



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021– Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Asia and the Pacific
Country (ies):	China
Project Title:	Sustainable forest management to enhance the resilience of forests to climate change in China
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/CPR/056/GFF
GEF ID:	5139
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate change, biodiversity, sustainable forest management-REDD+
Project Executing Partners:	The World Bank Loan Project Management Center (WBPMC) of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, P. R. China
Project Duration:	6 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl + Click here)	N 39° 55' 0", E 116° 23' 49"; N 34° 0' 0", E 113° 40' 0"; N 26° 15' 0", E 118° 0' 0"; N 24° 0' 0", E 109° 0' 0"; N 19° 12' 0", E 109° 42' 0"

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	10 April 2015
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	30 September 2016 (as per FPMIS)
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	31 August 2022 (as per FPMIS)
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	Based on an exchange letter between FAO and the OP, the actual operational EOD/NTE of the project are from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2023, as the first financial installment to the OP was made on 31 July 2017. In alignment with the Mid-Term Review recommendation, a non-cost extension is being proposed under the OPA Amendment No.2 to extend the project NTE to 31 July 2021.
Actual Implementation End Date³:	NA

Funding

¹As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 7,152,728
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 48,400,000
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 7.047.830
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 40,713,052.03

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	March 30, 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	June 2020
Actual Mid-term review date:	June 2020
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	July 2023
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	S
Overall implementation progress rating:	S

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about half-point between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Overall risk rating:	L
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Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	4 th PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Mr. Wan Jie, World Bank Loan Project Management Office, NFGA	Jacky3257@sina.com
Lead Technical Officer	Mr. Kenichi Shono, Forestry Officer, NFO, FAO	Kenichi.Shono@fao.org
Budget Holder	Mr. Carlos Watson, FAO Representative in China	Carlos.Watson@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Ms. Yurie Naito, Technical Officer, OCB, FAO	Yurie.Naito@fao.org

PIR summary:

During this reporting period, with the strong support and cooperation of FAO, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), the four provincial project management offices and 16 project forest farms, the project Mid-Term Review (MTR) and third-party audit were successfully completed. The MTR team fully affirmed the implementation capacity, financial management and co-financing of the project. The project has a high strategic relevance to China's forestry policy and is in line with the key areas of GEF-6 and the strategic objectives of FAO. In particular, the project has established a forest sustainable management, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration monitoring system, and continuously served the national forestry decision-making. The project monitoring system construction, guideline compilation, pilot demonstration scheme implementation, personnel training and equipment procurement were promoted simultaneously. The progress has been made in the construction of project demonstration sites and the development of business models has been fruitful. The sharing and exchange of project information, and the close cooperation with partners outside the project have been strengthened, expanding the influence of the project in the sector and supporting China to meet its targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and National Forest Management Plan (NFMP) 2016-2050.

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s):						
Outcome1.1 Improved implementation framework translating the SFM principles and goals embodied in national policies into tangible choices and priorities for on-the-ground SFM activities.	Drafting and successful application of cascading set of implementation guidelines: 1 at national level, 4 at provincial level, 16 at county level	Lacking provisions and guidance for translating national level policies to local implementation	National level: 100%; Province level: 100%; County level: 100%	National level: 100%; Province level: 100%; County level: 100%	National level: 100%; Province level: 100%; County level: 100%	S

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

Outcome 1.2 Strengthened local level application and coherent planning of SFM practices, including biodiversity conservation and carbon benefit enhancements.	Drafting and successful application of 16 local SFM plans that incorporate three key components: (i) biodiversity criteria and SFM standards; (ii) provision of locally specific incentives for adoption; (iii) specialized management provisions for locally prevalent threats.	Insufficient incorporation of SFM principles in policies and plans at provincial and local level, including biodiversity and increasing carbon benefit.	All counties at min. 75% At least 10 counties finished	Compile forest sustainable management plans for all project units.	All counties:100%	S
Outcome1.3 Local monitoring systems guide the application of SFM practices, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration efforts.	Drafting and successful application of 16 BD as well as CCM monitoring systems at local level following technical requirements outlined under Outcome 1.1	No monitoring systems for SFM, BD and CCM in place	Monitoring system : 100% Advanced monitoring system : 100%	Monitoring system : 100% Advanced monitoring system: 100%	Monitoring system: 100% Advanced monitoring system: 100%	S

Outcome 1.4 Enhanced national level policy, legal and regulatory framework based on feedback of project experiences and identified gaps.	Several adjustments to national forest policies, legal provisions and/or regulation directly linked to and informed by experiences gained from project implementation at the local level.	Comparatively advanced policy framework at national level with some remaining weaknesses. No feedback loop from local level back to national level provisions.	n/a	Fine-Tuning of national level policies, legal provision and plans under direct responsibility of NFGA and advice and exchange of ideas with other departments regarding their respective policies relating to forest management	About 50%. (1) Some suggestions on adjustment of forest regulations have been raised at workshops based on the local experiences. (2) Some investigation on problems and needs of forest regulations related to forest management activities involved in the project has been conducted.	S
Outcome2.1 County forestry bureaus and local communities empowered and capacitated to apply a large spectrum of SFM practices selected in accordance with location-specific needs and challenges.	Strengthened SFM capacity at local level empowers and capacitates local communities to successfully apply SFM practices on more than 100,000 ha of economically used forest across four provinces	0 ha	30,000 ha	100,000 ha	SFM practices applied on about 80,678.34 ha of forest across four project provinces.	S
Outcome2.2 Carbon sequestration enhanced and GHG emissions from forests reduced through re-forestation of damaged forest, rehabilitation of degraded forest, as	Successful application of SFM practices that directly lead to emission reductions yielding 17.9 million tCO ₂ e, including:	Current forest management not designed to maximize GHG reductions; no monitoring of GHG emission or emission reductions	-	17.9 million tCO ₂ e; Credits certified in 6 counties	(1) In total, completed 24,745.25 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation as well as reforestation. (2) In total, 55,933.09 ha of forest completed enhanced carbon management. Carbon credit certificates were obtained based on	S

