

GEF COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION: NICARAGUA (1996-2010)

What are CPEs?	Country portfolio evaluations (CPEs) conducted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Evaluation Office use the country as the unit of analysis to examine the totality of GEF support across all GEF Agencies and programs. The final report the Nicaragua CPE will assess the relevance, results, and efficiency of GEF projects at the country level—that is, how these projects perform in producing results, and how the results are linked to national environmental and sustainable development agendas as well as to the GEF mandate of generating global environmental benefits in its focal areas.
Purpose	The GEF Cluster CPE will provide feedback and knowledge sharing to the GEF Council in its decision making on resource allocation and policy and strategy development, to the governments on their participation in the GEF, and to the various agencies and organizations involved in the preparation and implementation of GEF-funded projects and activities.
Other CPEs	The GEF Evaluation Office has conducted CPEs in Costa Rica, the Philippines, Samoa, Benin, Cameroon, Madagascar, South Africa, Egypt, Syria, Moldova, and Turkey. The full CPE reports and summaries (Signposts) of their conclusions and recommendations can be found at www.gefeo.org . Alongside the CPE in Nicaragua, the Evaluation Office is conducting a Cluster CPE in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and the Grenadines) and two Country Portfolio Studies in El Salvador and Jamaica in collaboration with the UNDP Evaluation Office.
CPE Focus	The CPE will answer questions related to the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and results of the GEF in Nicaragua.
Results	<i>The output, outcome, or impact (intended or unintended, positive and/or negative) of a GEF activity.</i> ▶ What are the results (outcomes and impacts) of completed projects? ▶ What are the aggregated results at the focal area and country levels? ▶ What is the likelihood that objectives will be achieved for those projects that are still under implementation? ▶ How successful is the dissemination of GEF project lessons and results? ▶ What is the sustainability of GEF-supported activities?
Relevance	<i>The extent to which the objectives of a GEF activity are consistent with beneficiary requirements, country needs, global priorities, and partner and donor policies.</i> ▶ Is GEF support relevant to the national sustainability development agenda and environmental priorities, national development needs and challenges, and action plans for GEF national focal areas? ▶ Are the GEF and its Agencies supporting Nicaragua's environmental and sustainable development prioritization and decision-making process? ▶ Is GEF support in Nicaragua relevant to the GEF objectives for global environmental benefits regarding biodiversity, climate change, international waters, persistent organic pollutants, land degradation, and ozone depleting substances? ▶ Is Nicaragua supporting the GEF mandate and focal area programs and strategies with its own resources and/or support from other donors?
Efficiency	<i>A measure of how economically resources/inputs (such as funds, expertise, and time, etc.) are converted to results.</i> ▶ How much time, effort, and financial resources are needed to develop and implement projects? ▶ What are the roles, types of engagement, and coordination among different stakeholders in project implementation? ▶ What are the synergies between GEF project programming and implementation among GEF Agencies, national institutions, GEF projects, and other donor-supported projects and activities?
Evaluation Team	Anna Viggh leads a team composed of Soledad Mackinnon from the GEF Evaluation Office and the international and national consultants from the firm Le Groupe-conseil baastel Itée.

