



**FCPF-Capacity Building on REDD+ for Civil Society
Organizations and Local Communities in East Asia and the
Pacific Region
(P153588; FCPF Grant No. TA0A5386)**

Progress Report

**Project Period: 08/2017 - 12/2019
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Introduction

This Progress Report presents the major activities and achievements of the FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for CSOs and Local Communities in East Asia and Pacific Region Project (P153588) financed by the World Bank through Small Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF) grant. ANSAB (Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources) was selected by the World Bank as the recipient for the project to implement the Capacity Building Program (CBP) Phase II/FCPF Readiness Fund for the southern civil society (CSOs) and local communities (LCs) in East Asia and Pacific. The beneficiaries of the project are CSOs and LCs in four FCPF countries in East Asia and the Pacific, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Vietnam, who will participate in national-level REDD+ capacity building activities and in regional knowledge exchange events.

The objective of the project (PDO) is to strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted southern CSOs and LCs on REDD+ Readiness at the national level and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level. Specifically, the project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- a. National level capacity building activities on REDD+ undertaken by CSOs and LCs in FCPF countries in East Asia and Pacific have resulted to strengthened communities and effective engagement with governments at local and national levels;
- b. Knowledge products on REDD+ have been developed and disseminated, and knowledge-sharing activities undertaken and shared with CSOs, LCs, governments and other stakeholders in East Asia and Pacific.

During this reporting period (February 2018 through July 2018), ANSAB carried out activities, esp. towards selection of the sub-projects for the implementation of national level capacity building activities; organization of regional level workshop to inform the selected organizations on sub-projects and administrative, safeguards, M&E and reporting requirements; and maintenance of the REDD+ sharing web platform. The project is committed to safeguard management and access to a grievance redress mechanism. Details on the project activities and achievements, progress towards achieving project development objectives, issues for the World Bank attention, plan for the next six months and the financial report are presented in the following sections.

Activities and Achievements

Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

a) Selection of sub-projects

Three sub-projects – two from Vietnam and one from Fiji have been selected for capacity building activities. Table 1 presents the list of the selected sub-projects and the summary of the selected sub-projects is presented in Annex 1. Contracts for the two Vietnamese sub-projects was signed in May 2018 and the Fijian sub-project was signed in June 2018. The first installment of funds based on the contract has been released to the all the sub-projects.

Table 1: List of selected sub-projects

Country	Organization	Name of the sub-projects
Fiji	Grace Trifam Ministry (GTM)	Building Capacity for Fiji’s CSOs and LCs to Actively Participate in the Fiji National REDD+ Readiness Programme
Vietnam	Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)	Empowering CSOs and LCs to effectively participate in the implementation of Vietnam’s Emission Reduction Programme (ER-P)
	PanNature (Center for People and Nature Reconciliation)	Promoting Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) through strengthening capacity and participation of Vietnamese CSOs and local communities in REDD+ process in Vietnam

Out of these three sub-projects, the two from Vietnam are the same that were recommended for the grants as listed in this project’s first progress report (08/2017 – 01/2018). The Fijian sub-project is awarded to GTM which is different from the previous one recommended for grant. For Vanuatu, as we didn’t receive the revised proposal from the organization previously considered for the grant, we were unable to award the grant. The following paragraphs describe the deviation of the selected sub-projects from the previous list (presented in the project’s first progress report).

For Fiji, Fiji Indigenous Women’s Society was previously recommended for the grant, based on the evaluation from the RAC members. Their proposal was sent to the World Bank for no-objection. However, this organization has already received grant for similar activity from Tebtebba Foundation - the recipient of the FCPF capacity building program on REDD+ for forest dependent indigenous people in East Asia, Pacific and South Asia region. So, it didn’t receive no-objection for the grant under this project. Regarding this and as there was no other proposal received from Fiji, ANSAB again solicited proposals from Fiji in close coordination with the World Bank, Ministry of Forests-Fiji, and the RAC member from Fiji. ANSAB received a proposal from Grace Trifam Ministry (GTM), for which the organization checked due diligence. As it was eligible for this consultancy, ANSAB forwarded the proposal to the RAC members for its evaluation. RAC members provided few comments and suggestions to the proposal and recommended for the grant. ANSAB forwarded the comments and suggestion to GTM and they submitted the revised proposal incorporating the comments and suggestion. The revised proposal was forwarded to the World Bank for no-objection and was selected for the grants.

