



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

### 2025 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

#### Table of Contents

[1. BASIC PROJECT DATA](#)

[2. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVE\(S\) \(DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE\)](#)

[3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS \(IP\)](#)

[4. SUMMARY ON PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES](#)

[5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS \(ESS\): RISKS FROM THE PROJECT](#)

[6. RISKS TO THE PROJECT](#)

[7. FOLLOW-UP ON MID-TERM REVIEW OR SUPERVISION MISSION](#)

[8. MINOR PROJECT AMENDMENTS](#)

[9. STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT](#)

[10. GENDER MAINSTREAMING](#)

[11. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES](#)

[12. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT](#)

[13. CO-FINANCING TABLE](#)

[14. GEO LOCATION INFORMATION](#)

[Annex. Monitoring Area-based GEF Core Indicator Commitments and Progress with FERM](#)

#### IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:

The **final version** of this PIR will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

The report will then be **publicly available on the GEF website** ([click here](#)).

**Sensitive information** should be submitted in Annex to be uploaded separately.

In such cases, please contact [faogef-pir-support@fao.org](mailto:faogef-pir-support@fao.org) for guidance.

## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

Region:	Asia and the Pacific (RAP)
Country(ies):	P.R.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
Type of Trust Fund(s):	GFF
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation, MFA, Sustainable Forest Management
Project Executing Partners:	International Cooperation Center (ICC) of National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China
Initial project duration (years):	7 years

### Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	10/4/2015
Actual Agency Approval Date	21/07/2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:	30/09/2016
First Disbursement Date	01/06/2017
Planned Project End Date/NTE <sup>1</sup> :	31/08/2022
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</sup> :	31/12/2025
Actual Completion Date:	N/A
Expected Financial Closure Date:	31/12/2026

### Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	\$	7,152,728.00
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2025 (USD):	\$	7,114,964.87
Total Co-financing amount (USD) <sup>3</sup> :	\$	48,400,000.00
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2025 <sup>4</sup> :	\$	48,226,960.00

### M & E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	February 6, 2024
Expected Mid-term Review date <sup>5</sup> :	N/A
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	19/05/2020
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date <sup>6</sup> :	30/06/2025

### Overall ratings

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

### Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	8th PIR
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1 Date that was originally foreseen at the project's operationalization and indicated in FPMIS.

2 If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

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

4 Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

5 The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

6 The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

## Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Mr. Wang Chunfeng, Deputy Director General of National Forestry and Grassland Administration	<a href="mailto:wangchunfeng@vip.126.com">wangchunfeng@vip.126.com</a>
Budget Holder (BH)	Mr. Carlos Aldeco, FAO Representative in China	<a href="mailto:Carlos.aldeco@fao.org">Carlos.aldeco@fao.org</a>
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Ms. Fu Jing, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Finance	<a href="mailto:gef@mof.gov.cn">gef@mof.gov.cn</a> <a href="mailto:mof_operation1@mof.gov.cn">mof_operation1@mof.gov.cn</a>
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Mr. Kenichi Shono, Forestry Officer, NFO, FAO	<a href="mailto:Kenichi.Shono@fao.org">Kenichi.Shono@fao.org</a>
GEF Technical Officer (GTO)	Ms. Yurie Naito, Technical Officer, OCB, FAO	<a href="mailto:Yurie.Naito@fao.org">Yurie.Naito@fao.org</a>

## Key Project Management Unit Personnel

Please indicate the composition of the PMU as per the Terms of Reference in the ProDoc. If any new position was established during the project implementation, please insert it accordingly.

Position planned (as per ProDoc)	Position filled (Yes/No)	Start date, Name, Contact	Comments
A1 SFM guidelines		Professor Weng Guoqing (mobile 13911029425) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	
A2 Development of national monitoring system	Yes	Professor Zheng Xiaoixan (mobile 17777875744) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	Professor's Zheng actual TOR is on forest carbon
A3 Development of provincial monitoring system	Yes	Professor Zang Runguo (mobile 13651226380) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	Professor Zang's actual TOR is on biodiversity conservation guidelines
A4 Capacity building & training	Yes	Professor Yang Suli (mobile 13501146650) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	Professor Yang's TOR actually covers website design and operation
A5 County SFM planning	Yes	Professor Lu Shihua (mobile 13801076981) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	Mr. Lu's TOR is actually on forest certification
A6-A9 Provincial SFM activities design, planning coordination and execution	Yes	Professor Zhang Huiru (mobile 13651199099) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	
A10 National monitoring and evaluation	Yes	Professor Chen Jian (mobile 13671071306) was recruited at early stage of project implementation.	
A11 Project management at national and provincial levels	Yes	Prof. Wang Hong (CTA, 13172186819) was recruited in 2021. Provincial led experts Mr. Yan Dongfeng (Henan, 17603861792), Mr. Zheng Dexiang (Fujian, 13115905073), Mr. Zhuang Jia (Guangxi, 13978863245) And Mr. Yu Xuebiao (Hainan, 13807554527) recruited at early stage of project implementation.	

