



Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for greater transparency in the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement in Nicaragua (CBIT 2)

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11653

Countries

Nicaragua

Project Name

Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for greater transparency in the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement in Nicaragua (CBIT 2)

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

4/26/2024

Review completed by PM

5/20/2024

Program Manager

William Holness Carrasco

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024

1. The Agency fee for the grant is 9.5% of the GEF Project Grant. The PPG Agency Fee is 9.5% of the PPG Amount. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

1. Adjustment made; comment cleared.
2. Thanks for significantly increasing the number of State and non-State beneficiaries from 100 to 300, maintaining the 50-50 ratio between men and women. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024. Please address the following comments:

1. For this section and throughout the document, please ensure to include the GEF ID for the first CBIT project in Nicaragua whenever it is referred to (GEF ID 10118), to make a distinctive annotation for cross-verification. Kindly amend throughout the document.
2. The number of people benefiting from GEF-financed investments (Indicator 11) in the summary section is 100 individuals (from which 50% will be women) for this CBIT project. Please assess the possibility of increasing the number of direct beneficiaries taking into account the following:
 - a. The total GEF resources have increased between the first and second CBIT projects (from USD 1,000,000 to USD 2,190,000).
 - b. This second CBIT project is now expanding its scope of work to include the Energy and Waste sectors, in addition to the institutions within the AFOLU sector that had already benefited from the first CBIT Project in Nicaragua (GEF ID 10118)
 - c. The first CBIT Project for Nicaragua (GEF ID 10118) on its Indicator 2 had a target of 200 beneficiaries. Kindly modify this target as appropriate throughout the document.

Agency's Comments

6 June 2024

1. Thank you, noted.

CBIT I GEF ID has been included.

2. Number of beneficiaries (GEF Core Indicator 11) has been raised to 300, of which 50% will be women. In addition to representatives of the institutions, the project will benefit also local producers and private enterprises who collaborate with the SNGCC (National System for Climate Change Management)

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: cleared.

Agency's Comments

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

1. Gender considerations have been included in Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and M&E 1.1 both at the logical framework and when expanding their scopes of work.
Comment cleared.

2. Gender considerations are explicit in Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, and 2.1.2 and in the Gender section of the PIF. Comment cleared.

3. Gender adjustment made for M&E component. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024

1. Gender dimensions are included for both Outcomes of the project (1.1 and 2.1). Nevertheless, please ensure that gender considerations, including the representation of gender experts when appropriate, are explicitly stated throughout the Outputs of the project as well, particularly for Outputs 1.1.1 and 2.1.1. Please amend as necessary.

2. In addition, please make sure that guides and frameworks developed (e.g., Output 1.1.2) consider the role and challenges of women in those sectors, and that women are targeted beneficiaries and actors in outputs with capacity-building and training components (e.g. 2.1.1, 2.1.2). Please amend accordingly.

3. Under M&E, make sure that gender dimensions are monitored and reported on. Please adjust as appropriate.

Agency's Comments

12 June 2024

1. Gender considerations have been included in outputs 1.1.1 and 2.1.1 both in the logical framework and in the explication of the outputs.

2. Output 1.1.2 has been changed both in the log frame and in the text, including gender perspectives.

Outcome 2 now states clearly in the text that women will be targeted as beneficiaries and actors.

Moreover, paragraph 36, has been added in the gender sub-section

3. M&E component has been added and paragraph 32 has been included in the project description to reflect this comment

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024

1. GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC are proportional (9.09%) and the PMC is below 10% of the total GEF grant. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

1. PIF's structure and content adjusted for sections 4.1 Situation Analysis and 4.2 Justification for Project. Comment cleared.
2. Both adjustments for expansion of stakeholders and gender considerations were included now in Table 1. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024. Please address the following comments:

1. In order to better align with the structure of the GEF-8 PIF Template, please include differentiated subsections for 4.1 Situation Analysis and 4.2 Justification for Project within section A. Project Rationale. Please amend the content of this section to have these two clearly differentiated subsections.
2. For Table 2. Needs identified in the PIF formulation process, please address the following comments:
 - a. In addition to the identified main stakeholders for each of the needs, please include additional relevant State and non-State stakeholders that are impacted by the identified gaps. Please amend the Table as appropriate.
 - b. Whenever appropriate, please include gender mainstreaming considerations for the identified gaps so that they could be in turn reflected at the output level throughout the PIF and subsequent CEO Approval Document. Please amend accordingly.

