda at the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) of the UNFCCC in Madrid, Spain between 3 rd November to 16 th December 2019
Representation in National Policy, Planning and Coordination Processes	The REDD+ National Focal Point participated in and presented progress of REDD+ process in the country in different Ministry coordination platforms; including Top Policy, Senior Management Meetings, Sector Working Group Meetings, Environment and Natural Resources Working Group, and Directorate of

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
	<p>Environment and Departmental meetings. The REDD+ National Focal Point supported the Ministry of Water and Environment in profiling the REDD+ Strategy actions within the Uganda’s National Development Plan 3 (NDP 3).</p>
<p>Resources mobilization for implementation of REDD+ Strategy</p>	<p>The following undertakings were accomplished</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. REDD+ Secretariat continued to spearhead the preparation of a six-year USD 178.2 million “Investing in Forest and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project. The project funding was approved by World Bank on 22 April 2020. However, REDD+ Secretariat continued to engage approval processes by remaining government authorities. The IFPA-CD project is a landmark achievement for Uganda whose focus and implementation originates from the Forest Investment Plan (2017) that focuses on reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation through land scape level action. <p>The IFPA-CD investments demonstrate the influence which the REDD+ process has imparted on Uganda’s policy development as articulated in the National Development Plan 3 (2021-2025) and political agenda of increasing forests and tree cover in the country whilst strengthening the role of forestry in national economy and mitigation of climate change and associated disasters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. The REDD+ Secretariat reviewed/updated the GCF Concept Note that sought to mobilize USD30 million from GCF as co-finance to the IFPA-CD project. The updated Concept Note was formally submitted to World Bank (Uganda’s Authorized Entity for GCF on this project) by the GCF NDA in June 2020 for follow up with GCF Secretariat. c. REDD+ Secretariat continued to engage with the process of reviewing the Uganda Forest Policy Process. By December 2019, REDD+ Secretariat provided input into the Review process roadmap and approach and laid foundation for considering REDD+ Strategy recommendations into ongoing forestry policy review. The review process continues and it is evident that REDD+ has been vividly taken care of in the ongoing policy review process.

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
<p>REDD+ South-South exchange event for learning and sharing experiences and lessons on REDD+ process (potentially with Ghana as a country with the much advanced REDD+ agenda).</p>	<p>The FCPF-AF supported Study tour to Ghana that took place from 22nd- 29th July 2018. The objectives of the study tour were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Equip Uganda’s REDD+ team with the opportunity to learn by seeing how Ghana has undertaken the process of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ finalizing all the REDD+ readiness elements; ⇒ completing the Forest Investment Plan; ⇒ mobilizing resources for REDD+ investments and results based payments from various sources; and ⇒ initiating implementation of the activities that are included in the national REDD+ strategy of Uganda b. Learn how to make meaningful linkages between REDD+ readiness process with Forestry Investment Programmes and the Results Based Actions c. Learn about the involvement of private sector in the implementation of the results based component of REDD+ and how Uganda could structure its emission reduction programs as well as its REDD+ investment phase actions in coherent arrangement d. Learn how to mobilize resources for REDD+ implementation e. Learn about Ghana’s ideas of Registry for REDD+ Results Based Transactions f. See examples of actual field activities being undertaken as part of the above REDD+ / FIP / ERP arrangements <p>The following personnel participated in the Study Tour:</p>

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs			
	Name	Designation	Institution	Role
	1. Paul Mafabi (RIP)	Director, Environmental Affairs	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)	Member of NCCAC/ Head of Delegation
	2. Edith Kateme-Kasajja	Deputy ED, NPA	National Planning Authority	Member of the NCCAC
	3. Adata Margaret	Commissioner Forestry	MWE/FSSD	Head, REDD+ Focal Department
	4. Margaret A. Mwebesa	AC/ Forestry	MWE/FSSD	REDD+ National Focal Point
	5. Xavier Mugumya	Climate Change Coordinator	NFA	Alternate REDD+ National Focal Point
	6. Moses Ssonko	Principal Economist (Desk Officer W&E)	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	NCCAC Member
	7. Emmanuel Menya	Principal Statistician	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	REDD+ NTC Member
	8. Olive Kyampaire	Communication/ Project Officer	MWE (REDD+ Secretariat)	REDD+ Secretariat (communications)
	9. Valence Arineitwe	Senior Forest Officer	MWE/FSSD	REDD+ Secretariat
	10. Alex Muhweezi	Lead Technical Advisor	MWE /REDD+ Secretariat	REDD+ Secretariat

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs			
				(Technical Advisory)
	11. Evelyn Atuhaire	Economist	MWE (REDD+ Secretariat)	REDD+ Secretariat (Economist)
	Overall, the study/exchange visit was very successful and the team from Uganda was challenged to strengthen their effort as the future of the REDD+ is promising to contribute to national and global climate change agenda. The Team concluded that in order for the country to push the REDD+ agenda forward, the issue of institutionalizing REDD+ in the relevant and existing structures at both national and sub-national levels was paramount.			
National level supervisions / coordination and harmonization processes (meetings of NCCAC, NTC, task forces, etc.)	<p>REDD+ Steering Committee (NCCAC), National Technical Committee (NTC) and three (3) Taskforces continued to support the REDD+ process.</p> <p>Details on specific engagements and support are provided in the respective 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Annual Reports submitted to FCPF through World Bank.</p>			
Preparation of the R-Package	<p>Between May and July 2018, Uganda underwent a self-assessment of its REDD+ readiness. The self-assessment was facilitated by the REDD+ Secretariat and an External Assessment Expert, using FCPF Assessment Framework. The assessment involved 108 REDD+ Stakeholders including Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSO)/Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Private Sector, National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC), National Technical Committee (NTC), REDD+ Taskforces, and REDD+ donors.</p> <p>Uganda's R-Package was approved by the FCPF Participants Committee in September 2018 with comments. Revised R-Package was submitted to FCPF Participants Committee in December 2018.</p>			

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs																				
	<p>Over-all, the R-Package reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Uganda had registered good progress towards being ready for REDD+. The principal elements of Readiness namely, draft National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan, FREL, draft SESA/ESMF, BSA and FGRM had been fully developed through standard procedures of REDD+ and adopted nationally. Elements of the MRV/NFMS and SIS had been developed but not yet documented into complete form. ⇒ Institutional arrangements for REDD+ had been established and functioned satisfactorily during the REDD+ Readiness phase. REDD+ management, coordination and supervision structures and processes are developed. ⇒ REDD+ Readiness process has been highly consultative with engagement of stakeholders at various levels. Information about REDD+ process has been widely disseminated countrywide and across sectors. <p>Uganda's progress was assessed using the score card provided in the FCPF REDD+ Assessment Framework. The over-all assessment identified 6 green, 2 yellow and 1 orange as follows.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>R-PP Components</th> <th>R-PP Sub-components</th> <th>Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">1. Readiness Organization and Consultation</td> <td>1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation</td> <td>2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2b. REDD+ Strategy Options</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2d. Social and Environmental Impacts</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2c. Implementation Framework</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</td> <td></td> <td>Green</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	R-PP Components	R-PP Sub-components	Score	1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yellow	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Green	2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Green	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Green	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Green	2c. Implementation Framework	Green	3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		Green
R-PP Components	R-PP Sub-components	Score																			
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	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Green																			
	2c. Implementation Framework	Green																			
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		Green																			

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs		
	4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	
		4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	
<p>Revisions and update of the M&E Framework for REDD+ to include gender-related indicators (This work was led by the REDD+ Secretariat and the validation workshop for these updates was combined with a self-assessment workshop for the R-Package).</p>	<p>Uganda revised the M&E Framework in May 2019.</p> <p>Uganda first developed the M&E Framework in 2015 following FCPF M&E framework. The revised M&E framework took into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda’s FREL, REDD+ Strategy, SESA/ESMF, BSA and FGRM completed in 2017 and updated in 2019. • R-Package completed in 2018 • Gender mainstreaming into REDD + and building capacity of Indigenous Forest Dependent People to enable them actively participate in the design and implementation of Emission Reduction Programmes. <p>The updated M&E Framework encompassed all key building blocks required for the effective monitoring and evaluation of the results achieved during the REDD+ Readiness Process until June 2020. The Framework guides the monitoring function which aims to continuously measure, assess and report (annually with semi-annual update for FCPF reporting) and as well as assess the effectiveness and efficiency in program delivery.</p> <p>The M&E Framework built on two central building blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Results Chain and Logical Framework, which together provided a strategic overview of the R-PP process, by illustrating the main results to be achieved by June 2020, how they link to each other and their associated performance indicators. They provided a framework to focus both the monitoring and evaluation efforts at the country level. • The Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), was the key internal management tool used by the REDD+ Secretariat to manage the collection, 		

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
	<p>analysis and reporting on the performance data to nourish the monitoring and evaluation functions. It captured key elements of expected results of the R-PP process at country level, by outlining proposed indicators for each results level, targets, baselines, frequency of data collection, data sources and methods, as well as responsibilities for this data collection and consolidation.</p>
<p>Component 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback in Readiness Process</p>	
<p>Support implementation of key priority activities as identified in the Uganda REDD+ Gender Strategy</p>	<p>Government of Uganda engaged a national NGO – Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) to mainstream gender in REDD+ process and build capacity for forest dependent people /IPs into ERP/REDD+ Strategies and their implementation. This activity was concluded in December 2019.</p> <p>The specific tasks undertaken to achieve gender mainstreaming included the following; -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In collaboration with the REDD+ Secretariat, developed a gender mainstreaming guide to facilitate continued training on streamlining gender in REDD+ implementation in Uganda. b. In collaboration with REDD+ Secretariat, organised and facilitated a one-day meeting on REDD+ and Gender for the REDD+ Steering Committee (NCCAC) and National Technical Committee to provide input and approve the training manual. (The consultant was responsible for preparing the contents of this training and conducting the training). c. Women participation in the implementation of REDD+ related activities was supported through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Identifying, documenting and disseminating good practices and actions in other forest management/ conservation initiatives that have fully and effectively integrated men, women, youth, people with disability, and gender considerations in forestry management/conservation

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Designed and proposed strategies for providing equity (between men, women, youth, elderly) in opportunities for engaging in REDD+ Strategy implementation. d. Organised capacity building trainings to build the capacity of men, women, youth, to advocate for mainstreaming gender (women's rights, gender equality), REDD+ Safeguards and Grievance mechanisms in applicable policy and legal frameworks through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Identifying potential risks of REDD+ implementation on women right's and livelihoods (with particular attention to land and natural resource use; full and effective consultation and participation; fair access to information, education to enable decision-making and consent; and equitable distribution of benefits). (ii) Sensitizing men, women, youth, elderly, People with Disabilities (PWD) at grassroots from selected landscapes of their rights, safeguards (for example Specific meetings were organised for the Batwa in the districts of Rubanda, Kisoro, Kabale, Bundibugyo, Kanungu). Other meetings were also organised in the Mt Elgon targeting the Benet. (iii) Sensitizing cultural women leaders and building their capacity to advocate/lobby for women's rights in REDD+ Strategy implementation. There were specific meetings organised in forest dependant indigenous communities. (iv) Building capacity of women in Kigezi region, Bundibugyo and Mt. Elgon to apply Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism to address gender related grievances.
<p>Support to capacity building and engagement of indigenous peoples in the Albertine region (which was considered as a possible jurisdiction for REDD+ implementation).</p>	<p>Government of Uganda engaged a national NGO – Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) to mainstream gender in REDD+ process and build capacity building for forest dependent people /IPs into ERP/REDD+ Strategies and their implementation. This activity was concluded in December 2019.</p>

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
	<p>The Specific tasks undertaken to achieve capacity among the forest dependent indigenous people included the following; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working with other consultants to organize awareness and dialogue meetings with forest dependent indigenous people in ER Programs (Facilitated the indigenous people to attend series of meetings at National, and community level, shared reports at all levels with other consultants undertaking the two related assignments on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. updating Uganda’s REDD+ strategy and safeguards frameworks, and preparation of safeguards information system and ii. design and documentation of two REDD+ emissions reduction programs in Uganda b. Facilitated development of actions for achieving objective of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (consistent with the World Bank Operational Policy 4.10) and meaningful engagement of the Forest dependent people in the design of ER Programs by identifying pertinent issues³ to be taken on by the Government during ER Programs’ design.
Component 3: REDD+ Strategy and SESA	
Revising and updating key REDD+ Readiness documents (Uganda's REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Plan; finalizing safeguards instruments (the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Process Framework (PF), and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework(IPPF))	The following documents were updated and completed by June 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan 2020 <i>https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd</i> ⇒ Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment <i>https://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library</i> ⇒ Environmental and Social Management Framework <i>(https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd)</i>

³ Highlighted Key Gender and Indigenous Peoples Issues to take into consideration

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
	<p>⇒ Process Framework (https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd)</p> <p>⇒ Indigenous Peoples Planning Frameworks (https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd)</p> <p>⇒ Resettlement Policy Framework (https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd)</p> <p>Note: These documents have been disclosed on MWE Website</p>
<p>The design and establishment of the Safeguards Information System (based on the roadmap earlier developed with the ADC support).</p>	<p>Uganda completed the Safeguards Information System (SIS) in 2020. (https://mwe.go.ug/projects/redd)</p> <p>The SIS established procedures for collecting safeguards data and provide information to various domestic and international stakeholders, and for reporting on safeguards to UNFCCC on the how the Cancun safeguards have been addressed and respected during the Results-Based Finance phase. Uganda’s SIS built on existing information systems and drew information from a variety of in-country sources.</p> <p>Specifically, Uganda’s SIS provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Preparing and submitting summary information to the UNFCCC on how the Cancun safeguards have been addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ process; ii) Assurances on safeguards implementation and non-carbon benefits to donors on compliance with World Bank or other donors’ social and environmental operational policies and on non-carbon benefits generated through their support; iii) Reporting to Uganda government on contributions to sustainable development; and, iv) Assurances to local stakeholders on their social and environmental priorities.

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
Component 4: REDD+ Implementation Framework (ER Programs)	
<p>Advance design and development of ER Programs nested in the National REDD+ Strategy</p> <p>What is the current (and future) status of this activity?</p>	<p>The objective of this undertaking was to support the Government of Uganda to design and develop at least two Emissions Reduction Programs (ER Programs) in the (i) Albertine and (ii) Mt. Elgon Regions as grounded in the National REDD+ Strategy. The performance of this undertaking was significantly affected by restrictions on travel and meetings imposed by COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Nonetheless, by June 2021, Draft ER-PINs for Albert and Kyoga Water Management Zones were prepared. These drafts were finalized and shared with the Bank in December 2021. The REDD+ Secretariat was yet to receive any feedback on the final drafts.</p>
Component 5: National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources	
<p>Improve estimations of emissions from forest degradation.</p>	<p>National Forest Inventory (NFI) with updated data produced to improve carbon measurements and other relevant information on forest use and forest cover. Estimation of degradation required further work and the time series analysis and correlate of AD with EFs related to degraded biomass in the field was proposed to continue.</p> <p>Nevertheless, some first estimations from the forest degradation have been calculated and these appear to be more accurate for the Tropical High Forest than the Woodland due to the homogeneity of the THF layer. BFAST approaches helped to prepare a first degradation map and estimation from the forest degradation in Uganda.</p>
<p>Implement the 2018 National Forest Inventory to update forest inventory and quantify biomass and stock estimates for trees outside “forests”.</p>	<p>Updated data series to produce activity data for 2017/2018</p> <p>Improvements made to national forest reference level (estimation of emissions from forest degradation, inclusion of soil and litter pools and improved estimation of emissions due to fire)</p> <p>Final Technical Report - National Soil Organic Carbon: Stock takes and rates of change for Ugandan Forest Domains undertaken</p>

Undertaking	Achievements/outputs
Institutionalize the MRV system and its deployment at regional/zonal level – as per the approved design.	Strengthened institutional capacities and systems in order to institutionalize NFMS/MRV, including carrying out a pilot to explore the potential role of communities in MRV (e.g. verifying NFI and AD results). An Action Plan and Best Practices for the National Forest Monitoring System institutionalization in Uganda is in place that details the mechanism for implementing and operationalization of the NFMS
Pilot community-led monitoring and integrating community-based data into national MRV systems.	The Gender Responsive Community led and linked to National Forest Monitoring System report in place which provides the technical and institutional recommendations to upscale the involvement of the communities in the NFMS, with a link to the central level/data bases/administration.
Uganda's Technical Annex with REDD+ results from Reducing Emissions from Deforestation	Uganda's REDD+ Results for the period 2015 to 2017 were submitted to UNFCCC as a Technical Annex to the BUR in April 2020, and underwent Technical assessment and was completed in October 2020. These can be accessed on the UNFCCC website

3.0 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Over-all, the project budget performed at 97.11%.

Table 2 : Budget performance break down

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD OF 2017 TO THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 2021						
UG-FCPF READINESS						
GRANT NO.TF0A5722						
MINISTRY/ENTITY - WATER & ENVIRONMENT						
EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY REPORT						
Project Component	Quarter Ending October 2021			Cumulative up to October 2021		
					Financial Year End	
	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)
Component 1 Coordination and Monitoring of REDD Plus readiness process						
Technical support/REDD+ secretariat personnel costs	36,213.83	11,182.44	25,031.39	317,769.00	290,927.32	26,841.68
Communications/Project officer	19,028.88	7,355.44	11,673.44	141,028.88	139,790.67	1,238.21
REDD+ Secretariat Operational costs	150,737.95	149,925.59	812.36	427,246.51	296,033.64	131,212.87
REDD+ representation in Regional/International meetings	0	0		35,000.00	33,512.24	1,487.76
National level supervision/coordination harmonization processes	6,758.26	0	6,758.26	92,200.00	92,111.83	88.17
Learning and sharing experiences and lessons	0	0	0	43,800.00	43,205.37	594.63
Preparation of R-Package	0	0	0	21,000.00	20,649.32	350.68
Publicity and communication materials for UWEWK	12,272.21	10,469.59	1,802.62	32,231.00	31,231.02	999.98
Training in Financial management	0	0	0	6,900.00	6,840.51	59.49

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD OF 2017 TO THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 2021						
UG-FCPF READINESS						
GRANT NO.TF0A5722						
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EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY REPORT						
Project Component	Quarter Ending October 2021			Cumulative up to October 2021		
					Financial Year End	
	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)
M&E Processes &strengthening application of REDD Plus	0	0	0	21,000.00	20,456.64	543.36
Subtotal Component 1	225,011.13	178,933.06	46,078.07	1,138,175.39	974,758.56	163,416.83
Component 2:Stakeholder Engagement & Feedback in readiness process	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrating Gender in REDD+ Process and Capacity Building of Forest Dependent Indigenous people on REDD+ in Albertine Rift and Mt. Elgon Landscape	24,350.95	18,516.31	5,834.64	177,000.00	175,770.37	1,229.63
Subtotal Component 2	24,350.95	18,516.31	5,834.64	177,000.00	175,770.37	1,229.63
Component 3:REDD+ Strategy and Strategic Environment and Social Assessment(SESAs)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finalization of Uganda's REDD+ Strategy and Safeguards Framework and preparation of safeguards information system	6,758.26	0	6,758.26	385,000.00	384,473.85	526.15
Subtotal Component 3	6,758.26	0	6,758.26	385,000.00	384,473.85	526.15
Component 4: REDD+ Implementation Framework	0	0	0	0	0	0
Design and implementation of 2Emission Reduction program	32,088.77		32,088.77	495,800.00	472,638.18	23,161.82
Subtotal Component 4	32,088.77	0	32,088.77	495,800.00	472,638.18	23,161.82
Component 5:National Reference scenario	0	0	0	0	0	0