## 2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development objective)

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

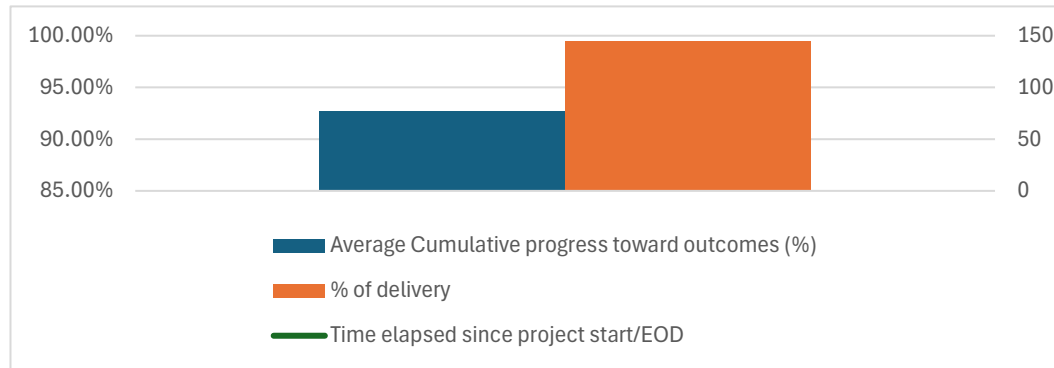
Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation								
Project or development objective	Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target7	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress level at 30 June 2025	% of cumulative progress	Progress rating
<b>Global Environmental Objective:</b> To enable local communities in four Chinese provinces to effectively employ incentive-based sustainable forest management (SFM) practices in reforestation and forest restoration activities, enhancing carbon storage and sequestration as well as biodiversity conservation.	Outcome 1 Outcome 1.1 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	acking provisions and guidance for translating national level policies to local implementation	National level: 100%; Province level: 100%; County level: 100%	National level: 100% Provincial level; 100% county-level: 100%	Work at national, provincial and county level completed. Completed the Chinese and English versions of national and provincial guidelines, and strengthen the classified promotion and targeted publicity of the technical guides The national implementation guides include those for SFM, Precious Tree Species forestation, BD, SFM Specific Threats, CCER, Carbon Sequestration, as well as the National Plan for Implementation of Pilot Demonstration respectively. For each of the four project provinces, provincial level implementation guidelines were completed in both English and Chinese on SFM, BD and Forest Carbon Sequestration respectively.	100	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
	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 :100%	All project counties prepared forest sustainable management plans.	All districts and counties' tasks accomplished.	100	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
	Outcome 1.3 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%	Related work completed for the monitoring system and advanced monitoring system. Two sample site monitoring surveys were completed.	100	Satisfactory (S)

<b>Project Development Objective:</b> To increase and improve provision of goods and services from forestry in local communities across four Chinese provinces in a sustainable manner, particularly emphasizing the long-term resilience of restored and reforested forest areas against environmental pressures. (in line with FAO SO2)	Outcome 1.4 Enhanced national level policy, legal and regulatory framework based on feedback of	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	Review all national level regulations based on feedback from local level project experience by identifying and addressing gaps and weaknesses	Reviewed all national level regulations based on feedback from local level project experience by identifying and addressing gaps and weaknesses	The Chinese Society of Forestry officially promulgated national forestry community standard Technical Guidelines for Biodiversity Friendly Silviculture of Timber Plantation (T/0084-2024) developed by GEF056 CTA team led by Professor Wang Hong of Chinese Academy of Forestry.	90	Satisfactory (S)
	Outcome 2 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	30000 ha	100000 ha	The four project provinces have completed totally 96,127 hectares of forest sustainable management practices, accounting for 96% of the total planned task	96	Satisfactory (S)
	Outcome2.2 Carbon sequestration enhanced and GHG emissions from forests reduced through re-forestation of damaged forest, rehabilitation of degraded forest, as well as enhanced SFM practices leading to emission reductions.	Successful application of SFM practices that directly lead to emission reductions yielding 17.9 million tCO <sub>2</sub> e, including: (1) 42,000 ha of reforestation and forest restoration/ rehabilitation yielding 4,770,611 tCO <sub>2</sub> e; (2) 87,000 of enhanced carbon management yielding 12,927,948 tCO <sub>2</sub> e; (3) six project sites successfully create carbon credits under the SFM methodology for China's national carbon trading scheme.	Current forest management not designed to maximize GHG reductions; no monitoring of GHG emission or emission reductions		17.9million tons emission reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent	A total of 47,133 ha of reforestation and forest restoration pilot demonstration were completed comprising 112% of the plan yielding 56700 tCO <sub>2</sub> e making up 12% of the planned target .  A total of 105,499 ha of forest enhanced carbon emission management were completed making 121.26% of target acreage reducing approximately 8440000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent making of 65.4% of the target. Shunchang State owned Forest Farm and Yangkou State owned Forest Farm obtained 3 carbon credits according to Fujian Provincial Standard (FFCER), and obtained 2,421,186 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, with the scheme number for 100% of the plan.  Over the past year, two pilot units (Minquan FF and Xinxian FF) passed CFC forest certification and two pilot forest farms (Nanwan FF and Xinxian FF) completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans.	76	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
		Successful application of SFM practices that directly lead to the certification of a	Current forest management in many cases not designed to	Preparation for certification; 15,000 ha of forest restoration	35000 ha additional forest area were certified under CFCS,	A total of 47,028.9 ha of forests have been certified, about 134% of the planned target.	100	Highly Satisfactory (HS)