Agency's Comments

13 June 2024

1. The PIF has been restructured to better align with the template
2. table 2 is now table 1,
 - a) relevant stakeholders have been added to the table accordingly
 - b) gender mainstreaming considerations have been added in the table

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

- a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**
- b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?**
- c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?**
- d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

1. References between related initiatives and their outputs of the CBIT II project will make synergies with are now included. Comment cleared.
2. Specific references to CBIT I project (GEF ID 10118) have been made throughout the document as a basis of work for the CBIT II project. Comment cleared.
3. References to the work of the Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR) (GEF ID 11486) to this CBIT Project II for Nicaragua have been made throughout the document. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024. Please address the following comments:

1. For Table 1. Reference initiatives related to climate change supporting the CBIT II project ,for each of the projects presented, please indicate the specific outcomes / outputs that this second CBIT project will synergize with. Please amend as appropriate.
2. Thanks for making linkages with complementary GEF-funded CBIT projects, such as NC and BURs for the country. Please ensure to also include clear references to the achievements of the first CBIT project for Nicaragua (GEF ID 10118) and how this second CBIT project is building on such progress made. Please include these references as appropriate throughout this section and the document.
3. In addition, please refer to how this CBIT project will synergize efforts and inform the Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR) (GEF ID 11486). Kindly include brief references to document this articulation.

Agency's Comments

13 June 2024

1. This is now table 3 and has been moved to Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project section. Specific output to each project have been included in the table.
2. linkages to CBIT I project have been included throughout the document
3. More information on synergizing efforts and inform the Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report and (5CN-1BTR/2BTR) (GEF ID 11486) have bene included throughout the document

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

In general terms:

1. All outputs are now referred as such to distinguish them from products. Comment cleared.
2. References to the tangible outcomes of the CBIT I project for Nicaragua (GEF ID 10118) are now made in this section and throughout the document. Comment cleared.

For Output 2.1.3:

3. Thanks for the clarification. During the CEO Approval Document phase, it is suggested to further elaborate Output 2.1.3 under this premise in order to guarantee its alignment with ETF provisions as they relate to loss & damage. Comment cleared for the PIF stage.

WHC 05-18-2024. Please address the following comments:

In general terms,

1. References to the outputs of the project are sometimes identified as ?products? rather than outputs. Please make references to them as ?outputs? throughout this section and the whole PIF.
2. If applicable, for each of the presented outputs, please indicate the progress made with the first CBIT project for Nicaragua (GEF ID 10118) to provide a casual pathway on what this second CBIT project for the country will be building on. Please include these details as appropriate throughout this section of the document.

For Component 2:

3. Output 2.1.3 states that the SNGCC will systematize information on topics regarding avoidance, minimization and tackling of damage and loss caused by climate change, thus the technical capacities of the SCCP will be strengthened through the preparation of the baseline of loss and damage indicators. Please indicate how these indicators are informing the current reporting requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, considering the specific technical focus of CBIT on Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Please provide a proper rationale for the inclusion of this Output within the CBIT Project.

Agency's Comments

12 June 2024

1. Apologies for the oversight, this has been changed
2. Where applicable, CBIT I (GEF ID 10118) results were added to showcase how the CBIT II project will expand and build on that project
3. Output 2.1.3 has been designed and included in the project to address the provisions related to information on efforts to avoid, minimize and address loss and damage caused by climate change impacts included in Chapter IV of the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the ETF (paragraph 104-117 of the annex of the decision 18/CMA.1). This justification has been included in the text

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 08-07-2023

1. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) Is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024.

1. Thanks for including the differentiated section of Implementation Arrangements, following GEF-8 template. We note that that this CBIT project and the Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report (GEF ID 11486) project will share the same PSC and PMU. During the CEO Approval Document stage, it is recommended to consider that the assigned personnel for the PMU and PSC roles will have enough time to dedicate for the tasks assigned as both projects might end up running in parallel. Comment cleared.


2. Section 'Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects' has been updated with all appropriate sections. References to work with relevant GEF-funded projects at the national and global levels have been included. Comment cleared.

