



Evaluation Capacity Building at Country Level: GEF Focal Points

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GEF Evaluation Office Panel

Role GEF Focal Points can play in evaluation capacity building and country ownership

Paris Declaration & Accra Agenda for Action emphasized country ownership, harmonization and use of country systems

Senior Independent Advisors GEF's OPS4 recommended

- i) *capacity building* for evaluation of environmental activities at country level
- ii) *country ownership* of critical importance for the sustainability and replication of GEF operations

GEF Focal Points can play a key role for i) and ii)

GEF Nov.2010 Evaluation Policy emphasizes country ownership and GEF Focal Points involvement in GEF country related M&E activities

2010 Evaluation Policy & the role of focal points

- The GEF OFPs will be fully consulted with and informed by the GEF Agencies and the Evaluation Office about the planning, conduct, and results of any evaluation activity performed in the country
- The FP plays a key role in keeping all national stakeholders (particularly the civil society organizations involved in GEF activities) fully consulted with, informed on, and involved in the plans, implementation, and results of country-related GEF M&E activities.
- Upon specific request, the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office will provide support to OFPs on M&E activities through the GEF Country Support Program

New GEF Evaluation Policy minimum requirements

The Evaluation Policy concludes with a set of 4 minimum requirements that *shall* be applied to M&E at the project and programme level.

Minimum Requirement 4: Engagement of Operational Focal Points

Projects and programs will engage operational focal points in M&E-related activities. The following requirements shall be applied (*italics and underlining added*):

- The M&E plan will include a specification of how the project or program will keep the relevant GEF OFP informed and, where applicable and feasible, involved.
- During implementation, GEF OFPs will be informed by the Agencies on M&E activities in the projects and programs that belong to their national portfolio.

Evaluation Policy: completing minimum requirement 4 (on engaging Focal Points)

- The GEF OFPs will be informed of midterm reviews and terminal evaluations and will, where applicable and feasible, be briefed and debriefed at the start and end of evaluation missions.
- They will receive a draft report for comment, will be invited to contribute to the management response (where applicable), and will receive the final evaluation report within 12 months of project or program completion.
- GEF Agencies will keep track of the application of the conditions specified here in their GEF financed projects and programs.

How could Agencies better involve country focal points in evaluation exercises?

- Building capacity through learning by doing
- Promoting links between the Focal Point and the country's evaluation community
- Facilitating the participation of the Focal Point during different phases of the evaluations

Focal Points support to evaluations

- Need to taken into account diversity of Focal Points.
- Given their local knowledge and connections, Focal Points can support evaluations by (some or all):
 - i) Identifying key stakeholders and key informants
 - ii) Suggesting Information sources (including surveys)
 - iii) Helping in setting-up and coordinating meetings
 - iv) Keep track of GEF support at the national level
 - v) Discussing main issues and contributing to TOR
 - vi) Coordinating country responses to evaluations
 - vii) Providing feedback to GEF on evaluation use

What should be the role for a country focal point be pre, during and post project implementation?

- Linking effectively GEF's operations and their evaluation with government and civil society, supporting the development of country ownership
- Informing and consulting with stakeholders concerning plans, implementation, evaluation and results of activities involving GEF at the country level
- Facilitating the replication of GEF's operations whose evaluations show that it is worthwhile to scale-up, contributing to the dissemination/use of the evaluation

Limited Influence of lessons learned in improving approach to M&E

“Turkish Government's own approach to monitoring and evaluation is revised/improved based on lessons learnt with GEF activities”

strongly agree: 4

strongly disagree: 4

agree: 21

disagree: 23

Source: survey conducted by GEFEO Turkey country portfolio evaluation

Involvement of GEF Focal Points in Terminal Evaluations

The “Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations” in section 2 on “Roles and Responsibilities”:

GEF Agencies are expected, inter alia to

“Facilitate the engagement of the GEF focal points in terminal evaluations and provide them with a copy of the terminal evaluation report in a timely manner”.

Note: no specific guidance, as for example to consult TOR with focal points

How can the terminal evaluation exercise support the building of country environmental M&E capacity?