Outcome 2.3 Enhancement of forest	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.	provide biodiversity conservation and habitat protection; no comprehensive monitoring of BD.	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.	with special attention to the biodiversity requirements of forest certification	43,243 ha of rare tree species were planted in four provinces; 5 nurseries of rare tree species were developed or improved. more than 3 business models of rare species protection and income generation were developed and implemented in project areas.		
Outcome 3 Outcome 3.1 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.	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. Improved mechanisms for data provision and information exchange successfully established	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, no corresponding capacity No dedicated channels and mechanisms for BD and CCM data and information provision in place.	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. as well as biodiversity monitoring systems	Over 200 provincial and county forestry department staff received training; 4000 provincial and county forestry department personnel and local community forest managers received training.	4005 person times accepted training on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, including about 800 female person times. Knowledge sharing were consistently conducted by publicity at the national and local levels as in the examples shown at <a href="https://www.henan.gov.cn/2019/04-19/743307.html">https://www.henan.gov.cn/2019/04-19/743307.html</a> <a href="https://lyj.fujian.gov.cn/zxzx/lydt/202006/t20200624_5309799.htm">https://lyj.fujian.gov.cn/zxzx/lydt/202006/t20200624_5309799.htm</a> and by weibo <a href="https://weibo.com/5262686616/J8gZ3qx3p">https://weibo.com/5262686616/J8gZ3qx3p</a>	100	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
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.	There have established point-to-point or similar mechanisms in all project counties and provinces, with regular knowledge exchange channels in operation among project provinces	The "Gender mainstreaming work plan", "Good practice action plan" and "Communication and exchange strategy" of GEF056 were formulated and released, and a multi-level communication network was established to strengthen the communication and exchange between multiple stakeholders and promote the sharing and exchange of project achievements at the national and provincial levels.	80	Satisfactory (S)

	<p>Outcome 3.3 Establishment of project monitoring and evaluation system measuring project progress and achievements.</p>	<p>Project M&amp;E system designed, established and applied throughout the project and across all components, provinces and project sites. Publication and dissemination of project information and experiences; public awareness raising</p>	<p>No project M&amp;E system. No publication and dissemination.</p>	<p>Project M&amp;E system applied; Publication and dissemination of project information and experiences.</p>	<p>The project M&amp;E system with improved function provides comprehensive information of sustainable forest management to the public</p>	<p>M&amp;E system is continuously operated. The data of 362 fixed monitoring plots collected for the second survey were integrated, processed and analyzed. According to the requirements of the construction scheme, the abnormal values of the sample plots were screened for elimination, the data structure was standardized, the field names and formats were unified for database setup. At the same time, the total biomass and average biomass of the monitor+B8ed plot and the control plot were calculated for comparison.</p> <p>In terms of publicity and dissemination, the 15th and 16th project newsletters were compiled for distribution, with the book publication of GEF056 Typical Cases of SFM plus a video production for technological dissemination to help expand project impact and SFM awareness to the public.</p>	85.00	Satisfactory (S)
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Average Cumulative progress toward outcomes (%)	Time elapsed since project start/EOD	% of delivery
92.70%	107	99.47%



### Development Objective (DO) Ratings, and Overall Assessment

	Project Manager/ Coordinator	Budget Holder	Lead Technical Officer <sup>13</sup>	GEF Operational Focal Point	GEF Technical Officer (GTO)
<b>FY2025 Development Objective rating<sup>11</sup></b>	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)
<b>Comments/reasons<sup>12</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>	In close consultation with FAO, all the project activities under the three components have been carried out in the four project provinces as per project design. Cumulatively, the overall delivery of the project results are satisfactory.	The project has completed all the activities, contributing greatly to global environmental objectives in the fields of sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change. Average cumulative progress toward outcomes reaches 92.7%, with some of the key outputs exceeding the set targets.	The project has been highly successful in delivering results on the ground, achieving most of the project targets (sometimes exceeding them). Final workshop to consolidate the project achievements and lessons-learned is planned for September 2025 where project sustainability will be further discussed.	Technically, the project has successfully achieved the results as expected. Financially, all the third-party spot checks and audits carried out throughout the project implementation period have issued unmodified opinions with satisfactory results.	The project team concluded the project with remarkable results, achieving many of the targets above the initial goals. In addition, the government's co-financing met the original commitments. The sustainability plan is already operational. A final workshop is planned in September during which visits to project areas are planned to observe the final status of the interventions.

