



Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11486

Countries

Nicaragua

Project Name

Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR)

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

11/24/2023

Review completed by PM

12/4/2023

Program Manager

Toshiyuki Yamasaki

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO) □

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/21/2023:
Thank you. Cleared.

Toshi 12/8/2023:

1) The following information is missing in the General Enabling Activity Information table:
- "Type of Report(s)". Please add the following type of reports: UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Report/National Communication (BTR/NC) and UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)
- "Expected Report Submission to Convention". Please add the expected submission date for the combined BTR/NC and BTR respectively.
- "GEF Agency EA ID". Although this is not required by GEF Secretariat, we raise to your attention this information is missing from the summary table.

SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Enabling Activity Title: ⓘ	Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR)		
Country(ies): ⓘ	Nicaragua	GEF Enabling Activity ID: ⓘ	11486
GEF Agency(ies): ⓘ	FAO	GEF Agency Enabling Activity ID: ⓘ	
Project Executing Entity(s): ⓘ	Climate Change Secretariat of the Presidency (SCCP)	Executing Partner Type:	Government
GEF Focal Area (s): ⓘ	Climate Change	Submission Date: ⓘ	11/24/2023
Expected Implementation Start : ⓘ	1/2/2024	Expected Duration : ⓘ	38 in Months
Type of Report(s): ⓘ		Expected Report Submission to Convention:	

2) Also, please revise the Expected Implementation Start Date to a later more realistic date appropriately to account for the review period (currently 1/2/2023, it is too tight).

3) Considering that the first Biennial Update Report (BUR1) is still under preparation and is yet to be submitted to the UNFCCC, please include the following text:

"Resources for the First Biennial Transparency Report combined Fifth National Communication (BTR1/NC5) and the Second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2) will be disbursed to the executing partner after the UNFCCC submission process of the BUR1 is confirmed."

4) Consulting and engaging civil society are important for effective climate action and reporting. This project provides an overview of key stakeholder but misses to include NGOs. Please elaborate on plans for engaging and consulting civil society organizations, community groups, and interest/advocacy groups etc. in project implementation.

5) Gender: The following outputs have relevant gender dimensions. Please incorporate them. Output 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and 2.1.5.

6) Stakeholder engagement: The project lists up various stakeholders including government ministries, private sector, and academia. However please include consideration and plans for broader stakeholder engagement and consultations, including with relevant national and local NGOs and CSOs.

Agency's Comments

12/11/23

1) Noted, all information has been added

- 2) Noted, date has been changed to 03/15/2024
 - 3) Please note that the first BUR has been submitted to the UNFCCC on the 11th of December of 2023, it can be consulted here [Nicaragua. Biennial update reports \(BUR\). BUR 1. | UNFCCC](#)
 - 4) Noted, text has been added in the stakeholder participation section
 - 5) Noted, outputs have been changed accordingly
 - 6) Noted, text has been added in the stakeholder participation section
- Cost Ranges.**

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:

Cleared. The project has no deviations in the cost range. The costing is in line with Information Note GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

Agency's Comments

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/22/2023:

Thank you. Cleared.

Toshi 12/21/2023:

<Additional Comment>

Adaptation Communications:

On the P.5, proposal says ?Nicaragua will present its Adaptation Communication together with 1BTR?, but on the other hand, in the Output section, output 2.1.3 says ?Adaptation Communication is prepared as a component of the 5NC/2BTR?. If you intend to submit it with both BTR1 and BTR2, you need to add BTR2 on P.5 and also add the same description to Output 1.1.3. Please check it from a perspective of consistency and make additions or corrections.

Toshi 12/8/2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

12/22/23

Apologies for the oversight. Nicaragua will present its Adaptation communication both in the BTR1 and BTR2. P.5 and output 1.1.3 have been changed accordingly.

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:
Yes.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:
Yes, institutional arrangements, including the narrative description of the project activities are well elaborated.

Agency's Comments

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:
Yes. The M&E budget for the project is \$6,000.

Agency's Comments

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Toshi 12/8/2023:

Yes.

Agency Response

Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/4/2023:

Yes. This is in line with Information Note

GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

Agency's Comments

Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/21/2023:

Thank you. Cleared. I have confirmed that you uploaded an additional letter (Dec 18th 2023) on the next page of the LOE to address this.

Toshi 12/8/2023:

The LOE template used for this project removed the footnote that conditions the selection of the executing partner to the following: ?Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate?. Per the attached email distributed back in March when we were aiming to constitute June 2023 Work Program, Agencies were informed that LoEs ?with modifications cannot be accepted and will be returned?. While the removal of the footnote seems to be trivial, it is not: this footnote reduces the chances of having an executing partner that does not meet the fiduciary and procurement standards required to safely execute the project. Please get an email from the OFP accepting this footnote to be part of the LoE (this is an alternative to request a new LoE).

Agency's Comments

12/20/23

A complementary email to the LOE has been received from the OFP.

OFP endorsement letter has been updated under Record of endorsement. OFP letter includes an additional confirmation from OFP recognizing the assessment of the executing partner.

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)

Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

N/A.

Agency's Comments

Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/21/2023:

Thank you. Cleared.

Toshi 12/8/2023:

1) The letter of endorsement designates the Climate Change Secretariat of the Presidency (SCCP) as the only executing partner. However, the project budget table in Annex B identifies other responsible entities aside from SCCP (e.g., BCN, INIFOM, INETER, INAFOR, INTA, MAG, MARENA, MEFCCA, MEM, MINIM, MHCP, MTI, SDCC, ?). Please correct the project budget table so there is only one entity in charge in line with the letter of endorsement.

2) General Operational Costs is not an eligible activity ? please remove it from the budget and distribute these funds within other activities.

3) Also, Some of the text in the project budget table is off margins, please correct this (You can ask ITS for support in case it is needed).

5028-GOE						
General operational costs	4,484.00	2,242.00	2,242.00			Multiple institutions (MARENA, MHCP, BCN, MEFCCA, INIFOM, INETER, INA
5028 Sub-total GOE	4,484.00	2,242.00	2,242.00	-	-	
TOTAL	1,233,000.00	562,253.00	610,747.00	54,000.00	6,000.00	

Agency's Comments

12/11/23

1) Noted, the only executing partner is now SCCP

2) Noted, this has been changed to *Supplies for PMU*

3) Noted and addressed

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/8/2023:

ESS screening is not required per Agency's regulations.

Agency's Comments

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION.

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

Toshi 12/21/2023:

Please address the one additional comment above (Enabling Activity Summary (Adaptation Communication)).

Toshi 12/8/2023:

Please address the comments above and resubmit. Please highlight in yellow the changes you make to the portal form for ease of revision.

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	12/4/2023	12/20/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/8/2023	12/22/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/21/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/22/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		