

The Republic of Sudan: Mid-Term Progress Reporting and Request for Additional Financing

Dr. Sayeda Khalil

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF): Readiness Fund
Participant Committee Meeting (PC 23)**

March 27-29, 2017,
Washington DC

Outline

RPP preparation

- National Context
- National REDD+ process

RPP Implementation

- Overall progress in the implementation of the RPP
- Mid-term progress in the implementation of the FCPF Grant

Readiness

- Commitment and contribution of the Government of Sudan to REDD+
- Request for Additional Financing
- Completion and consolidation of Sudan's REDD+ readiness

National Context

Context

- Sudan is an LDC with an annual gross domestic product of US\$ 97.26 billion; rural economy contributes 70% of overall economic growth
- Agriculture is the largest contributor to overall economic growth and rural livelihoods (70% of population)
- Sudan's forests cover about 11% of its total surface, with an estimated annual rate of deforestation of about 542,000 ha, or about 2.4%

Aims

- Sudan aims to transform its agriculture sector towards climate **smart agriculture** capable of rapid and sustainable growth, thus supporting livelihoods of rural communities
- Sudan aims to achieve a transition towards “**sustainable forest management**, where forestry resources will be used in a wise, efficient and sustainable manner, according to the values and in response to the needs of the people of Sudan

Opportunities under REDD+

Opportunity to pursue sustainable development pathways addressing Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and attract international funding for scaling up pilot programs and/or replicate new programs across the country

Enable Sudan to uphold its commitments to international climate agreements

Contribute to achieving INDCs and national development priorities and objectives: low-carbon development interventions in the energy, forestry and waste

Sudan REDD+ Process

2012-2014: RPP preparation

Coordinated by FNC with all relevant institutions, including NGOs

RPP funded by GoS with contributions from UNDP (US\$ 30,000) and UNEP (US\$ 22,000)

Active and voluntary engagement of national experts

2014 RPP approved by the FCPF

2015 Grant agreement reached and signed for US\$ 3.8M

Grant covers implementation of the RPP components except component 3 and sub-component 4.B

March 2015: FCPF Grant implementation started, covering all funded components of the RPP

Jan 2017: MTR, analysis of financing gap and request for AF proposal prepared

MTR followed FCPF Assessment Framework and common approach and involved consultations with wide range of stakeholders

RPP implementation is progressing well, additional capacity required

Overall Progress in the Implementation of the RPP

Component 1:
Readiness
organization and
consultations

1.A: national
REDD+
management
arrangements

1.B: significant
consultation,
participation
and outreach

Component 2: REDD+
Strategy Preparation

2.A: assessment of land-
use, land-use change
drivers, forest law, policy
and governance

2.B: REDD+ strategy options

2.C: Implementation
framework

2.D: Social and
Environmental impacts

Component 3: Reference
emission level/reference
level

Not yet
funded
(additional
financing
requested)

Component 4: Monitoring
system for forests and
safeguards

4.A: National forest
monitoring system

4.B: Information
system for multiple-
benefits, governance
and safeguards
(not funded, additional
financing requested)

Mid-term Progress in Implementation of the FCPF Grant



Component 1: Support for REDD+ Readiness Management and Institutional Arrangements

- 1.1: Set Up and Operation of the National REDD+ Management Unit
- 1.2: Set Up and Operation of the National REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and REDD+ Technical Working Groups
- 1.3: Strengthen Sub-national REDD+ Institutional Structures
- 1.4: Capacity-Building for REDD+ Institutional Arrangements
- 1.5: Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism for REDD+
- 1.6: Program Monitoring and Evaluation



Component 1: Support for REDD+ Readiness Management and Institutional Arrangements

Purpose

Setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD+ readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD+ into broader strategies

Progress

- The PMU was established as national REDD+ Secretariat
- 18 State level REDD+ focal points and 5 sectorial (Regional Technical Advisors) focal points are established
- Government providing office facilities, logistics and salary support for staff
- The steering and technical advisory committees established
- 3 Working Groups established on safeguards/SESA (ongoing); Land-use, land tenure (finished); and MRV
- A study on the Grievance Redress Mechanism is planned