#### Measures to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2 above

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By When?
N/a			

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**, **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

*(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)*

Outcomes and outputs	Indicators (as per the logical framework)	Main achievements in the last 12 months (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance 9 in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1.</b>			
Output 1.1	Improved implementation framework translating the SFM principles and goals embodied in national policies into tangible choices and priorities for on-the-ground SFM activities.	Completed	N.A
Output 1.2	Strengthened local level application and coherent planning of SFM practices, including biodiversity conservation and carbon benefit enhancements.	Completed	N.A
Output 1.3	Local monitoring systems guide the application of SFM practices, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration efforts.	Completed	N.A
Output 1.4	Enhanced national level policy, legal, and regulatory framework based on feedback of project experiences and identified gaps	Completed	N.A
<b>Outcome 2</b>			

Output 2.1	County forestry bureaus and local communities empowered and capacitates to apply a large spectrum of SFM practices selected in accordance with location-specific needs and challenges.	Completed. During the reporting period, an additional area of pilot demonstration activities on SFM, biodiversity and forest carbon reached 639.5 hectares, and completed accumulative area reached 96,127 hectares.	N.A
Output 2.2	Carbon sequestration enhanced and GHG emissions from forests reduced through reforestation of damaged forest, rehabilitation of degraded forest, as well as enhanced SFM practices leading to emission reductions.	During the reporting period, an additional area of pilot demonstration activities on SFM, biodiversity and forest carbon reached 639.5 hectares so that: (1) A accumulative total of 47,133 ha of reforestation and forest restoration pilot demonstration were completed comprising 112% of the plan yielding 56,700 tCO2e making up 12% of the planned target. (2) A accumulative total of 105,499 ha of forest enhanced carbon emission management were completed making 121.26% of target acreage reducing approximately 8,440,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent making of 65.4% of the target.  Over the past year, two pilot units (Minquan FF and Xinxian FF) passed CFC forest certification and two pilot forest farms (Nanwan FF and Xinxian FF) completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans.	N.A
Output 2.3	Enhancement of forest biodiversity through protection and conservation of rare and endangered native species.	During the reporting period, two pilot units (Minquan FF and Xinxian FF) passed CFC forest certification, and two pilot forest farms (Nanwan FF and Xinxian FF) completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans. A total of 47,028.9 ha of forests have been certified, about 134% of the planned target.  43,243 ha of rare tree species were planted in four provinces; 5 nurseries of rare tree species were developed or improved. During the reporting period, Yachang Forest Farm nurseries lifted 256,000 seedlings (215,000 Zelkova serrata plants, 17,000 Phoebe Nees plants, 22,000 Albizia odoratissima plants and Keteleeria davidiana plants 2,000 plants) while maintaining on the seedling bed 82,000 seedlings.	N.A
<b>Outcome 3.</b>			
Output 3.1	Enhanced knowledge and capacity of local farmers and government staff to implement SFM practices, create CCM and BD related GEBs and implement the corresponding monitoring systems.	More training courses were conducted for the reporting period: Henan: 21 training courses were organized including 6 training courses in Huangbai Forest Farm, 7 in Xinxian Forest Farm, 6 in Nanwan Forest Farm and 2 in Minquan Forest Farm. Hainan: one training was organized with a total participation about 80 people including 6 women. Guangxi: 1 training course was organized with 9 people participated including 2 women.  NFGA prepared and distributed project implementation guidelines and additional newsletters (Issue 15 and Issue 16) , organized training activities of sustainable forest management, and strengthened the provision of relevant data and knowledge to project during the project implementation stakeholders. <a href="https://www.forestry.gov.cn/c/www/slzhxx/546894.jhtml">https://www.forestry.gov.cn/c/www/slzhxx/546894.jhtml</a> .	N.A

Output 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.	<p>NF-GA maintained project websites, WeChat communication groups and other platforms, and timely carried out knowledge sharing and experience exchange.</p> <p>The four project provinces actively participated in the sharing and exchange activities of communication platforms such as WeChat communication groups.</p> <p>The WeChat work group in the four project provinces that has included all relevant institutions and personnel at the provincial level has operated normally with the project policies and regulations, relevant knowledge and experience, problems and solutions communicated and exchanged on timely basis</p>	
Output 3.3	Establishment of project monitoring and evaluation system measuring project progress and achievements.	The book "GEF056 Good Practices of Sustainable Forest Management" was formally published by the China Forestry Publishing House along with a the video shooting of "GEF056 Typical Technologies of Sustainable Forest Management in Response to Climate Change". Representatives of four provincial PMOs, 16 project pilot forest farms, and relevant experts participated in the book compiling process. The video (in Chinese and English) is about 40 minutes long containing 7 major SFM demonstration activities in terms of its background, measures and application results. For the publication GEF056 Good Practices of Sustainable Forest Management (in English and Chinese) comprehensively summarized 25 typical, advanced and replicable technical and managerial application cases formed during the project implementation.	N.A