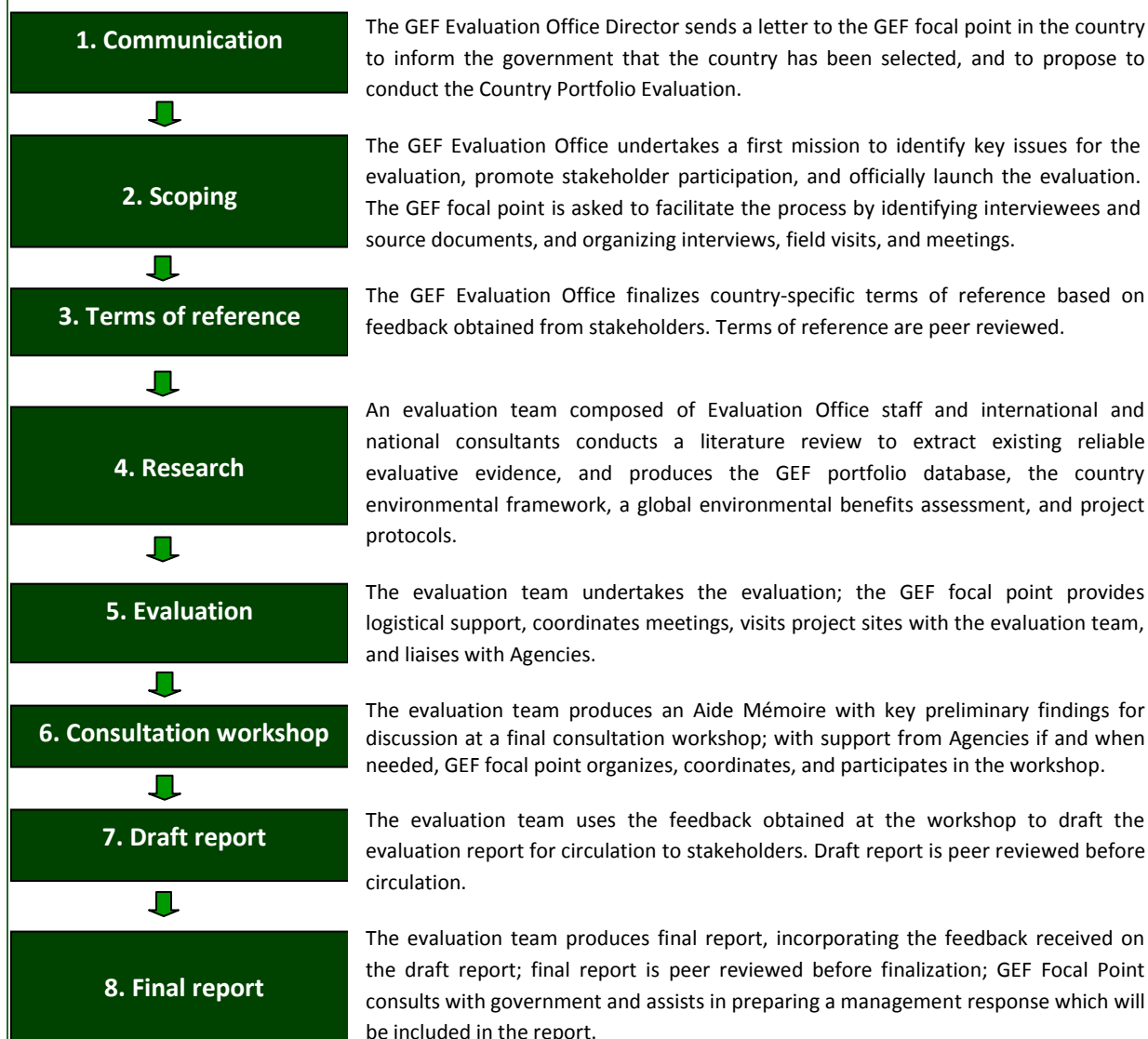
Role of the Focal Point

The GEF focal point plays a critical coordination role in GEF matters at the country level besides serving as the liaison with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and representing their constituencies on the GEF Council. The operational focal point is responsible for the operational aspects of GEF activities, such as endorsing project proposals to affirm that they are consistent with national plans and priorities. During the GEF Cluster CPE, the operational focal points are expected to provide the following:

► **Coordination**—facilitate and coordinate consultations on GEF operational matters and among GEF Agencies, partners, and relevant stakeholders

► **Information sharing and learning**—provide key stakeholders with feedback on GEF activities in the country, including project implementation, project results and impacts, and mainstreaming of GEF objectives in national policy frameworks

CPE Process



The GEF's Nicaraguan focal point, **Juanita Argeñal**, is the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. GEF Agencies in the country, nongovernmental organizations, and other major stakeholders will participate in the evaluation.

The GEF Evaluation Office is an independent entity within the GEF reporting directly to the GEF Council. The Office assesses GEF policies, strategies, principles, and procedures as well as focal area programs. The goals of evaluation in the GEF are to learn from experience, provide an objective basis for assessing the results of the GEF's work, and provide accountability in the achievement of its objectives. It also promotes knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners.