

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	4865	SMA IPMR ID	N/A
Project Short Title	GSA	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000617
		Umoja WBS	SB-010129
Project Title	Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province		
Project Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Sized Project (FSP)	Duration months	<i>Planned</i> 60
Parent Programme if child project	N/A		64.6 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	May 1st, 2023
Project Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National		May 1st, 2024
Region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asia Pacific	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	24-Dec-15
Countries	China	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	9-May-18
GEF financing amount	US\$2,657,534	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	25-May-18
Co-financing amount	US\$15,091,805	Date of First Disbursement	1-Jul-18
Total disbursement as of 30 June	US\$ 1,439,982	Date of Inception Workshop, if available	
Total expenditure as of 30 June	US\$ 1,638,738.18	Midterm undertaken? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
		Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	15-Jun-21
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	3-Aug-20
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	30-May-24
		Expected Financial Closure Date	30-May-25

1.2 EA: Project description

The Greater Shennongjia Area (GSA) is an administratively-bounded planning area located in the northwest of China’s Hubei province. The project objective is to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through the expansion and strengthening of the protected area network in the GSA. This will be achieved through activities supported under three mutually reinforcing technical components. Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry is the Executing Agency. Shennongjia Forestry District (SFD) is the main project partner.

Component 1: capacity building for improved development planning;
 Component 2: strengthening and expanding GSA NR network and ecological monitoring;
 Component 3: enhancing education, Awareness & Communication.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division	Executing Agency(ies)	Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry
Name of co-implementing Agency		Names of Other Project Partners	
TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Sitki Ersin Esen	EA: Manager/Representative	ZHENG Chenglin (郑成林)
TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)	Kavita Sharma	EA: Project Manager	DENG Longqiang (邓龙强)
TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Paul Vrontimitis	EA: Finance Manager	CAI Channghua (蔡昌华)
TM: UNEP Support/Assistant	Serah Shaiya	EA: Communications lead, if relevant	DU Hua (杜 华)

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)	Nature Action	TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	
TM: PoW Indicator(s)	(iv) and (v)		
EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	(as reported in ProDoc): UNDAF will expire at the end of 2015, yet the project would contribute to UNDAF Outcome 1: Government institutions and other stakeholders ensure environmental sustainability, address climate change, and promote a green, low carbon economy; and specifically its Outcome 1.2 ‘Better managing natural resources’ through Government capacity to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems is enhanced, and communities are empowered to increasingly benefit from the development of eco-based livelihood resources.		

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

Goal 15: Life on Land

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

- 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area
- 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
- 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management
- 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity
- 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index
- 15.5.1 Red List Index
- 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species
- 15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

2.2. GEF Core or Sub Indicators

TM: GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators

Targets - Expected value		
Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target

Materialised to date

Implementation Status

2023

5th PIR

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2023	5th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022	4th PIR	S	MS	L
FY 2021	3rd PIR	S	MS	L
FY 2020	2nd PIR	S	MS	M
FY 2019	1st PIR	MU	MS	M
FY 2018				

2.3 Implementation status & Risk

FY 2017
 FY 2016
 FY 2015

The late 2022 is very special in China. The COVID pandemic was still going on and the extremely strict zero-COVID policy has not been lifted until late November. Despite those difficulties, thanks to the guidance from UNEP and Hubei Provincial Forestry Department, coordination by PIU, stronger engagement of CTA and the support from part-time consultants, this project made huge progresses.

While progresses are listed in the other tables, here are some highlights as a glance:

- * The mainstreaming of biodiversity among provincial sectors and relevant county administrations is almost all achieved. The plans and policies can all reflect the adoption.
- * The West Hubei – East Chongqing Conservation Alliance continues to function. Through regular meetings and communications, protected areas can engage local governments and research institutes.
- * In parallel with studies on invasive alien species (IAS) and incorporate IAS into management plans, this project supported cleansing of two common invasive species in GSA, Larix kaempferi (a pine tree) and Ambrosia artemisiifolia (a weed).
- * Management plans of four protected areas are developed, and community-participatory mechanisms are discussed. They are expected to improve the communities’ ownership of these protected areas and benefit from conservation. In fact, supported by this project, communities already started sustainable development pilots, including tea planting, chicken and pig raising, bee keeping, TCM planting, stove improvement, etc.
- * The establishment of Jiudao and other ecological corridors is in progress, activities including development of management plan, installation of boundary markers, establishment of co-management among governmental institutes, preparation of ranging teams and equipments, etc.
- * A batch of research on conservation has been finalized or developed, including endemic plants and plantations, primates and animals, monitoring database, etc. Endemic plants are collected in botanic gardens. Sampling plots and lines are established.
- * Behind these achievements are the activities implemented by the PIU. Among all the 27 sub-contracts, 22 have been concluded or almost finalized.

EA: Summary of status
 (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance
EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

15,091,802	EA: Actual to date:	US\$18,063,495.14
As of June 2023, cumulative 18 million USD co-financing have been levered for establishing the ecological corridor and PA restoration, etc, mainly coming from government.		

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

Not held

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

For this GSA project, there is no stakeholder engagement plan in the CEO Endorsement Document, but an Indigenous People Plan (IPP).
During the reporting period, three co-management plans between protected areas and their adjacent towns / villages.

Additionally:
1) The PMU manages its relationship very well with relevant government stakeholders, especially Provincial Finance Department, Provincial DRC (Development and Reform Committee, Provincial Forestry and Grassland Department and the local government sectors of Shennongjia Forestry District and Baokang County including relevant technical line agencies;
2) The relationships among the agencies managing the 7 nature reserves have also significantly improved through project support and coordination by the PMU.
3) The project PMU enhanced the relationships with certain research/academic institutes and universities; as well as local communities where applicable.

Therefore, also there was no PSC meeting held in the past 12 months due to the strict zero-COVID policy, and the staff transition in UNEP. A PSC meeting is now planned in the summer of 2023.

2.6. Gender

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?

▼ No

EA: Gender mainstreaming
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The gender action plan is still under development.
There are two gender-related indicators 2.1.c and 3.2.a. Two NRs have adopted gender mainstreaming in their management rules. But gender mainstreaming should be further strengthened in GSA.

2.7. ESSM

TM: Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?

▼ No

TM: If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?

TM: Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?

▼ No

TM: If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes

TM & EA: Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

▼ No

TM & EA: If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail

N/A

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

No updates

2.8. KM/Learning

EA: Knowledge activities and products
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Various reports and books have been developed but not published yet, including:
Plant guide (including interpretation and pictures) in GSA; animal guide (including interpretation and pictures) in GSA;
IAS (including interpretation and pictures) in GSA;
manual on monitoring and data management in GSA;
environment education curriculum in GSA;
biodiversity conservation strategy and action plan in GSA;
guidance on ecosystem service evaluation and PES policy in GSA, etc.

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

This project has yielded a comprehensive studies and knowledge products during this period. There are several learnings:
1, It is crucial to keep close contact with the CTA and PIU, as the contents need to be revised to meet the needs of this project;
2, Some studies which were designed as stand-alone reports, can be integrated into a comprehensive and convincing ones;
3, Some of the products are beyond expectation, and should consider to publish in the future.

2.9. Stories

EA: Stories to be shared
(section to be shared with communication
division/ GEF communication)

As this project has already started to work with UNEP communication on 5 stories of this project but still may change, it is more efficient to fill in this part when the video is finalized (probably next PIR or the final documents).

3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating
Objective							
To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through the expansion and strengthening		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Outcome 1.1							
Improved policy and regulatory framework for development planning of production sectors in GSA.	1.1.a Number of relevant institutions adapt and implement best practices for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into development planning	None exists	3	9	14	Including 8 in SNJ: 1 SNJ government and its administrations, including: 2 Development & Reform Commission, 3 Ecology and Environment, 4 Water Resource and Lakes, 5 Transportation, 6 Agriculture and Rural Affairs, 7 Culture and Tourism, and 8 Forestry Management. And also 14th Five-Year Plans of all 6 counties (Baokang, Xingshan, Badong, Fangxian Zhuxi, Zhushan)	S
	1.1.b. Number of coherent sets of economic and regulatory tools and incentives that promote and reward integration	No coherent set of economic and regulatory tools exists	4	4	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baokang County has established a subsidy system for ecological restoration of former mining sites Shenongjia Tourism Group gives back ticket-box income to Shennongjia National Park Authority at a certain percentage (paused due to the very low income caused by the "zero-COVID" travel restrictions); Measures for compensation of wildlife damage in GSA; 	S
	1.1.c. Increased area of biodiversity conservation friendly production landscape	0	1,441,680 ha	2,402,807 ha	253820 ha	This area is the total area of the GSA. Still in calculation based on studies.	S
Outcome 1.2							
Reduced impacts to local biodiversity from invasive species (IAS) in the GSA	1.2.a. Improvement of planning capacity in invasive alien species prevention and control in 7 project counties as measured by the METT.	Weak	19	29	22	The GEF IAS Tracking Tool is updated in early 2022. The PIU has done most of the intervention, and need to collect evidence on the policy changes.	S
	1.2.b. # of IAS management & action plans integrated in NR Management Plans and their implementation initiated	0	4	7	4	SNJ National Park, Wanchaoshan, Duheyuan, Wudaoxia	S
	1.2.c. # of County level IAS management plans operationalized/enabled with core government funding	0	4	7	4	SNJ forestry district, Xingshan, Zhushan, Fangxian	S
Outcome 2.1							
	2.1.a. Increase in average management effectiveness among 6 GSA NRs and NP	50	67	84	75	Average of all 7 protected areas	S

Improved management effectiveness in existing GSA nature reserves	2.1.b. Nature Reserve management in GSA benefitting through actual payments from eco-tourism PES schemes	Non-existent	1NR	3NRs	4	<p>3 NR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shennongjia Tourism Group annually pays RMB 10 million as franchise fee to Shennongjia National Park. • The local government pays each resident around Dajiuhu 3,000 CNY annually to cover their costs on electricity, as a compensation not to chop woods for burning. • Some forests in nature reserves are still owned by the community, as public welfare forests. The governments have already paid 3.79 m CNY to 928 households in 3 years for protecting and managing them. • In Yerengu and Wudaoxia, the income generated from eco-tourism was collected by the local government, and the latter further invest the fund to nature reserves. 	S
	2.1.c. Increase in adoption of inclusive and gender sensitive co-management principles and practices in GSA NRs.	Non-existent; gender not incorporated	2NRs; gender aspects clearly shown	4NRs; gender aspects clearly shown	2		S
	2.1.d. Increased # and staff capacity in new PA management skills: landscape-based conservation, sustainable finance/PES, IAS control, co-management, flora & fauna monitoring, a.o. (incl. production sectors).	Training needs assessment conducted during inception (subjects, targeted # trainees, baseline capacity)	Capacity enhanced of 200 trainees, out of which 25% are female	Capacity enhanced of 400 trainees, out of which 25% are female	1982	From beginning of the project till now, 25 training sessions were organized for NR staff, public and officials, 1,982 people times were trained (402 women), about 20% women were involved.	S

Outcome 2.2

Increased habitat integrity of areas under protection in the GSA	2.2.a. Integrity index measured from the 6 GSA NRs and NP.	34	47	61	61	As the number of protected areas is decreased from 8 to 7, the original figures should also change. Furthermore, as all planned activities and outputs are done, it is reasonable to regard this indicator met.	S
	2.2.b. Increase of at least 120,000 ha new protected areas in GSA.	N/A	Functional zonation agreed; and legal process towards gazettment as PA started	120,000ha gazette as new PA	120,599	Adding two parts: 1, During the establishment of the national park, not only two former reserves were merged, but 47,933 ha was increased; 2, a new protected area for orchids of 72,667 ha	S
	2.2.c. Enhanced forest connectivity – as measured through area (ha) and sustained governance of reforestation in Hectares		Optimum corridor agreed with communities and 10,000 ha of indigenous trees planted	20,000 ha newly planted forest effectively connecting NRs	20,298	Jiudao Ecological Corridor was established, with comprehensive work funded by this project	S