Regarding proposal from Vanuatu, we received a proposal from the National CSO Platform for Climate Change and REDD+. As we shared the proposal to the RAC members, they provided comments and suggestions to the proposal for its revision. ANSAB shared the feedbacks to the organization and asked to provide the revised proposal addressing the reviewers’ feedbacks. As ANSAB didn’t receive the revised proposal on the first deadline, we requested in email for a couple of times to provide the revised proposal, also tried to contact the organization through telephone, and worked closely with the RAC member from Vanuatu, the National REDD+ Unit and the World Bank country office to reach out the responsible member of the platform and expedite the process of submission of the revised proposal but with out success.

We also sought the representatives from the National CSO Platform to participate in the regional workshop held in Nepal during May 1 & 2, 2018 with the help of REDD+ Unit, however we were not able to receive nomination of the participants. As nobody participated in the workshop, we asked the RAC Member from Vanuatu to present the proposal on behalf of the CSO Platform, and also to facilitate for expediting the submission of revised proposal.

As the significant amount of time lapsed without any response from the organization, the project faced challenge to move ahead according to the plan, and communicated with the World Bank on the situation. It was decided that a final deadline would be set and communicated to the organization after which the the proposal will not be considered for further processing. We communicated with the organization for their immediate action and submit the revised proposal setting a final deadline. As we didn't receive the revised proposal, we were unable to consider the proposal for grant.

b) Implementation of country-level activities

Implementation of country level activities has been initiated after the disbursement of the fund. Brief of the country level activities are presented below:

Empowering CSOs and LCs to effectively participate in the implementation of Vietnam's Emission Reduction Programme (ER-P): As SRD is waiting for the permit to implement the project from the Government, they have been working internally and consulting with key stakeholders including the government agencies. SRD held two meetings with the FCPF project team for effective implementation of the project activities. SRD met with Vietnam's Forest Protection Department, UN-REDD Vietnam Program, and Center for International Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and discussed on possible collaboration on Forest Conversion Independent Monitoring (FCIM) framework.

SRD has developed and disseminated an online survey document in Vietnamese and English language to explore willingness of local CSOs to participate in activities of the project. 22 CSOs have expressed their willingness to participate in the project activities. SRD will be organizing a workshop with the CSOs in Da Nang for their further input in late August.

Promoting Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) through strengthening capacity and participation of Vietnamese CSOs and local communities in REDD+ process in Vietnam: The implementing agency, Pan Nature has met and communicated with Vietnam's FCPF PMU on engagement and collaboration for ACMA/Benefit sharing mechanism (BSM). The two parties have shared their work plan/activity progress to ensure that PanNature can maintain exchange and contribution to the development of ACMA/BSM being designed/developed by FCPF PMU. Pan Nature has made an initial survey on institutional and context analysis made in consultation with the key stakeholders, namely Provincial Fund for Forest Protection and Development (FPD), Sub-FPD, communal authority, Sao La Protected Area, A Luoi Protection Forest Management Board, and Nam Hoa Forestry Company.

The project has conducted a field survey to Thua Thien Hue province (the project site). With this field survey, (i) the institutional arrangement for the project implementation is set up with agreement given by the Provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD), A Luoi District Forest

Protection Division (Sub-FPD), and Hong Nguyen communal authority; (ii) a work schedule has been developed and agreed with the local partners for the project activities during August, September and October at the selected villages, communes and districts.

Pan Nature has planned to organize a training workshop for the CSOs on REDD+, forest governance monitoring and CSO engagement from 22-24 August 2018 in Hue city. A project summary in Vietnamese has been finalized to be published for communication purposes, and design of community poster has just started with a local artist.

Building Capacity for Fiji’s CSOs and LCs to Actively Participate in the Fiji National REDD+ Readiness Programme: As the fund for the GTM was disbursed in late July, field level activities have not started. GTM has met with the Fiji REDD+ and the provincial offices, and shared with them the project activities along with the work-plan.

Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned

a) Organization of a regional level workshop

ANSAB convened a regional level workshop on May 1 and 2, 2018 in Kathmandu. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together representatives of the sub-project recipients to inform them on the sub-projects and their administrative, safeguards, M&E and reporting requirements, so that the proposed activities are executed effectively and timely with the desired project objectives. Altogether 17 participants representing three civil society organizations from Fiji and Vietnam, three regional advisory committee (RAC) members, Project’s Task Team Leader and ANSAB staffs attended the workshop.