### Implementation Progress (IP) , and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported above. The ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of results during the fiscal year (July 1 2024, to June 30, 2025)

	Project Manager/ Coordinator	Lead Technical Officer	Budget Holder	GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)	GEF Technical Officer (GTO)
<b>FY2025 Implementation Objective rating<sup>10</sup></b>	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)
<b>Comments/reasons justifying the ratings for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>	For the reporting period, all activities have been carried out as per annual workplan to generate the expected results.	Project activities have been implemented successfully on the ground, achieving most of the project targets (sometimes exceeding them). Final workshop to consolidate the lessons-learned from the project is planned	The planned activities were successfully implemented for the reporting fiscal year. The final audit reported satisfactory results. Project closure, including the terminal evaluation, assets transfer, terminal	The project completed all the designed activities in 2025 in compliance with both GEF requirements and domestic laws and regulations.	The project team continued to deliver outputs to consolidate the achievements, including the project video, conducting additional training and disseminating manuals.



	for September 2025.	reporting,etc, is in good order.		
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<sup>9</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

<sup>10</sup> Implementation Progress Rating – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan.

## 4. Summary on progress and challenges

**Please provide a summary paragraph on project implementation progress consistent with the information reported in section 2 and 3 of the PIR (Max 400 words) (This section will be uploaded to the GEF portal)**

The reporting period has witnessed the physical completion and financial closure of the GEF056 project. With continuous support from FAO, PMOs at all levels, the pilot forest farms and the four project provinces have kept pushing forward the final implementation of the project activities according to the annual work plan and the technical guidelines. In September 2024, Wang Chunfeng, the Executive Deputy Director-General of ICC and the Director of GEF056 Steering Committee led a delegation to visit FAO headquarters in Rome of Italy. In November, Ms. Naito the FAO technical officer came to Beijing to supervise GEF056 by having a work discussion with NFGA. In early December, with the invitation of FAO, the CPMO sent one representative to attend the FAO-GEF Wetland Project Summary and Promotion Meeting in Jiangxi to learn the good practices of the project closure and disbursement. During the reporting period, an additional area of pilot demonstration activities on SFM, biodiversity and forest carbon reached 639.5 hectares. The CPMO actively promoted the financial progress of the project with collaboration efforts from FAO and national counterparts by additional reimbursement of USD 1.36 million. As of March 31, 2025, the project has completed a total grant payment of about USD3.607 million accounting for 52% of the actual available grant fund of the project (USD 6.97 million). In terms of publicity and dissemination, the 15th and 16th project newsletters were compiled for distribution, with the book publication of GEF056 Good Practices of SFM plus a video production for technological dissemination. Two pilot units (Minquan FF and Xinxian FF) passed CFC forest certification and two pilot forest farms (Nanwan FF and Xinxian FF) completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans. The CPMO and the four provinces organized totally during project implementation 85 training courses with 4,005 person times for participation. By thorough reviewing the preparation and implementation of GEF056 and with the guidance of FAO, the terminal self-assessment report and the terminal completion report were prepared for GEF056. CPMO has also organized preparing a separate completion report for submission to Ministry of Finance according to related governmental regulations. Started from April 2025, FAO has recruited an International team to conduct independent terminal assessment to GEF056 by detailed desk-to+B19p work, representative interviews and site visits to Hainan, Fujian and Guangxi. B28+B27+B44

**Please provide a summary paragraph on challenges of project implementation consistent with the information reported in section 2 and 3 of the PIR (Max 400 words) (This section will be uploaded to the GEF portal)**

- a. The public institution reform procedures and personnel change affected the project execution. It has taken a long time to shift the official authority and financial account of the project national partner for which the project withdrawal and reimbursement was delayed, and the fiscal progress of project lagged behind.
- b. It is a complicated process to integrate biodiversity and carbon monitoring information system into national information system (such as "national forest and grassland sensing system"). As the systems are currently independent from each other, the challenges mainly lie in difficulty of the integration and consistency between information systems.
- c. This project focuses more on the ecological benefits of forests by mitigating environmental risks (as from climate change). Under the current economic downturn with slow transformation of forest ecological service value into programmatic economic values, the livelihood and sustainability of communities in the project area are more likely be affected. Relevantly, lack of investment for the long forest management cycle may downsize project outcomes in some project areas.