3. Section 'Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects' has been correctly populated in the GEF Portal. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024:

1. Following GEF-8 PIF Template, please include a differentiated section on the Implementation Framework in order to elaborate on details regarding the institutional settings for this project, including the selected executing partner, a brief description of potential coordination with other GEF-financed projects (i.e., BTR elaboration), and knowledge, learning outputs and communication strategy. Please include these details in a differentiated section accordingly.
2. In addition, please briefly describe the closely coordinated mechanism that the project will have the with CBIT Global Support Programme, via the Climate Transparency Platform, through its regional networks and at a global level. Please provide a brief description on this coordination mechanism accordingly.
3. Please fill out this section accordingly in the GEF Portal.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project? 

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and project potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

Agency's Comments

13 June 2024

1. Under Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project:

- institutional arrangements and details on the executing partner have been included
- coordination with other GEF funded project including CBIT Global Support Programme and the 5NC/1BTR-2BTR
- coordination with other ongoing initiatives related to climate change

2. References to the CBIT Global support Programme have been added to the paragraph 50, in the section Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project and throughout the project document. Specifically, the project will coordinate with the CBIT Global Support Programme, participate in relevant Transparency Networks, Communities of Practices and Global Forum to share knowledge and lessons learned with other projects and countries. The project will also use the Knowledge Center of the Programme to develop its own knowledge products

The project will also coordinate its activities with the CBIT-Forest project implemented by FAO (GEF ID 11308)

3. Section has been filled accordingly in the portal

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024: GEF Core Indicator 11 has been increased from 100 to 300 beneficiaries. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024: As expressed before, please consider increasing the number of people benefiting from this CBIT project disaggregated by gender, considering the inclusion of not only State but also non-State actors that could directly or indirectly benefit from project activities. Please adjust accordingly, if feasible.

Agency's Comments

6 June 2024

GEF Core Indicator 11 has been raised to 300 (50% of which will be women)

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?

b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024 Cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024: References for scale-up potential with the CBIT Global Projects have been included. Comment cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024. On paragraph 42 'Potential for Expansion?', please include references to interactions with the CBIT Global Support Programme. Please amend accordingly to reflect the project's full scale-up potential.

Agency's Comments

12 June 2024

References to the CBIT Global support Programme have been added to the paragraphs, that are now 49 and 50, in the section Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project and throughout the project document. The project will coordinate with the CBIT Global Support Programme, participate in relevant Transparency Networks, Communities of Practices and Global Forum to share knowledge and lessons learned with other projects and countries. The project will also use the Knowledge Center of the Programme to develop its own knowledge products. The project will also coordinate its activities with the CBIT-Forest project implemented by FAO (GEF ID 11308)

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, the project is in line with the Pillar II (Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies) and objective 2.1 (Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT) of GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy and Associated Programming. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments HC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared. List of Stakeholders and Dates of Stakeholder Engagement Page 35.

Agency's Comments

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, USD 50,000 are requested as PPG.

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country? (ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared. The project is endorsed by Mr. Eduardo Jos? Flores Coca, GEF Operational Focal Point of Nicaragua.

Agency's Comments

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments
WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: N/A.

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024: Country map and coordinates included. Cleared.

WHC 05-18-2024: Kindly include preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the projects intended location. Please amend accordingly

Agency's Comments

13 June 2024

Noted, country map and coordinates have been included

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: We note that the ESS supporting document has been uploaded to the documents section of the project. It has a "Low" climate risk classification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 05-18-2024: N/A

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

WHC 07-09-2024: The PMs recommend the project for further processing.

WHC 05-18-2024: Please address the comments above.

** Please highlight in **green** the changes made on the portal version of the CEO approval document for ease of reference. **

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

1. During the CEO Approval Document phase, it is suggested to further elaborate Output 2.1.3 under this premise in order to guarantee its alignment with ETF provisions as they relate to loss & damage.
2. We note that that this CBIT project and the Fifth National Communication and First and Second Biennial Transparency Report (GEF ID 11486) project will share the same PSC and PMU. During the CEO Approval Document stage, it is recommended to consider that the assigned personnel for the PMU and PSC roles will have enough time to dedicate for the tasks assigned as both projects might end up running in parallel.

Agency's Comments Thank you, comments are well noted and will be addressed at CEO Approval Document stage.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	5/14/2024	6/17/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	7/9/2024	7/23/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Review

Agency Response

Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)