With the workshop, the representatives of the sub-project were provided an overview of FCPF Capacity Building Program for Southern CSOs and Local Communities, expectation of World Bank on the project and the sub-projects, summary of the selection process of sub-projects, project’s results framework, M & E (monitoring and evaluation) and reporting, sub-project administration, financial management and contractual process. During the workshop, representatives of the sub-projects worked in groups including RAC members to finalize their proposal (with detailed activities, work-plan and budget) meeting requirements and World Bank’s expectation.

b) Maintenance of REDD+ webpage

The REDD+ website (www.ansab.org/redd) hosted by the project has been regularly updated with relevant information and documents. A separate menu has been added for the sub-projects as the sub-projects have been selected. Details on the sub-projects have been added. News and document regarding the regional level workshop has been added. Updates to the regional level information and publications on REDD+ has been made.

Component 3: Management, M&E and Reporting

a) Conduction of project launch mission

The World Bank conducted a launch mission of the project in Kathmandu on May 1-4, 2018. The mission was led by Haddy Jatou Sey (Senior Social Development Specialist and TTL) and comprised Yogesh Bom Malla (Financial Management Specialist) and Chandra Kishor Mishra

(Procurement Specialist). Ayala Peled Ben Ari (Operations Consultant), supported the mission remotely.

The mission met with the ANSAB management and the project team members and discussed on the program, fiduciary compliance and safeguard management. A review of the project activities at national and regional levels and the progress made towards the achievement of the project development objectives was done. With the review of overall progress, it was noted that the project is well placed to achieve the objective. The mission suggested ANSAB to continue working closely with sub-project recipients to make sure activities are launched as per the time lines and work plans set during the mission, and that funds are used diligently to reach sub-projects' objectives.

b) Safeguard management

Environmental and social safeguards. The project does not trigger any of the World Bank safeguards policies. The project is an Environmental Assessment (EA) Category C (no EA needed) since there are no expected adverse environmental impacts of the project. The eligibility criteria for selection of sub-projects incorporated appropriate environmental and social actions that promote transparency, stakeholder participation and public information disclosure. The Operations Manual incorporates mechanisms to ensure community support of submitted capacity building proposals, active participation of key stakeholders, and access to a grievance redress mechanism managed within ANSAB. ANSAB shared with the sub-project recipients to ensure that the sub-projects do not cause negative environmental and social impacts during the regional level workshop organized in Kathmandu.

Grievance redress. There was a formal complaint lodged from Live & Learn regarding their eligibility to undertake consultancies for Fiji and Vanuatu. Live & Learn country offices in Fiji and Vanuatu had submitted proposals to carry out the REDD+ capacity building activities in the respective countries. Considering the nature of this specific project focusing on capacity building activities being implemented by homegrown and local organizations, expression of interests from the Live & Learn country offices were not considered taking into account the international connection the country offices have with the Live & Learn headquarters based in Melbourne. While screening the proposals based on their eligibility, the project reviewed organizational documents included by the organization during application, that showed the connection of the country offices to the international headquarters. After the complaint was lodged from the Live & Learn, ANSAB formally responded describing why they are ineligible for the funding through this grant. There was no further complaint after our response.

Progress toward achieving the PDO

The project progress has been measured toward achieving the Project Development Objective (PDO) as measured by the five indicators in the results framework. The results framework with the indicators and the current status on each indicator is presented in Annex 2.

As the country-level implementation of activities has just started, the beneficiary feedback indicator (Indicator 1) is currently 0. It will have values once country level capacity building activities will start and ANSAB will process the feedback from workshop participants. While the national knowledge products indicator (Indicator 2) is showing delays, it is expected to reach its

YR2 and end-of-project target (a total of four) in the coming months. For the indicator on regional knowledge products (Indicator 3), the year 2 (YR2) target of two has already been achieved with the completion of the regional workshop and the establishment of the webpage. The end-of-project target for the number of meetings between civil society and LC representatives and national REDD+ decision makers (Indicator 4), four in total, has already been achieved. The three organizations have met with the REDD+ focal points in their country as part of the sub-project preparation process. Furthermore, there was a meeting between the participants of the first regional level workshop and the Chief of Nepal’s REDD+ Implementation Center in Kathmandu. The number of direct project beneficiaries (Indicator 5) is presently smaller than expected (14 people, 35 percent women, compared to 200 people, 40 percent women by the end of 2017), however these numbers are expected to be reached and likely exceeded with the implementation of country-level activities.