<p>well as enhanced SFM practices leading to emission reductions.</p>	<p>(1) 42,000 ha of reforestation and forest restoration/ rehabilitation yielding 4,770,611 tCO₂e; (2) 87,000 of enhanced carbon management yielding 12,927,948 tCO₂e; (3) six project sites successfully create carbon credits under the SFM methodology for China's national carbon trading scheme.</p>				<p>the Fujian provincial standard (FFCER) in Shunchang State-owned Forest Farm and Yangkou State-owned Forest Farm, which obtained 432,961tCO₂e credits.</p>	
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<p>Outcome2.3 Enhancement of forest biodiversity through protection and conservation of rare and endangered native species.</p>	<p>Successful application of SFM practices that directly lead to the certification of a 35,000 ha of additional forest under the CFCS, 15,000 ha of rare species planting, nurseries for rare tree species created or improved; Implementation of business models for revenue generation from rare species protection.</p>	<p>Current forest management in many cases not designed to provide biodiversity conservation and habitat protection; no comprehensive monitoring of BD.</p>	<p>Preparation for certification; 15,000 ha of forest restoration efforts incorporate the planting of rare species; 5 nurseries for rare tree species created or improved; 3 counties implement business models for revenue generation from rare species protection.</p>	<p>Certified area reached 35,000 ha; 5 nurseries for rare tree species created or improved; 3 counties implement business models for revenue generation from rare species protection.</p>	<p>In total, 59,098.25 ha of forests have been certified under the CFCS. 4,731.77 ha of forest completed planting of rare species in four provinces; and 5 nurseries for rare species of 51.71 ha were developed or improved, which are expected to produce 1,026,500 seedlings annually. The business models for revenue generation from rare species protection have been developed and implemented.</p>	<p>S</p>
<p>Outcome3.1 Enhanced knowledge and capacity of local farmers and government staff to implement SFM practices create CCM and BD related GEBs and implements the corresponding monitoring systems.</p>	<p>Enhanced capacity of a minimum of 4000 trainees across the four provinces with regard to SFM practices, BD conservation and CC mitigation in the forest sector.</p>	<p>The overall institutional capacity of the forestry sector is relatively high, but specific capacities for sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation are not sufficient. No monitoring systems,</p>	<p>100 Provincial and county-level forest bureau staff trained. 1000 Provincial and county-level forest bureau staff as well as local community forest managers trained in SFM practices with specific focus on CCM and BD benefit creation.</p>	<p>200 Provincial and county-level forest bureau staff trained. 4000 Provincial and county-level forest bureau staff as well as local community forest managers trained in SFM practices with specific focus on CCM and BD benefit creation. as well as biodiversity</p>	<p>Over 4,323 persons times were trained with main focuses on SFM, CCM and BD, of which, about 985 females participated in the trainings.</p>	<p>S</p>

	Improved mechanisms for data provision and information exchange successfully established	no corresponding capacity No dedicated channels and mechanisms for BD and CCM data and information provision in place.	as well as biodiversity monitoring systems	monitoring systems; for BD and CCM data and information provision Application of mechanisms.		
Outcome 3.2 System for peer-to-peer teaching and regular exchange of knowledge and experiences between project site staff within and between the four provinces.	Improved mechanisms and channels for knowledge exchange, including peer-to-peer teaching, successfully established and applied; Interaction on SFM utilized to strengthen social networks and new social capital among local forest managers	No dedicated mechanisms for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange within and between provinces	Peer-to-peer or similar mechanisms established and applied for all project counties and provinces. Regular channel for knowledge exchange between provinces established and applied.	Peer-to-peer or similar mechanisms established and applied for all project counties and provinces. Regular channel for knowledge exchange between provinces established and applied. Extensive interactions on SFM through mechanisms established.	Peer-to-peer or similar mechanisms for regular knowledge exchange have been established at national and provincial levels jointly, including field training mechanism – called “Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces developed. WeChat groups were established for better communication. Synergy was developed through collaboration with the other GEF project executive agency.	S
Outcome 3.3 Establishment of project monitoring and evaluation system measuring project progress and achievements.	Project M&E system designed, established and applied throughout the project and across all components, provinces and project sites.	No project M&E system. No publication and dissemination.	Project M&E system applied; Publication and dissemination of project information and experiences.	Fully functional M&E system. Comprehensive dissemination of SFM related information to the public.	The project M&E system was completed at national level linking with the monitoring activities in four provinces. In 2020-2021, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the online approach was adopted to fulfil its duties for M&E, MTR	S

	Publication and dissemination of project information and experiences; public awareness raising				interviews and PAC functions. Specific project website (http://www.pmcgef.cn/) is running since December 2017 and Project Newsletters have been compiled for dissemination.	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs(Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output1.1.1 National and provincial level implementation guidelines facilitating implementation of existing SFM policies, legal provisions and standards.	Q4 y2	Expert recruited at central and provincial levels and workgroup establishment for drafting the guidelines on SFM.	The guidelines on SFM reviewed and in the process of finalization.	The guidelines on SFM finalized and issued by the national PMO and delivered to the project sites.	The guidelines on SFM are applied in practices.		100%	
Output1.1.2 Incorporation of implementation guidance on the biodiversity standards for certification (China Forest Certification Scheme, CFCS).	Q4 y2	Expert recruited at central and provincial levels, guidelines on BD at national level drafted.	The guidelines on biodiversity reviewed and in the process of finalization. Biodiversity standards are considered in the CFCS.	The guideline on biodiversity finalized, and issued by the national PMO and delivered to the project sites.	The guideline on biodiversity is applied in practices.		100%	

<p>Output1.1.3 Incorporation of implementation guidance to improve forest inventory procedures and MRV for carbon sequestration and GHG emission reductions from forests, land-use and land-use change including the existing methodology for obtaining tradable carbon certificates from enhanced SFM.</p>	<p>Q4 y2</p>	<p>Expert recruited at central and provincial levels; Implementation plans on MRV and CCM at national and provincial levels drafted.</p>	<p>The guidelines on MRV and carbon project development reviewed and are in the process of finalization.</p>	<p>The guidelines on MRV and carbon management finalized, and issued by the national PMO and delivered to the project sites.</p>	<p>The guidelines on MRV are applied in practices.</p>		<p>100%</p>	
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¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

Output 1.2.1 Local SFM plans (following 1.1.1 provisions) for each project area containing a set of modifications in forest regulations, policies and guidelines.	Q4 y4	Preparation for drafting the SFM plans	Local SFM plans in the 4 provinces drafted and reviewed by the national consultants and in the process of implementation at farm level	Local SFM plans in the 4 provinces approved and issued by the national PMO and delivered for implementation at farm level.	The local SFM plans are applied in practices.		100%	
Output 1.3.1 Development of overarching national level monitoring system for collecting and processing information on SFM activities in the 4 provinces (envisioned for national roll-out)	Q4 y2: national SFM monitoring system established. Q4 y6: national SFM monitoring system implemented	Implementation plan of SFM monitoring being drafted at national level.	SFM monitoring system at national level and the data collecting system being developed at local level.	Overall national level monitoring system completed to include the SFM, BD and CCM monitoring activities in four provinces. The four provinces collaborated with the NFGA to carry out monitoring data collection and provided sample plots investigation data.	Overarching national level monitoring system for collecting and processing information on SFM activities completed in the four provinces. The sampling plots have been established; monitoring and data collection have started in the four provinces.		85%	
Output 1.3.2 Development of national level framework	Q4 y2: national CCM monitoring	Implementation plan of CCM monitoring being drafted at national level	The CCM monitoring at national level and the data collecting system being	Overall national level monitoring system completed to include the SFM, BD and CCM monitoring	Overarching national level monitoring system completed for		85%	

<p>and action plan for establishment of a forest carbon sequestration and emission reductions monitoring system</p>	<p>system established; Q4 y6: national CCM monitoring system implemented</p>		<p>developed at local level.</p>	<p>activities in four provinces. The four provinces collaborated with the NFGA to carry out monitoring data collection and provided sample plots investigation data.</p>	<p>collecting and processing information on carbon enhancement activities in the four provinces. The sampling plots have been established; monitoring and data collection have started in the four provinces.</p>			
<p>Output1.3.3 Design of local level BD monitoring systems integrated with the national level system and following guidance provided under 1.1.2.</p>	<p>Q4 y2: local BD monitoring system established. Q4 y6: local BD monitoring system implemented.</p>	<p>Implementation plan of BD monitoring being drafted at local level.</p>	<p>The BD monitoring at national level and the data collecting system being developed at local level.</p>	<p>The implementation of local SFM, BD, and CCM monitoring system and advanced CCM monitoring system have been included at national level and considered practically at local level.</p>	<p>The implementation of local SFM, BD, and CCM monitoring system have been included at national level monitoring system. The sampling plots have been established. Monitoring and data collection have started in the four provinces. So far 172 plots in Henan and 65 plots in Guangxi are being</p>		<p>85%</p>	

					monitored and measured.			
Output 1.3.4 Design of local level CCM monitoring systems integrated with the national level system and following guidance provided under 1.1.3.	Q4 y2: local CCM monitoring system established; Q4 y6: local CCM monitoring system implemented; Q4 y4: advanced CCM monitoring system established; Q4 y6: advanced CCM monitoring system implemented.	Implementation plan of CCM monitoring being developed at local level.	The implementation plan of CCM monitoring has been drafted and considered in the whole monitoring system. The advanced CCM monitoring system is under development.	The implementation of local SFM, BD, and CCM monitoring system and advanced CCM monitoring system have been included at national level and considered practically at local level.	The implementation of local SFM, BD, and CCM monitoring system have been included at national level monitoring system. The sampling plots have been established. Monitoring and data collection have started in the four provinces. So far 172 plots in Henan, 65 plots in Guangxi, 53 plots in Henan are monitored and measured.		85%	
Output 1.4.1 Several adjustments to national forest policies, legal provisions and/or regulation directly linked to and informed by	Start from Q1 y4	n/a	Some advice and suggestions on forest regulations for adjustment have been raised up at workshops based on the local experiences.	Some investigation on problems and needs of forest regulations related to forest management activities involved in the project has been conducted.	Some investigation on problems and needs of forest regulations related to forest management activities involved in the project has been conducted. The project consultants have		50%	