Constraints and Gaps

- Institutions lack adequate capacities in a number of REDD+ related technical and technological issues
- TORs and mandates of the different Focal Points need to be further clarified documented to ensure coherence and better coordination
- M&E system needs to be built
- Additional financing is required to strengthen and enhance the REDD+ arrangements on technical and institutional capacities
- Technical committee at the state level to ensure better coordination

Component 2: Support for national REDD+ Strategy (including Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)



Sub-Component 2a: In-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation including studies on policies, wood-based energy, land tenure, and forest governance

Purpose

Identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation and activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Progress

- The land-use and land tenure study report is being finalized
- The study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is underway

Constraints and Gaps

- Delays in the procurement
- Delays in the transfer of funds
- The study covers a wide range of issues; its outcomes are expected to reveal further gaps and needs for further analytical work for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy

Sub-Component 2b: In-depth Analysis of Strategic Options to Address Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Purpose

Develop a set of strategic options (policies, programs, etc.) for addressing the drivers and barriers of deforestation and/or forest degradation

Progress

- TORs have been prepared for the identification of the strategy options and preparation of the REDD+ strategy, the expression of interest advertised, the best company selected
- The TORs cover, amongst others, need for the strategy options to be assessed, prioritized for their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities and analysis of their costs and benefits
- The strategy option study is currently under no-objection and then to signing the contract.

Constraints and Gaps

- Study depends on the outcomes of other studies (land-use, drivers etc.), thus is delayed
- Need for a plan or process for drafting, consultation, validation and approval, and outreach for the REDD+ strategy preparation
- Need for further technical work to develop estimates of the potential emission reductions of the options/interventions and how they inform the design of the REDD+ strategy

Sub-Component 2c: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and development of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Purpose

Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Progress

- Recent progress in sequencing SESA after Strategic Options Study resulted in moving ahead with SESA and ESMF preparations
- TOR finalized and procurement of consultants, study planned to start in April 2017. now under no-objection and then to signing the contract
- TOR is aligned with FCPF requirements for the SESA and ESMF as indicated in the assessment Framework

Constraints and Gaps

- Work depends on the outcomes of other studies, e.g. studies and tasks leading to the identification of the strategic options
- Tasks included in the TORs are ambitious and require adequate resources and time to be successfully completed
- The outcome of the study is expected to reveal gaps and needs for further work
- Need for follow-up work on capacity-building, consultations, awareness raising and institutional strengthening
- Gender Gap under REDD+ has not been well established yet; thus there is a need for support for a gender analysis

Sub-Component 2d: Study on options for benefit-sharing related to REDD+

Purpose

Set out credible and transparent institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options

Progress

- A study on options for benefit-sharing is planned and is under implementation during this MTR
- The TORs prepared and reflect good coverage of the tasks required to develop a benefit-sharing mechanism effective at both national and sub-national levels
- The consultant is currently undertaking field work to develop options for benefit-sharing

Constraints and Gaps

- Need for enhanced technical and institutional capacities within the current institutional framework
- Gaps relating to other activities needed to complete the development of the implementation framework, including the registry, policy incentives, regulations and legislation to support and facilitate the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy
- Need for additional support to elaborate an enhanced implementation framework

Component 3: Support for Stakeholder Engagement

3.1: Consultation and Participation for Activities to be Implemented under the FCPF Grant

3.2: Setting Up and Strengthening of Civil Society Platforms



Component 3: Support for Stakeholder Engagement

Purpose

Broad consultations with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs to ensure the active participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making

Progress

- Draft plan has been developed to raise general awareness on REDD+ issues, and to conduct consultations on the priorities and needs of stakeholders
- Consultation and awareness raising activities in 18 states, targeting e.g. Gum Arabic producers, women, pastoralist and farmers
- Platforms for Civil society organizations as well as for Gum Arabic producers established and functioning at the national level
- A formal and informal platform have been established at the state level (all 18 states)
- Developing communication materials in both English and Arabic
- Preparation of a communication strategy is underway (now we received the first draft)