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD OF 2017 TO THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 2021						
UG-FCPF READINESS						
GRANT NO.TF0A5722						
MINISTRY/ENTITY - WATER & ENVIRONMENT						
EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY REPORT						
Project Component	Quarter Ending October 2021			Cumulative up to October 2021		
					Financial Year End	
	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variance (US\$)
National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources	0	0	0	1,675,000.00	1,479,112.00	195,888.00
Subtotal Component 5	0	0	0	1,675,000.00	1,479,112.00	195,888.00
Component 6: Project preparation activities	269,476.37	0	0	60,952.00	16,940.52	44,011.48
Grand Total Expenditure by Activity	557,685.48	197,449.37	90,759.74	3,931,927.39	3,503,693.48	428,233.91

4.0 LESSONS LEARNT

- a. **Lessons on capacity and sustainability:** Uganda's approach to use National Technical Committee and Taskforces to provide technical backstopping and specialist inputs into the REDD+ process delivered the REDD+ process whilst at the same time, enhanced in country capacity for REDD+. The NTC further provided avenues for integrating REDD+ process and Strategies into the social and economic sectors.

Among the key success factors is that participating institutions valued the benefits in terms of ownership, information access, training and capacity development accruing from the REDD+ process. Strategic selection of relatively small well-placed individuals within key institutions and public was critical to the success of the taskforces.

The technical leadership, input and backstopping by various in country and external institutions, consultants and REDD+ partners (World Bank, UNREDD, FAO) among others, was key to the success of the REDD+ process. In country expertise was rooted through partnerships between individual experts and institutions with external consultants and organizations. Through these partnerships, REDD+ process benefitted from local content that appropriately grounded REDD+ into local circumstances.

- b. **Lessons on Donor coordination:** Despite different Donor agencies having very different ways of working, a collegiate working relationship, reinforced through Joint Missions meant that any differences in approach were discussed and addressed. This contrasted strongly with other multi-donor programs (not implemented through a basket fund arrangement). A very strong coordination mechanism was established through setting up an activity and/or donor support atlas for effective implementation of activities and utilization of funding. Having a strong voice from government was also critical to donor coordination – particularly with regard to guiding on appropriate program implementation structures and priorities that are in harmony with the national sustainable development agenda.
- c. **Managing Expectations:** Uganda's REDD+ process has been ongoing since 2010. This long period tended to generate anxiety among stakeholders, especially, with regards to implementing REDD+ Strategies to tackle high rates of forest loss. However, sustained engagement through preparation of the Forest Investment Plan in 2017 somewhat eased the anxiety. The preparation of "Investment in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD) Project provided the much awaited turn round of REDD+ Process into a tangible action. Further, the process of designing Emission Reduction Programs generated additional expectations for attracting additional external support towards implementing the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan.
- d. **Partner collaboration in implementation of project activities.** The working modalities with different partners including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Development partners was very important in ensuring tapping into the capacities of these partners and fast tracking implementation of activities. This ensured in country capacity building on REDD+ Processes and built a mass of expertise in the country.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Overall, Uganda registered good progress towards being ready for REDD+ implementation. The principle elements of readiness namely, National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan, FREL, SESA/ESMF, NFMS, BSA, SIS, and FGRM were fully developed through standard procedures of REDD+ process and adopted nationally. Undertakings are underway to address outstanding elements of MRV/NFMS and SIS.

National technical capacities and institutional arrangements for implementing national REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan have been established and operationalized. However, there is need for more technical capacity for designing REDD+ projects. In addition, the effectiveness and sustainability of these arrangements and processes could be enhanced by increasing institutional budgets and manpower.

Information about REDD+ process has been widely disseminated countrywide and across sectors. There is need for continued and targeted information dissemination to increase access to REDD+ information, as well as to improve on the understanding of REDD+. Stakeholders (including IPs) have been mobilized, consulted and provided input into REDD+ Strategy and implementation frameworks.