experiences gained from project implementation at the local level.					been involved in the process of forest regulations.			
Output2.1.1 Strengthened SFM capacity at local level; at least 100,000 ha of economically used forest benefitting from enhanced SFM practices across the 4 provinces.	Q4 y1: preparation of SFM activities. Q4 Y6: Rolling out of SFM activities.	Henan: 6,232ha. Fujian: 1,145 ha of extension area Guangxi: 6,394 ha of commercial forest benefit from enhanced SFM practices.	Guangxi: 5,361.4 more ha of commercial forest benefit from enhanced SFM practices. Hainan: baseline investigation.	In total, 2,581.15 ha of forest completed enhanced SFM practices in Guangxi . In addition, Henan completed 2,580 ha of site preparation and signed contract for 3,333.33 ha of planting. .	Guangxi completed 1,771.38 ha of enhanced SFM practices.		81%	The third-party check on enhanced SFM practices will be conducted this year for the four project provinces. Until then, more precise data in this regard will be available.
Output2.2.1 42,000 ha of reforestation and forest restoration/rehabilitation yielding 4,770,611 tCO ₂ e (project duration).	Q4 y6	Henan: 741.97 ha of afforestation. Guangxi: Complete 4,093ha. Fujian: 2,516 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation, with 224.5 ha of afforestation.	Fujian: total demonstration area for forest restoration/rehabilitation is 62.67 ha, and 30.40 ha have been completed so far. Total demonstration area for reforestation is 33.6 ha, all were completed. Guangxi: Reforestation of 607.1 hectares completed.	In total, the four provinces completed: 30.54 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation, 43.7 ha for extension. 78.77 of reforestation and 165.66 ha for extension.	The project completed 224.5 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation, 153.47 ha of reforestation in Guangxi. 14.07 ha and 22.8ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation in Fujian and Henan;		59%.	As of 30 June 2021, completed 11,046.9 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation, 13,698.35 ha of reforestation, of which the demonstration area 350.9 ha of forest

			Henan: Completed 176.87 ha of forest restoration and rehabilitation; 7.01ha of reforestation.					restoration and rehabilitation, and 507.54 ha of reforestation with financial support from GEF funding.
Output 2.2.2 87,000 of enhanced carbon management yielding 12,927,948 tCO ₂ e (project duration).	Q4 y6	Henan: 9,722.04 ha of tending and thinning; 1,539.39 ha of conversion, of which 1,476.39 ha of transformation of monocultures to mixed forest; 76.5 ha of forest belt construction; 4,966.67 ha of pest and pathogens control; 2,067ha of sustainable logging. Guangxi: Complete 5,815ha . Reduction of 164.429 million t CO ₂ e. Fujian: 645.8ha of enhances tending and management activities (thinning,	Henan: 12 ha of monoculture have been converted to uneven aged mix forest and 60 ha have been placed under enhanced tending management; over 666.67 ha of enhanced pest management, strengthened forest fire prevention and management by expanding the biological fire prevention isolation zone for 6,000 meters, and complete the newly <i>Camellia oleifera</i> bio-fire prevention zone with a length of more than 10,000 meters and an area of 30 ha. Fujian: Total area of enhanced	The 4 provinces completed 70.89 ha of enhanced tending and thinning, 2,148.34 for extension (the area of scaling-up by applying the techniques from the demonstration and guidelines using the co-finance), 42.73 ha of conversion from monocultures to mixed forest, 71.6 ha for extension. 153.73 ha of reduced impact logging.	Henan completed 1,417.91 ha of enhanced carbon management practices. Henan completed 28.87 ha of enhanced carbon management practices.		64%.	As of 30 June 2021, completed 55,933.09 ha of enhanced carbon management practices, of which 8,089.41 ha demonstration area with financial support from the GEF funding.

		cleaning deadwood, etc.); 975 ha of converting monoculture to mixtures; 470 ha of pest and pathogens control; 43 ha of forest fire construction; 9,000m ³ of reduced impact harvesting.	management activities is 79.93 ha, out of which 47.2 ha has been completed. Total area of converting monoculture into mixed forest is 222.4 ha, out of which 177.87 ha has been completed. The total area of the pest control is 572.8 hectares, which has been completed. The total area of reduce impact logging is 69.67 hectares. Guangxi: Completed the application of enhanced carbon management of 4,754.3 hectares.					
Output2.2.3 Six project sites successfully create carbon credits under the SFM methodology for China's national	Q4 y6	Carbon credit certificate obtained in Shunchang and Yangkou forest farms based on the provincial standard FFCER, with initial carbon reached 78,772 tons and	Forest carbon project is under development in Henan province.	Carbon credit certificates obtained under the Fujian provincial standard (FFCER) for one bamboo management carbon project in Shunchang State-owned Forest Farm of Fujian province.	Summarizing the experiences on forest carbon project development in Fujian province.		100%	It is suggested to adjust the output 2.2.3 from 6 national carbon trading scheme to 3provincial ones. This