- i) By involving the Focal Point and the country environmental evaluation community in different phases of the evaluation, including a consultation on the TOR for the evaluation.
- ii) At the beginning of the terminal evaluation exercise a brief environmental M&E capacity building workshop (which would also help the evaluation team know better local evaluators available at the country level)
- ii) Conducting at the end of the terminal evaluation exercise a workshop focused on lessons learned

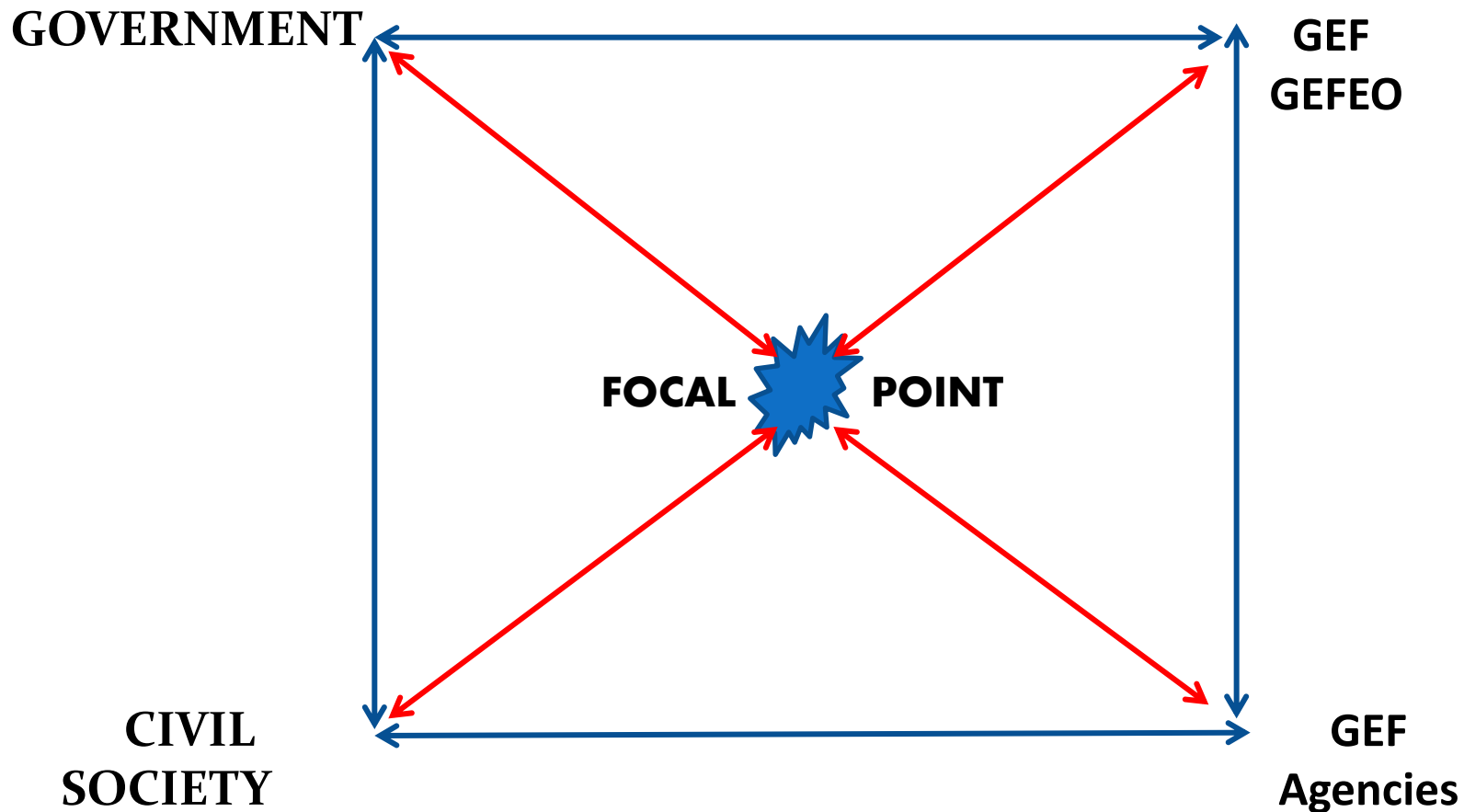
GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy (2010)

As part of GEF's programming document for GEF-5, the frameworks for capacity development fall under five main objectives.