Constraints and Gaps

- The platform needs to be further strengthened and clearly documented in terms of its rationale, functions, organizational issues
- Difficulties with fund transfer to Sudan, affecting regular functioning of the platforms
- Limited resources to cover all the 18 states and special stakeholder groups adequately through the established platforms
- Need to strengthen the platforms as an effective mechanisms and enhance their regular functioning as participation and consultation are a continuous process for REDD+
- Additional work required to further enhance participation and consultation at all levels particularly local level, during the preparation of the REDD+ strategy, as well as after adoption of the strategy and the initiation of its implementation

Component 4: Support for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

4.1: Development a National Forest Inventory (NFI)

4.2: Support for remote sensing

4.3: Capacity building for forest monitoring activities



Component 4: Support for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

Purpose

Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time

Progress

- A plan of activities has been prepared for establishing an MRV system including a national forest inventory, and capacity-building for remote sensing and for forest monitoring activities
- Ad Hoc Working Group on MRV established to provide technical inputs on how to develop the NFMS
- A manual for conducting the NFI and establishing the NFMS has been prepared by the working group and has been subjected to a wide stakeholder consultations
- Agreement signed between PMU and FAO-Sudan to develop the NFMS, conduct NFI, provide institutional support and capacity-building
- NFI commenced in February 2017 and is expected to be completed by August 2018

Constraints and Gaps

- Need for technical and institutional capacity to maintain, manage and improve the system over time at both national and state levels
- Need for support to assess, upgrade and introduce inventory-related equipment and technologies, such as remote sensing, modelling in the area of GHGs estimation, data archiving and management system, technical capacity building in use of these technologies as well as in the areas of measurement, data management, and estimation of GHGs emission/removal

Completion and Consolidation of Sudan's REDD+ Readiness RATIONALE

- According to the MTR, the FCPF Grant has enabled Sudan to achieve **significant progress** towards the overall objectives of its REDD+ readiness phase.
- The MTR also reveals the need for additional support to address gaps, complete, consolidate and enhance progress made in the readiness activities currently supported under the FCPF Grant
- FCPF makes up the vast majority of Sudan's REDD+ Readiness financing as significant support from other development partners has not been forthcoming; therefore, the proposed additional financing is particularly critical for Sudan
- **Govt of Sudan contributed significantly** to support the implementation of the readiness phase, and has committed to continue its support for the national REDD+ process
- With additional financing for the R-PP, Sudan will be able to take advantage of the UNFCCC's REDD+ mechanism to advance its national development priorities and to honour its commitments to international climate agreements

Completion and consolidation of Sudan's REDD+ Readiness and Request for Additional Financing to the FCPF

Brief description of outputs/activities to be supported with FCPF additional funds under the different components of Sudan's R-PP		Original Grant (000) US\$	Proposed Additional Financing (000) US\$
Component 1	Support for REDD+ Readiness Management and Institutional Arrangements	1250	1200
Component 2	Support for national REDD+ Strategy (including Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	850	800
Component 3	Support for Stakeholder Engagement	400	0
Component 4	Support for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification	1300	1500
Component 5	Development of a national reference level	0	1500
Total		3800	5000

Activities planned for Planned Additional Financing US\$ 5.0 Million

Component 1: US\$ 1.2 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen the REDD+ management arrangements, including the establishment of the FGRM• Information sharing and early dialogue with key stakeholder groups and enhance participation and consultation
Component 2: US\$ 800 Thousand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of the REDD+ Strategic options• Development of the REDD+ implementation framework• Social and environmental impacts during the REDD+ readiness and implementation
Component 4: US\$ 1.5 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening and enhancing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)• Design an information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards
Component 5: US\$ 1.5 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a national reference level

Commitment and Contribution of the Government of Sudan to REDD+

- Engaged in the UNFCCC negotiations since the beginning
- RPP preparation based mainly on national resources with contribution from UNDP country office (US\$ 30,000) and UNEP SIEP 1 project in Sudan (US\$ 22,000)
- Co-funding the implementation of the RPP through the FCPF grant by:
 - Provision of office facilities at for REDD+ Secretariat and 23 focal points at the sub-national level.
 - Financial support for the salaries of staff at the REDD+ secretariat and all focal points
- Pledges to continue the support for REDD+ national arrangements, which is integrated in the Forest National Corporation
- Technical staff and logistical support (7 vehicles) for the national forest inventory being implemented by the FAO

Thank you for your kind attention!