carbon trading scheme.		119,400 tons respectively.		Effort of developing forest carbon project in Henan province has been made.				task is completed.
Output2.3.1 35,000 ha of additional forest area certified under CFCS with particular focus on CFCS biodiversity requirements.	Q4 y2: preparation of forest certification . Q4 y6: Application for certificate	Guangxi: 36,492.3 ha of forest in Yachang Forest Farm has been certified. Fujian: 6,469 ha of forest has been certified in Weimin forest farm in November 2017.	Fujian: Completed Guangxi: : The forest certification area is 36498.3 hectares, which was approved by annual auditing in September 2018. Henan: Develop certification training and improve certification materials	8,489.59 ha of forest certificates obtained in Henan .	7,066.66 ha of forest certificates obtained at the Huangbaishan Forest Farm in Henan .		100%	59098.25 ha of forests has been certified, which is far more than the planned.
Output2.3.2 15,000 ha of forest restoration efforts incorporate the planting of rare species.	Q4 y3	Henan : more than 20 ha of rare species planting. Guangxi : Complete 1337 ha of rare species afforestation. Fujian : Complete 112.3 ha of rare species afforestation.	Fujian : 7.93 hectare was established as demonstration forest for precious native species. Guangxi : Planting of 1,826.1 hectares of rare tree species was completed. Henan : Compile planting design of rare tree species and carry out planting activities. Provincial consultants provide technical consulting and guidance to	1,565.46 ha of forest planted are species for pilot and demonstration: Guangxi : 193.46 ha; Henan : 170.2 ha; Hainan :1,372 ha	284.76 ha of forest planted rare species for pilot and demonstration in Guangxi.		39%	

			project implementing units.					
Output2.3.3 Nurseries for rare tree species created or improved.	Q4 y3: nursery enhancement	Henan: three nurseries created for rare species in total area of 41.33 ha. Guangxi: 8 ha of enhanced seedling breeding; 6.17 ha of new nursery has been designed and called for bidding. Fujian: Established 0.66 ha of nursery for rare species.	Fujian: Completed 0.87 ha of nursery, Cultivated 25,000 <i>Bretschneidera sinensis</i> seedlings. Guangxi: completed implementation plan for cultivation and protection of rare tree species; 6.17 hectares of nurseries have been fully equipped.	30 ha of nurseries for rare species created or improved in Hainan, expecting yielding of 11,930,000 seedlings annually.	The established nurseries are yielding seedlings annually.		100%	
Output2.3.4 Implementation of business models for revenue generation from rare species protection.	Q4 y3: business model design. Q4 y6: business model implementation	Henan: selling 270,000 seedlings of rare species. Fujian: established the win-win business model of "company + farmer", for collecting, demonstration area for rare tree species, selling 106,000 seedlings of rare species.	Fujian: Prepare and design business model on cultivation & conservation of rare and endangered species. Hainan: preliminary selection Henan: develop seedling marketing mode, modify, and improve seedling-marketing plan.	Fujian: established the win-win business model of "company + farmer", for demonstration area for rare tree species, sold 106,000 seedlings of rare species. Henan: develop seedling-marketing mode, modify, and improve seedling marketing plan; Sold 270,000 seedlings of rare species.	The forest tourism modality has achieved positive results in the project implementation area. It creates new income source in terms of sustainable management, and the development of this tertiary industry will provide more jobs for the local people.		90%	

				<p>Hainan: developed business models such as “Afforestation + forest recreation”, “forest +understory breeding +electronic commence”</p>	<p>Combined with various targeted poverty alleviation modes such as "company + cooperative + poor households" under the guidance of local government, substantial changes have taken place in the livelihoods of surrounding villages and villagers. More than 30 farmers have benefited from the project, of which 27 are poor ethnic minority households.</p>			
<p>Output3.1.1 National level as well as cross-provincial trainings for stakeholders from all project provinces including international experts and exchange at</p>	<p>Q4 y1: Design and establishment of training. Q4 y6: Implementation of training</p>	<p>Preparation of the overall implementation plan of capacity building; hold the trainings at national level with active participation from the four provinces.</p>	<p>The training workshop organized at national level with active participation from the four provinces.</p>	<p>One training workshop organized at national level with active participation from the four provinces.</p>	<p>Two online training workshops organized at national level with active participation from the four provinces.</p>		75%	

international level.								
Output3.1.2 Provincial and county-level forest bureaus as well as local community forest managers trained in SFM practices with specific focus on CCM and BD benefit creation. [Total number of trainees across the four provinces: 4000]	Q4 y1: Design and establishment of training. Q4 y6: Implementation of training	Henan: Held and participated in 6 project meetings and special training sessions with 400 participants. Guangxi: 589 people from province level, county level and local community forest management department have been trained. Fujian: more than 120 staff trained. Hainan: more than 120 staff trained.	Guangxi: 344 personnel from provincial and county forestry bureaus and local community forest managers received training. Henan: Carried out training on project management, finance, afforestation technology, monitoring and evaluation. About 400 person-time trained.	Trainings at local level organized in the four provinces. Over 1,291 persons (times) were trained with main focuses on SFM, CCM and BD, of which, 180 females participated in the trainings.	Trainings at local level organized in the four provinces. Over 2,114 persons (times) were trained with main focuses on SFM, CCM and BD, of which, 408 females participated in the trainings.		100%	
Output3.1.3 Provincial and county-level forest bureaus as well as local community forest managers trained in the setup and application of carbon as	Q4 y1: Design and establishment of training. Q4 y6: Implementation of training	Henan: Held and participated in 6 project meetings and special training sessions with 400 participants. Guangxi: 589 people from province level, county level and local community	Guangxi: 344 personnel from provincial and county forestry bureaus and local community forest managers received training. Henan: Carried out training on project management,	The trainings combined indoor lectures and field classes --“Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces was promoted to enhance the capacities at the local level.	The trainings combined indoor lectures and field classes --“Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces was promoted to enhance the capacities at the local level.		85%	