### Implementation of Exit Strategy

<p><b>Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please describe the progress to implement it.</b></p>	<p>Yes. In January 2023, the GEF056 project expert team completed the GEF056 Sustainable Development Plan/Exit Strategy under the guidance of the CPMO. The sustainable development activities after the project implementation period are arranged, with clarification of the lead organizations' responsibility for maintaining the project achievements/outputs and for subsidizing stakeholders. The key project achievements and outputs that will be maintained continuously after the completion of the project, the sustainability criteria for outputs and impacts, and the institutional mechanisms and financial support required for long-term maintenance of project outcomes/outputs are defined.</p> <p>In December 2024, the GEF056 sustainability plan /exit strategy was revised to adapt to the post-competition arrangements of the project.</p> <p>Recommendations by the terminal evaluation expert team as well as feedback instructions of Ministry of Finance to CPMO's GEF067 completion report submitted will be consolidated to serve post-completion actions of GEF056 and future similar projects.</p>
<p><b>How is the project enhancing institutional capacities to foster country ownership for more durable / sustained results?</b></p>	<p>This is being and will be accomplished by (1) maintaining the existing project management organization after project completion so that the regularity and continuity of project management arrangements after project completion can be maintained without adverse impact from personnel changes in organization; (2) strengthening the post-completion monitoring and evaluation in provision of marketing information of products from the project; (3) further technical training services to project farmers, enterprises and other implementing entities; (4) managing and maintaining the completed infrastructure to ensure that they play the expected roles</p>

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS): risks from the project

<b>Initial ESS Risk Classification</b> (at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage)	Category C (the ESS risk is low)
<b>New environmental and social risks.</b>	None
<b>Progress made towards implementing the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)</b> (only for Moderate and High Risk Projects)	None
<b>Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)</b>	No grievance cases ever received.

## 6. Risks to the Project

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>11</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Description of Risk	Mitigation measure implemented
1	Institutional	Low	Yes	Inadequate coordination and collaboration among stakeholders (vertical and horizontal), reducing the efficiency of project implementation	The training plan and action plan are updated annually to continue to cover SFM/FEM, BD and CCM benefit creation. The PMO will strengthen communication with other government agencies and international institutions, and explore opportunities for joint training, collaboration and knowledge exchange.
2	Operational & Logistical	Low	No	COVID-2019 affects the on-time implementation of the project plan	Use online video conference to continue project communication
3	Institutional	Low	No	The change of project national executing agency leads to the change of project account	The ICC of National Forestry and Grassland Administration signed a supplementary agreement on project implementation with FAO

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

FY2024 rating	FY2025 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	The planned activities of the project in Predoc have been basically completed with reimbursement payment being continuously conducted to lay solid foundation for the completion of the project. During the reporting period, an additional area of pilot demonstration activities on SFM, biodiversity and forest carbon reached 639.5 hectares. The completion reports required by both FAO and the government were prepared by reviewing the GEF056 preparation and implementation lasting for 8 years. Two pilot units passed CFC forest certification and two pilot forest farms completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans. Two issues of newsletters were compiled for distribution and totally 85 training courses with 4,005 person times have been organized under the project. With additional and final efforts the grant fiscal progress eventually reached 52% by March 31 2025 .

<sup>11</sup> Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High.

## 7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission in 2024, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.	
<b>MTR or supervision mission recommendations</b>	<b>Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u></b>
Recommendation 1: It is suggested to postpone this project to July 31, 2023 without considering the cost, so as to make up for the delay caused by the delayed start of the project on August 1, 2017.	(GEF056 had its MTR in 2020, with this recommendation already implemented and reported in previous PIRs)
Recommendation 2: It is agreed to 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.	(GEF056 had its MTR in 2020, with this recommendation already implemented and reported in previous PIRs)
Recommendation 3: Recommendation 3: In case of no additional fund, we can explore the opportunities to enhance the showcase of project best practices on ETS and "Under-forest economy" for a good scaling-up and stimulating the multiplier effect taking the advantages of the existing consultants on carbon and under-forest economy at national and provincial levels.	The book Sustainable Forest Management to Enhance Resilience of Forest to Climate Change in China Good Practice of Sustainable Forest Management was published offering 25 good practices extracted from GEF056.
Recommendation 4: The PMO agreed to identify a training programme and action plan with annual update. The project will continue the training in SFM/FEM, BD and CCM benefit creation. And PMO will enhance the communications with other governmental institutions and international agencies etc. to explore the opportunities on joint training, study tour, synergies and knowledge exchange.	Training was further strengthened and it turned out that the CPMO and the four provinces organized totally during project implementation 85 training courses with 4,005 person times for participation, highly exceeding the target indicators.
Recommendation 5: The project will pay more attention to the gender and ethnic minority issue in training activities, forest management activities among others by designing a table to collect the data on activity content, number of participants, practices and etc. from the pilot farms, with the support of FAO gender expertise in designing what to be included in the table.	The "Gender mainstreaming work plan " formulated for GEF056 was continuously executed during the reporting period.
Recommendation 6: The project will reassign GEF funds for the third-party checks of the project activities in the forest farms to sort out the backlog in reimbursements so as to ensure the quality of project activities and proper use of project funds.	The CPMO actively promoted the financial progress of the project with collaboration efforts from FAO and national counterparts by finishing additional and final reimbursement for USD 1.36 million.
Recommendation 7: The Project Steering Committee suggested making the project publicity video to disseminate the project image and impact.	The second project publicity video on SFM technological video was developed for dissemination during the reporting period.

## 8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines <sup>12</sup>. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available. *(This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)*

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	6 national CCER schemes were changed into 3 local CER schemes due to national policy change	2020	FAO
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management	Adjusted the project balance funds to mainly expand the pilot demonstration activities under Component II and Component III	2023	FAO
Implementation schedule	Extended twice on non-cost basis the Operational Partner Agreement and the project to new NTEs: from September 5 2022 to October 31,2023; and then to another new NTE of December 31, 2024	2021 2023	FAO
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity	Tianlin County withdrew from the proeject and replaced by Qipo Forest Farm in Guangxi	2018	FAO
Other minor project amendment (define)			

<sup>12</sup> [GEF Council meeting documents, guidelines, project and program cycle policy 2020 update](#)

## 9. 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 during this reporting period. (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
<b>Government Institutions</b>			
Government Institutions	International Cooperation Center of NFGA (Central Project Management Office, CPMO)	Project execution partner	Responsible for daily project implementation management, closely consult FAO to guide the implementation of provincial sub-projects. To meet the needs of project management, CPMO staff need to build up their professional competence and coordination, organization and management capabilities+H23
Government Institutions	Relevant departments, bureaus and units of the NFGA (including Department of International Cooperation, the Ecological Center, Academy of Inventory and Planning, NFGA, the Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences, etc.)	Supporters of the CPMO to achieve project objectives	According to the needs of project implementation, provide assistance in the following areas: human resources, policies and services of relevant policies, technologies, project management, international cooperation and exchanges, etc
Government Institutions	Fujian, Guangxi, Henan and Hainan Provincial Forestry Bureaus	Provincial Project Managers	Under the guidance of the CPMO, organize and guide the implementation of the project work within the province according to the project legal agreement and project design. To meet the needs of project management, provincial PMO staff need to build up their professional competence and coordination, organization and management capabilities
Government Institutions	Henan Huangbaishan Forest Farm, Minquan Forest Farm, Nanwan Forest Farm, Guangxi Qipo Forest Farm, Yachang Forest Farm, Shankou Forest Farm, Fujian Jiangle Forest Farm, Shunchang Forest Farm and other, 16 pilot forest farms in total	Project implementation units	Responsible for the implementation of forest farm project activities. The forest farm workers need to improve their knowledge level on such topics as forest management to address climate change
<b>NGOs</b>			
NGOs	FAO	project guidance	Supervise and monitor the use of funds of implementing partner and the achievements of project
NGOs	WWF	project partner	Jointly organize training workshops, exchange and sharing of project implementation experience and good practices
Private Sector entities			
NGOs	About 40 project entities in Dongfang City, Hainan Province	Project implementation units	According to the project design, carry out forestation and restoration of precious tree species, under-forest income generation, forest tourism, homestay etc

NGOs	Numerous local forestry related enterprises of 16 project units, including forest certification companies, carbon trade platform enterprise, forestation professional teams, forest survey teams, research institute, nurseries, transportation teams, etc.	Project service provision units and entities	Provide necessary technical, intelligence, labor, material, logistic support for the project activities.
<b>Others</b>			
Others	Local residents and communities	Project target groups and beneficiaries	Benefit from the project through 1) SFM capacity building and improving forest management, the productivity and income, 2) Employment opportunities created through the implementation of project activities to provide them with additional income; 3) Increasing awareness of sustainable forest management and forest ecosystem services. The population of rural local residents and communities tended to decrease which leads to the shortage of labor force and personnel to participate in and mainstream the practices of sustainable forest management
Others	Beijing Forestry University, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Guangxi University, Hainan Forest Institute	Expertise providers	In close consultation with CTA and national consultants, and in coordination with provincial project management offices, provincial consultants, support the implementation of a wide range of sustainable forest management practices in project forest farms in each province according to project needs. Slow progress in payment of expert fees.
	Institute of Resources, Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences	CTA team	Provide CPMO technical management support for project implementation including preparation of annual work plan, report and guideline, and carrying out implementation plan, monitoring and evaluation.

## 10. Gender Mainstreaming

**Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.** *(This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)*

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Women have equal opportunities to participate in project activities such as planting, tending and protecting forests, which involves usually lower physical input and “equal pay for equal work” with men.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The project management involves usually more women especially in the financial management activities. There are female staff in GEF056 management at all levels.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The implementation of the project provides women with employment and development opportunities, which is conducive to improving women's economic and social status and further promoting gender equality.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Efforts were continuously made in carrying out gender data monitoring, and counting the number of women participating in project tasks and training in the semi-annual progress report, of which over 22% are women. In Huangbaishan Forest Farm In Henan Province, the project needs about 2,700 units of labor service each year of which about 200 are occupied by forest farm staff, and the rest is completed by surrounding communities through project bidding. About half of them are women.

## 11. Knowledge and Learning Activities

Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management (and Learning) Approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval, <u>during this reporting period</u> . (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)	
<b>Knowledge management and Learning (KML):</b> Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If <b>YES</b> , what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	Knowledge activities have been carried out in various ways Including utilizing home website, bulletin,video,books,technical management standards etc.During this reporting periods, 2 newsletters,1 video, 1 SFM good practice book.have been prepared orpublished for public dissemination at national and local levels.
If <b>NO</b> , how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Integration of a dissemination book with a video (with the same content) can be a good practice of the project. It is such that the interested people can read it in book while and seeing its concrete application in the video therefore more acknowledged for acceptance.  The GEF056 SFM Good Practices published contained 25 major good practices of SFM extracted from GEF056 implementation.
<b>Communication strategy:</b> Does the project have a communication strategy ?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <i>this fiscal year</i> .	In the reporting year, the GEF056 Communication Strategy was continuously executed.There had been online national and local meetings plus field meetings for conducting project tasks such as compiling the best practice book, making the technological dissemination video when good communication can be made between top and grassroots administrations. Now the project is completed, the challenge is the formed communication channels should be sustained.
<b>Human-interest story:</b> Please share a <i>human-interest story</i> from your project, focusing on how the <i>project has helped to improve people's livelihoods</i> while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any <i>Socio-economic Co-benefits</i> that were generated by the project. Include at least <i>one beneficiary quote and perspective</i> , and please also <i>include related photos and photo credits</i> .	Hainan GEF056 is implementing a strategy to involve women and ethnic minority couples in the project, this has been taken as model for other project areas to learn. In Dongfang city a minority people concentrated project county, the project enterprise employs couples rather than individuals to work for the project so that they can work all-heartedly without separation of the family. This approach actually encourages couples to take on a wider range of work, share all tasks and no longer give up opportunities for project related activities. For example, the enterprise employer allows them to do some "non-timber economy" for family income addition. In this way, the farmers can have some income for the family while contributing environment benefit by tree planting. In the GEF056 publicity video, a minority representative commented that under the GEF project "Men and women get the same pay for the same work".
Please provide links to related website, social media account	
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	Sustainable Forest Management to Enhance Resilience of Forest to Climate Change in China Good Practice of Sustainable Forest Management (in Chinese and English), Compiled by International Cooperation Center, NFGA and Institute of Forest Resources Information Techniques, CAF and published by China Forestry Publishing House, 2024
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	

## 12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

**Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.**

*If applicable, 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.*

Refer to the human-interest story in Section 11 (Knowledge and Learning Activities) regarding Hainan GEF056 implementing a strategy to involve women and ethnic minority couples in GEF 056 Project. During the preparation and implementation and of GEF056, efforts have been made to solicit the opinions of local residents and ethnic minorities.

**Do indigenous peoples and/or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.**

There are ethnic minorities in the forest farms in the project areas of three provinces including the local communities bordering several forest farms in Fujian (especially the She), Guangxi (Hui, Li, Yao, Zhuang), and Hainan (Li). Pilot demonstration of GEF056 involving ethnic minorities include Fujian Shunchang Forest Farm, various forest farms in Guangxi. Hainan Dongfang City has formulated a strategy for Li poverty-stricken households (couples) to participate in forest restoration and "under-forest economy" activities for income addition. Fujian Shunchang Forest Farm encouraged 30 She people to register and participate in forest restoration demonstration. In Guangxi project area, most staff of local forestry departments (including county forestry bureaus and forest farms) are ethnic minorities, responsible for project implementation and training activities. During the implementation of the project, priority has been given to hiring local workers to participate in project activities, such as reforestation and afforestation, and strengthening carbon management activities. Local languages were used in the training activities. Most of the GEF project areas in Guangxi are located in nationally designated poverty-stricken counties. The project implementation plays an important role in improving the income of local people, learning advanced afforestation technology, poverty alleviation and improving people's livelihood.

### 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement/approval (in USD)	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2025 (in USD)
Recipient Country Government	National Forestry and Grassland Administration and provincial Forestry Departments	Other	\$ 48,000,000	\$ 47,768,656
Donor Agency	FAO GEF agency	In-kind	\$ 400,000	\$ 458,304
		<b>Total</b>	\$ 48,400,000	\$ 48,226,960

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since CEO Endorsement/Approval, or differences between the pledged and materialized co-financing amounts.



## Annex. Monitoring Area-based GEF Core Indicator Commitments and Progress with FERM

The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), developed by FAO, is the official monitoring platform for tracking global progress and disseminating good practices for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The FERM can serve as an integrated GIS-based platform, providing GEF staff and all relevant stakeholders the chance to display the progress of committed versus achieved land under restoration or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, along with clear results such as the percentage of project achievement. Having a common tracking and monitoring platform allows users to comprehensively assess and report on project progress. A user-friendly dashboard showcasing project results gives stakeholders a clear understanding of the extent to which project targets have been achieved. Projects with area-based GEF Core Indicators (GEF Core Indicators 1-5 and LDCF Core Indicator 2) are

### Useful links:

- [FERM website](#)
- [FERM User Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [FERM YouTube channel](#)
- [Email Carmen Morales](#)

<sup>26</sup> It also supports countries in reporting areas under restoration for the Kunming-Montreal GBF Target 2 (areas under restoration) for which FAO is the custodian agency.