Issues for World Bank attention

Despite our effort to include the proposal from Vanuatu (National CSO Platform for Climate Change and REDD+) for the selection process, we didn’t receive the revised proposal and were unable to consider them for grant. This has limited the current number of sub-projects considered for grants to be three, which is one less than we have envisioned. As we don’t have received second proposal from Vanuatu, we don’t have any proposal that could be considered for grant to implement national level activities in Vanuatu. Furthermore, to initiate the process of selection, it would take significant time and effort, which could be not be possible without immediate action. This situation has been discussed with the Team Task Leader. An understanding has been developed if it is possible to consider the current sub-projects to grant the additional fund based on the country level needs and performance on the current activities. It will be based on the midterm review of performance of the sub-projects.

Plan for next six months

Table 2 presents the planned activities for the period of August 2018 through January 2019.

Table 2: Planned activities for the period from August 2018 to January 2019.

Activities	Year 2018/19					
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising						
Establish regular communication with CSOs and receive progress reports						
Implement country level activities including CSOs/LC interaction with national decision makers						
Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned						
Collect, review and upload relevant documents in REDD+ webpage						
Component 3: Management, M&E and Reporting						
Develop and share biannual reports						
Submit external audits						

Management of project fund

During the reporting period, US \$43,527.75 has been expended directly from ANSAB, and US \$134,836 has been provided to the sub-projects as advance. The available balance is US \$351,747.25. The detail expenditure report is given below in Table 3.

Table 3. Statement of Expenditure

Category Description	Total Budget	Prior Period Cumulated (Aug 2017 to Jan 2018)*	Expenses this Period (Feb to July 2018)	Total Cumulative Expenses	Advance to Sub-projects	Balance
1. Consulting Service	323,000	245.37		245.37	134,836	187,918.63
2. Non Consulting Service	12,800					12,800.00
3. Training	121,500		21,651.53	21,651.53		99,848.47
4. Goods	1,291					1,291.00
5. Operating Cost	71,520	7,083.81	14,591.82	21,630.85		49,889.15
TOTAL	530,111	7,282.85	36,243.35	43,527.75		351,747.25

* Prior period cumulated after adjustment

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of selected sub-projects

1. Building Capacity for Fiji's CSOs and LCs to Actively Participate in the Fiji National REDD+ Readiness Programme

Executing agency: Grace Trifam Ministry, Fiji

Sub-project summary: The sub-project will benefit 13 local communities in Viti Levu Island (Ra Province (Tikina Tokaimalo), Tailevu North Province (Tikina Dawasamu), Naitasiri Province (Tikina Nabobuco), Namosi Province (Tikina Naqarawai) and Ba Province of Nadarivatu Region (Tikina Qaliyalatina)); Maritime Islands (consisting of Lomaiviti Group (Gau Island) Mamanuca/Yasawa Group (Tikina Nacula), Kadavu Island (Tikina Nakasaleka) Lau Group (Tikina Lakeba) and Ovalau Island (Tikina Lovoni)); and Vanua Levu Island (comprising Cakaudrove Province (Tikina Wailevu East including Rabi/Kioa Islands) and Bua Province (Tikina Lekutu)). Financed activities are a pre-evaluation of CSOs and LCs' awareness of REDD+, REDD+ awareness raising for CSOs and designated LCs, training of trainers for CSOs and LCs in the West, North and Central/Eastern Divisions, a national faith-based workshop to discuss REDD+ issues and presentation of recommendations to the National REDD+ Steering Committee, and development of a discussion paper on existing ERPD strategic issues combined with specific recommendations from the CSOs and LCs fora. The project aims to benefit 2,000 men and 2,000 women, and it will be funded by a US\$75,000 contribution from the project.

2. Empowering CSOs and LCs to effectively participate in the implementation of Vietnam's Emission Reduction Programme (ER-P)

Executing agency: Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), Vietnam

Sub-project summary: The project will benefit communities in the North Central Coast (NCC) region of the country and CSOs which are members of the VNGO-FLEGT and REDD+ networks in the six NCC provinces by setting up a new Forest Conversion Independent Monitoring (FCIM) framework and network in advance of implementation, scheduled for 2019-2024 in the ERPD. Supported activities are: (i) a 3-day training workshop for 30 CSOs on the ERPD, their role, and the preconditions required for them to bridge capacity gaps in order to fulfil their role. Their capacities will be built to subsequently train 50 LC beneficiaries about ERPD in each of the 6 NCC provinces. The provincial training will also discuss the FCIM framework; (ii) one national and 6 provincial dialogues with decision makers on the FCIM to mobilize CSOs to benefit from genuine consultation on ER-P implementation; and (iii) development of a FCIM framework and establishing an independent monitoring network to deliver on forest conversion priorities in the ERPD. The sub-project targets 250 men and at least 100 females and it is funded through a US\$74,970 contribution from the project.

3. Promoting Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) through strengthening capacity and participation of Vietnamese CSOs and local communities in REDD+ process in Vietnam

Executing agency: PanNature (Centre for People and Nature Reconciliation), Vietnam

Sub-project summary: The sub-project is expected to provide a range of benefits to local communities and strengthen their participation in forest governance by adopting the ACMA approach in one REDD+ site level, Huong Nguyen Commune, Thua Thien Hue province. By

contributing to this overall objective, the project is expected to significantly enhance the capacity of Vietnamese civil society to participate fully and effectively in REDD+ readiness and implementation in Vietnam. Financed activities are discussions with ICHTER, which is piloting ACME in Thanh Hoa province, assessing capacity needs on REDD+ readiness, developing a set of awareness and training materials for CSOs/CBOs and local communities on REDD+ Readiness, organizing a training workshop for beneficiaries, identifying key components for the ACMA approach, organizing and facilitating community training courses to enhance beneficiaries' capacity on REDD+ readiness and consult the ACMA framework, organizing and guiding village forest protection teams on community based forest/carbon monitoring with mobile application techniques, organizing and facilitating a consultation workshop with provincial and district staff on the ACMA framework, organizing a national workshop to create a dialogue on the ACMA framework and generate policy recommendations, developing and publishing policy recommendations on the ACMA framework, contributing to the development of a CSO-led FCIM/PFGM framework, and developing indicators and tools for FCIM/PFGM and collaborating with CSOs/CBOs to deliver a district level testing. The sub-project will be funded by a US\$74,756 contribution from the project.

Annex 2: Results Framework with the indicators and the progress on indicators

Project Development Objective (PDO): Strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted southern civil society organizations and local communities of REDD+ Readiness at the national level; and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level.										
Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values			STATUS AS OF JULY 2018	Data Source/ Methodology	Responsibility for Data Collection	Description
				YR1 ¹	YR2 ²	YR3 ³				
1. Beneficiary feedback: Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	0	80	80	80	Not yet done	ANSAB and participating civil society and LC organizations implementing capacity building activities	ANSAB	This indicator's purpose is twofold: (i) to measure impact and (ii) to gather beneficiary feedback. All defined direct beneficiaries, including recipient organizations/institutions and workshop/training participants, will receive a pre-defined short questionnaire (a half pager) that will record their perceptions of their level of knowledge on a defined list of subjects. The forms will be filled by the beneficiaries after a training workshop/program. All the forms will be collected and analyzed by ANSAB with support from the World Bank.
2. National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	1	4	4	Not yet done	ANSAB and participating civil society and LC organizations	ANSAB	Knowledge exchange products are capacity building and/or awareness raising activities under Component 1. Knowledge products will be produced in English and translated to local languages as appropriate.

¹ August 2017-December 2017

² January 2018-December 2018

³ January 2019-December 2019

3. Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	1	2	5	2 Regional workshop for sub project beneficiaries and REDD+ webpage	ANSAB	ANSAB	Cumulative target Knowledge exchange products include regional workshops, a REDD+ webpage and a lessons learned and/or best practices report emerging from Component 1 activities
4. Meetings held between civil society and LC representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	1	3	4	4 In all countries. Consultants shared the proposals with the national REDD+ focal points/units The participants of the first regional level workshop also met with the Chief of Nepal's REDD+ Implementation Center in Kathmandu	ANSAB and participating civil society and LC organizations	ANSAB	Cumulative target Meeting are held within the four countries between recipient civil society organizations and national REDD+ decision makers.

5. Direct project beneficiaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	200	600	800	14 (35%) Workshop participants Men: 9 Women: 5	Reports of civil society and LC organizations carrying out capacity building and awareness raising activities, and records of participation in regional and bi-lateral activities	ANSAB	Cumulative target Direct project beneficiaries are civil society and LC members participating in capacity building and awareness raising activities under Component 1; members of organizations which participate in meetings and workshops under Components 1 and 2; and recipients of national and regional knowledge products.
Of which female		Percent	0	40	40	40				