well as biodiversity monitoring systems as designed under component 1.		forest management department have been trained. Fujian: more than 120 staff trained. Hainan: more than 120 staff trained.	finance, afforestation technology, monitoring and evaluation. About 400 person-time trained					
Output 3.1.4 Improved provision of relevant data and knowledge to project stakeholders.	Q4 y2: establishment of mechanism. Q4 y6: Implementation of mechanism	Project website established for information sharing.	Project website established for information sharing. The WeChat group established for communication among various levels.	Field training mechanism – called “Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces developed. The field training was conducted.	Field training mechanism – called “Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces developed. The field training was conducted.		90%	
Output 3.2.1 Mechanisms and communication channels for regular exchange of knowledge and experience incl. peer-to-peer teaching between local forest managers and government administrators at county	Q4 y1: Preparation and Design. Q4 y2: Establishment. Q4 y6: Application	preparation of peer-to-peer or similar mechanisms and regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels jointly	regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels jointly	Regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels established and implemented jointly.	Regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels established and implemented jointly.		90%	

and provincial level established.								
Output 3.2.2 Mechanisms and communication channels for exchange of knowledge and experience between project stakeholders from different provinces established.	Q4 y1: Preparation and Design. Q4 y2: Establishment. Q4 y6: Application	Preparation of mechanisms and communication channels for knowledge and experiences exchange	Regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels jointly	Regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels jointly established and implemented. Compiled and disseminated the project progress in a timely manner. Printed and distributed project training materials.	Regular channel for knowledge exchange at national and provincial levels jointly established and implemented. The project progress compiled and disseminated in a timely manner. Project training printed and distributed materials.		85%	
Output 3.2.3 Interaction on SFM utilized to strengthen social networks and new social capital among local forest managers (possibly including creation of forest manager associations where suitable).	Q4 y6: Intensified interactions on SFM	Establishment of mechanisms of involving consultants and practitioners at all the levels and all provinces.	Enhanced involving of consultants and practitioners at all the levels and all provinces.	Conducted exchange and training activities involving consultants and practitioners at all the levels and all provinces. Developed synergy through collaboration with another GEF6 project that is executed by NFGA and IUCN.	Conducted exchange and training activities involving consultants and practitioners at all the levels and all provinces. Developed synergy through collaboration with another GEF6 project (ID: 9581) that is executed by NFGA and IUCN.		85%	Enhanced involving of consultants and practitioners at all the levels and all provinces.

Output 3.3.1 Project M&E system designed, established and applied throughout the project and across all components, provinces and project sites.	Q4 y1: Design and establishment. Q4 y6: Application	Preparation of implementation plan for project M&E system	Implementation plan for project M&E system drafted and reviewed.	Completed project M&E system at national level linking with the monitoring activities in four provinces. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the PAC adopted an online approach to fulfil its duties.	Completed an overarching project M&E system at national level linking with the monitoring activities in four provinces for monitoring.		85%	
Output 3.3.2 Publication and dissemination of project information and experiences; public awareness raising	Q4 y1: Design and establishment. Q4 y6: Application	Specific project website opened in December 2017 and Project Newsletter compiled for dissemination.	Printed and distributed training materials; Established WeChat communication platform for provincial and county-level project managers and provincial project experts and use WeChat to officially publicize the inspection of project officials and project training information.	Project newsletters developed for dissemination. Training materials printed and distributed. WeChat communication platform enhanced for formal and informal use among stakeholders at various levels.	Project newsletters developed for dissemination. Training materials printed and distributed. WeChat communication platform enhanced for formal and informal use among stakeholders at various levels.		85%	

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the Piriform DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	<i>The project achieved all major global environment objectives as planned for the first four years and generated good practices in terms of project management, technical innovation, and capacity building modalities.</i>
Budget Holder	S	S	<i>Despite the negative impact of COVID-19, the project has managed to deliver key project management actions on-line, including the PAC, MTR, Audit, etc. The project has made substantial progress in implementing SFM activities in the field. Effective measures have been put in place this year to accelerate the reimbursement.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point	S	S	<i>The project remains highly relevant to the national development priority, especially the goal set for achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 for which forest plays a key role in carbon sequestration. The project showed good implementation progress during the reporting period.</i>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<i>The project remains mostly on track despite COVID-19 related challenges, and actions are being taken to further improve project performance based on MTR recommendations.</i>

¹⁶**Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** –Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷**Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<i>The project team continued to make implementation progress during the reporting year, despite the presence of various pandemic-related restrictions. However, one of the major concerns remains with the very low disbursement rate. With two more years remaining until the project completion, less than 20% of GEF fund has been utilized. I believe we need to urgently address this by agreeing on the work plan and budget through project completion in July</i>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement.

This does not apply to low risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Riskclassification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
L	Yes

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
None.

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<p><i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, as relevant.</i></p>

²⁰**Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	Insufficient coordination and collaboration among stakeholders (vertical and horizontal) decrease implementation effectiveness	Low			
2	Capacity development may not be sustained at the local community level failing to enable forest farmers to understand and apply SFM or resulting in stakeholders continuing unsustainable practices.	Low			
3	Climate change impacts may increase to the extent that even if the project implements activities to improve forest management it may not be enough to make a significant difference. New threats could emerge, specifically, insect infestations, epidemics or diseases caused by CC.	Low			
4	The national executing partner does not have the full capacity to implement the fiduciary processes of the project including financial planning and budgeting in all its aspects	Low			

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
5	The COVID-2019 affects the on-schedule implementation of the project plan.	Medium	Applied an online approach to fulfil its duties at all levels and speed up the implementation of project activities on the ground at the project sites.		

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020rating	FY2021rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1: A no-cost extension is highly recommended to at least 31 July 2023 to recuperate the delayed start of the project on 01 August 2017.	1) Budget revision completed by mid-May. 2) OPA amendment drafted by May 31, 2021. 3) OPA amendment reviewed and drafted by June 30, 2021
Recommendation 1 a): Adopt the theory of change proposed in Appendix 9 to clarify the vision and mission of the project is part of an ongoing process to promote ecological civilization and support China meet its targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and NFMP 2016-2050	TOC analysis included in PIR 2021 by June 30, 2021.
Recommendation 1 b): update the results matrix	Review and compare the existing result matrix. Within the existing result matrix, modify some project output indicators (for example: carbon trading scheme changed from 6 national ones to 3 provincial ones, Guangxi project implementation unit changed, etc.), submit to FAO for approval by June 30, 2021
Recommendation 1 b): produce a table in excel that lists all the 16 forest farms by province to show what are the current activities taking place in each one	For those included in PIR 2021, produce a table in excel that lists all the 16 forest farms by province to show what are the current activities taking place in each one. An update on the number of carbon projects and change of forest farm will be done by July 2015.
Recommendation 1 b): An update on the number of carbon projects and change of forest farm	Before June 30, 2021, the number of updated carbon projects and the changes in forest farms were included in the project results matrix.
Recommendation 2: identify a training programme and action plan with annual update	In March 2021, the project participated in a publicity seminar on enhancing the transparency framework. An updated annual training plan and action plan will be prepared before December 30, 2021.

	Meet with other ongoing GEF projects to discuss opportunities for joint training, study tours, synergy and knowledge exchange before December 30, 2021.
Recommendation 4: pay more attention to the gender and ethnic minority issue in training activities, forest management activities among others	<p>FAO held a gender seminar in January 2021. The project will pay more attention to gender and ethnic minorities in training activities, forest management activities, etc., design a table to collect data on the activities of the pilot farms, the number of participants and practices, and obtain information on FAO's gender expertise when designing the table. It will be reflected in the PPR in June 2021, December 2021 and the PIR in July 2020-June 2021.</p> <p>The project will design a table in the PPR in the first half and the second half of 2021 to collect data on the content, number of participants and practices of women and ethnic minorities participating in training activities and forest management activities in pilot farm activities. FAO will mobilize gender expertise from within the organization, support the mainstreaming of gender issues into project implementation, monitoring and reporting, and formulate action plans. In January 2021, an advocacy seminar on the basics of gender equality, the FAO gender policy and the gender equality requirements of the Global Environment Facility was organized. Practical training will be held in the second half of 2021 to support the project office to pay more attention to gender and ethnic minority issues in training activities and sustainable forest management activities.</p>
Recommendation 5: Reassignment of GEF funds	Reassignment of GEF funds proposed by PMO in Mid-May 2021.
Recommendation 6: report on TOC implementation progress.	The project will consider TOC in a summary (1-2 paragraphs) in the PPR in the second half of 2021 and the PIR in 2020-2021 to report on the progress of TOC implementation.

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	Yes	Output 2.2.3 Six project sites successfully create carbon credits under the SFM methodology for China's national carbon trading scheme. Changed into: Three project sites successfully create carbon credits under the SFM methodology for China's provincial carbon trading scheme. Reason: China has suspended all CCER projects since March 2017, and it is not clear when the national carbon market trading system will be open for the forestry carbon sink project. What's more, the original project budget underestimated the cost of developing forest carbon projects.
Project Indicators/Targets	Yes	Change the project site from Tianlin Country to Qipo Forest Farm. Reason: In alignment with the reform of forest farms, the forest farm in Tianlin County has to change its operation direction, management system and development directions. The existing forest resources can no longer meet the requirements of the project.

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Original NTE: 31 August 2022 (as per FPMIS) Revised NTE: 31 July 2023 Justification: Due to delayed project start-up and at the request of OP and as per consultation with the OPIM team in FAO, an official letter of exchange was made in January 2018 to acknowledge the operational EOD-NTE would be 01 August 2017 to 31 July 2023. The no-cost extension is also recommended by the MTR (Recommendation 1).

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:

If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please

- list all stakeholders engaged in the project
- please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs
- briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes.

Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved

The major stakeholders of the project include FAO, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), the World Bank Loan Project Management Center (WBPMC) of NFGA, the National Forestry Carbon Sequestration Accounting and Monitoring Center (NFCSA), the Provincial Forest Departments (PFD) in Hennan, Guangxi, Hainan and Fujian provinces, County Forest Bureaus, local communities and related civil society organizations.

During this 4th PIR reporting period, all the project stakeholders have continued being mobilized to work together towards to the project implementation including during the project Mid-term Review. It is also worth highlighting that strong coordination has been enhanced between the WBPMC as national PMO and the PFDs as the provincial PMOs, which is considered key to move forward the implementation of all the project activities.

The national and provincial consultants constituted a coordinated taskforce in support of guideline compilation, pilot and demonstration, management, and evaluation as well as capacity building and visibility.

The project developed close collaboration with partners from outside of the project, especially signing a MOU with another GEF 6 project (ID: 9581) executed by the NFGA and IUCN for synergy to enhance joint training, dissemination and publicity, exchange and experiences sharing.

The local people are part of the stakeholders benefiting from the project through 1) capacity building in SFM and improved forest management which increases the forest land productivity and income finally; 2) job opportunity created through the project activities implementation which provides additional income to them; and 3) awareness raising on SFM and forest ecosystem services to the society.