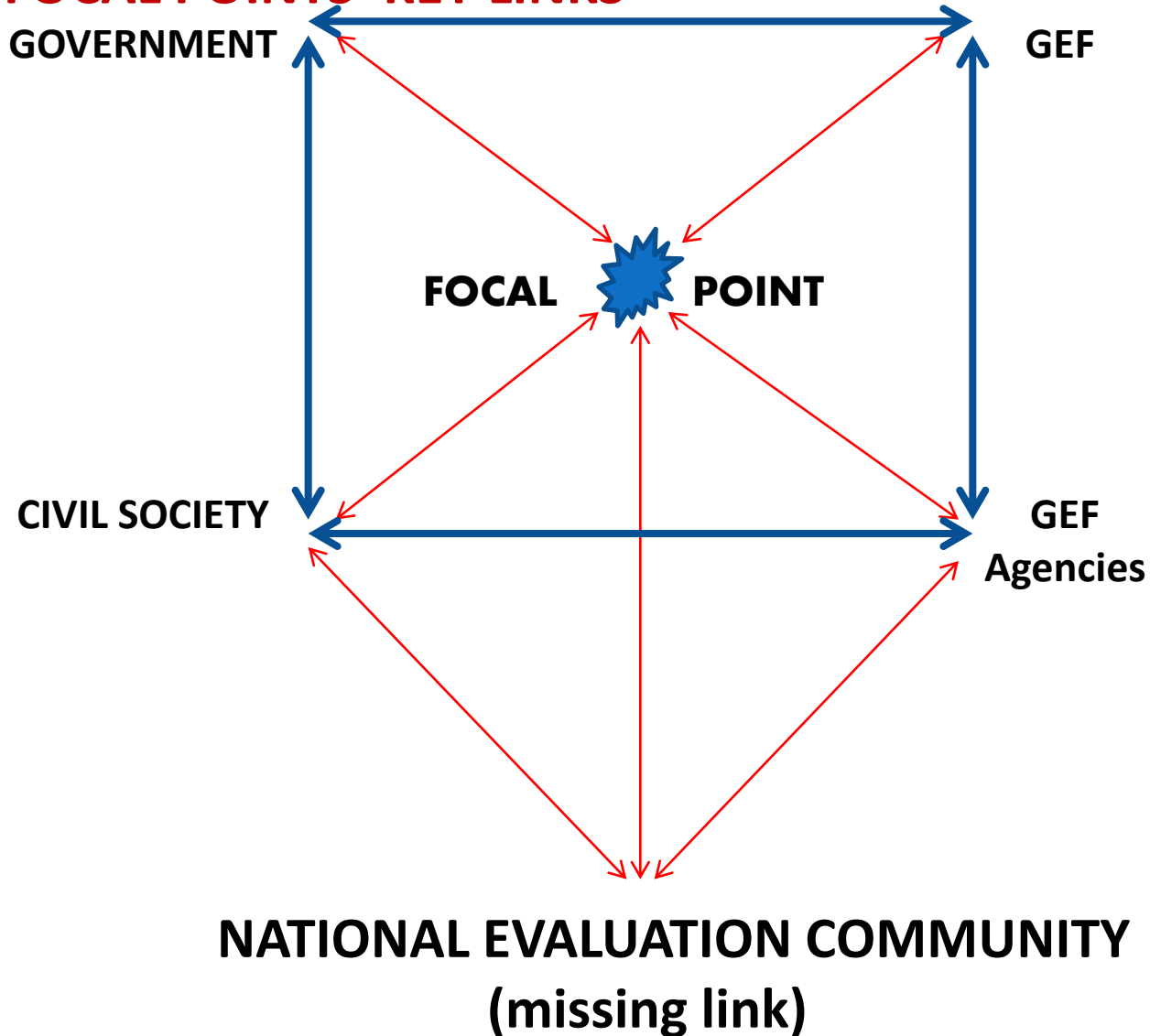
The fifth: “ENHANCING CAPACITIES TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND TRENDS”

Through strengthening the institutionalization of M&E systems as a means to feed lessons learned and best practices from projects and interventions. Funds available for this purpose

Focal Points' Key Links



FOCAL POINTS' KEY LINKS



Summing-up

Roles that GEF Focal Points can play

- i) promoting evaluation country ownership
- ii) facilitating GEF evaluations
- iii) dissemination of evaluations

Building evaluation capacity at the country level

- i) involving GEF Focal Points in evaluations by GEFEO and GEF Agencies, promoting their learning by doing
- ii) linking GEF Focal Points to national evaluation community of practice and regional evaluation networks
- iii) partnership with GEF Implementing Agencies and Bilaterals to build evaluation capacity at the country level (support from GEF-5 CCCD)