The project is also contributing to achieve the expected global environmental benefits including biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation through improved and enhanced forest management practices.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources.
- improving women's participation and decision making; and or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women

The concept of gender equality has been implemented during the whole process across the four provinces. The project activities such as reforestation and afforestation, conversion of monoculture to mixed forest, and impact harvesting, are mostly male participants as such activities are culturally and traditionally done by men. But women also have equal access to programs. They participate in activities such as planting, tending and protecting forests, which have low physical demands. And they receive the same payment for the same job as men. In the training, based on the actual needs, the proportion of male trainees is often higher than that of female trainees. But in the project management process, there are generally more women involved, especially in the financial management activities. The project implementation provides women with opportunities for employment and development, which is conducive to improving women's economic and social status and further promoting gender equality. The project personnel were employed through open recruitment without gender difference. The participation rate of female trainees reached 22.7% on average.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

- Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.
- Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
- Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.
- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.
- Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses

The project generates guidelines on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, forest carbon project development and management at national and provincial levels, as well as a package of implementation plans on demonstration and extension activities on SFM, monitoring activities and methods, forest certification, and capacity building and knowledge dissemination for the four provinces and all the selected forest farms.

A series of training workshops and "Lecture in the forest" have taken place involving over 4,323 participants so far. A project specific website (pmcgef.cn) has been maintained since December 2017.

In alignment with the MTR recommendations, a training programme and communication strategy is being developed for better knowledge management.

The project established the demonstration site network within and among provinces and brought the exemplary and leading role of pilot SFM practices into play to facilitate prominent outcome of sound SFM for scaling up.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

If applies, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities

Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?

There are ethnic minority people, such as She, Miao, Zhuang, Yao, Tong, Li minorities involved in the project. In the enhanced forest management activities in the project in Fujian, the implementation unit signed contracts with indigenous people to carry out forest measures such as tending, irrigation and weeding and pruning.

In Guangxi, most staff members who work in the local forestry department, including county forest bureau and forest farm, are ethnic minority people who are responsible for project implementation and training activities.

During the project implementation, the priority was given to hiring local workers to participate in project activities, such as reforestation and afforestation, and enhance carbon management activities. Local languages were used in training activities. Most of the GEF project areas in Guangxi are located in state-level poverty counties, and the project implementation plays an important role in promoting local people's income, learning advanced afforestation technologies, poverty alleviation and improvement of livelihood which are additional benefits rather than the indicators measured in the project.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

1. Establishing project monitoring system for SFM, BD and CCD activities as well as for project M&E which significantly improve the project efficiency and effectiveness.

The project established the overarching monitoring system with digital account to record, store and track the implementation of project activities in real time, which promotes precise operation and management of project activities and thus reasonably evaluates the implementation effect. This monitoring system has three main features: i) strong timeliness. The system realizes the standardization, flow and dynamic management of project progress information, and establishes the whole process database of project management control. ii) early warning function. On the basis of real-time tracking of project progress data, the system sets data comparison results in the three monitoring modules of sustainable forest management, forest carbon sequestration and biodiversity, which directly reflects the project completion progress of each module, gives early warning to the obviously backward modules, and realizes real-time monitoring of project progress. iii) intuitive and dynamic display. The system shows the

²³Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

overall progress of the project and its completion in each year, province and forest farm in the form of dynamic map and chart. With all these functions, the monitoring system helps to significantly improve the project efficiency and effectiveness, which promotes technological and institutional innovation.

2. Innovation in capacity building in the field of SFM

Capacity building on high quality SFM is urgently needed on the ground in China. The project conducted capacity building in an innovative way: i) created the model of “Lecture in the forest” on the sites of the selected 16 forest farms in the four provinces to enhance the capacities at the local level; ii) established the demonstration site network within and among provinces; iii) brought the exemplary and leading role of pilot SFM practices into play to facilitate prominent outcome of sound SFM for scaling up.

3. Innovative business model for revenue generation from rare species protection

The project developed business models for revenue generation from rare species protection. In Fujian, the win-win business model of "company + farmer" was established for demonstration area for rare tree species cultivation, selling 106,000 seedlings of rare species. In Henan, a seedling marketing mode developed, selling 270,000 seedlings of rare species.

In Hainan, the forest tourism modality has achieved positive results in the project implementation area. It creates new income source in terms of sustainable management, and the development of this tertiary industry will provide more jobs for the local people. Combined with various targeted poverty alleviation modes such as "company + cooperative + poor households" under the guidance of local government, substantial changes have taken place in the livelihoods of surrounding villages and villagers. More than 30 farmers have benefited from the project, of which 27 are poor ethnic minority households.

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptive measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

- Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.
- Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?
- What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
- Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?

The COVID-19 affected the on-schedule implementation of the project plan especially on the trainings and the SFM operational activities. The project applied an online approach to fulfil its duties at all levels and speed up the implementation of project activities on the ground at the project sites.

- the outcomes/outputs are still achievable within the project period.
- the timing of the project MTR was not affected.
- The COVID-19 has little or no impact of on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
- The online approach to fulfil its duties at all levels is important for project implementation.

14.Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Gov	NFGA/WBPMC	Cash/in-kind	48,000,000	187983	187,983	48,000,000
National Gov	NFGA/Guangxi	Cash/in-kind		18494025.82	17,725,436	
National Gov	NFGA/Henan	Cash/in-kind		15,359,617.00	14,969,346	
National Gov	NFGA/Hainan	Cash/in-kind		5400116.91	3,429,393	
National Gov	NFGA/Fujian	Cash/in-kind		1271309.3	113,050	
UNO	FAO	Grant	400,000	0	0	400,000
TOTAL			48,400,000	40713052.03	36,425,208	48,400,000

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement
n/a

²⁴ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.