Outcome 2.3

Improved landscape-based species- and habitat protection through better planning, population monitoring and targeted actions in GSA.	2.3.a. A coordinated management decision among participating NRS on at least one species with geographic range beyond a single GSA reserve based on the information management system	None exist	Agreement reached among the 6 NRS + NP management offices –species selected, monitoring approach & management targets set	Conservation action plan(s) up and running	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Hubei and Eastern Chongqing Conservation Area Alliance was established, and annual alliance meetings were held continuously, and the rules of procedure and agreement was signed, a joint monitoring was carried out; • Established a cross sectoral coordination mechanism between Shennongjia and Baokang (led by the Provincial Forestry Bureau, involving other 5 administrative sectors including development and reform, transportation, environmental protection, rural agriculture, and tourism. • Jiudao Ecological Corridor management committee was established between Shennongjia Forest District and Fangxian County Government. 	S
	2.3.b. Population numbers of at least one primate and one middle-sized mammal (Class I & II species) stable or improving – as measured through newly developed monitoring protocols in the GSA landscape	Target species not yet set; population # not yet known	Target species set; Monitoring system in place and conducting annual population census	Population # stable or having increased (on at least 2 species)	80%	Snub-nosed monkey and black bear were selected as two species. Monitoring network is under establishment. Preliminary studies show that black bear appeared in all nature reserves and the population of snub-nosed monkey slightly rose.	S
	2.3.c. Increasing # of vegetation transects established & generating data. Target: 64 sites in GSA	No vegetation transect exist currently, Only vegetative plots exist in all nature reserves; and one comprehensive ecological monitoring station in Wanchaoshan PNR (CAS)	Establishment of vegetation monitoring protocols of the 64 sites	All 64 sites in function, annual surveys & data produced in all 64 sites	67	61 are in National Park: (25ha * 1, 5ha * 1, 1ha * 6, 20m*20m * 53); Furthermore, there is 1 site in each of the 6 nature reserves. The figure here, 67, does not include an additional 8 sampling lines	S

Outcome 3.1

Improved capacity of provincial and local governments to conduct environmental education programs for promoting awareness of decision makers and the general public on the importance of protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustainable development in GSA	3.1.a. Increased regularized/institutionalized environment education policies and programs in GSA	Ad hoc based environment education	4 regularized environment education programs among 6 nature reserves and national park in GSA	7 regularized environment education programs among 6 nature reserves and national park in GSA	70%	All 7 protected area has incorporated environment education. The communication and environment education plan for GSA was drafted. Once programs are set up, we will reach the final target of 7.	
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Outcome 3.2

Improved communications and enhanced awareness in GSA landscape of Hubei Province on biodiversity, ecosystems conservation and sustainable development	3.2.a. Baseline established, gender analysis conducted and statistically representative sample of (a) decision makers and (b) general public showing increased awareness levels of biodiversity conservation, the value and benefit of ecosystem services, and links with sustainable development	Modest; accurate and gender disaggregated baseline established during inception	20% of targeted group show increase in awareness on the baseline parameters set; gender disaggregate data available.	50% of targeted group show increase in awareness on the baseline parameters set; gender disaggregate data available	20%	Preliminary work is done, e.g. survey plan and forms are prepared, but it is delayed.	S
	3.2.b. Increase in 'users hits' for information on the bi-lingual GSA Website - biodiversity conservation in Hubei and GSA	None measured	GSA Website updated and teller installed	20% average annual increase in user hits (over life of project)	10%	The bilingual website has been designed in early 2020. The framework and news of this GEF project have been updated. http://www.snjpark.com/dsnjswdyx/GEFxm.htm 10% represents website in Chinese functional and well maintained	S
	3.2.c. Improved dissemination and exchange of best practices locally among the 6 GSA nature reserves and national park, Hubei province and internationally	Modest (collaboration and information exchange on NR, GSA and landscape approaches)	1 GSA-wide 'best-practices' & information exchange mechanism established and agreed with 6 NRs and NP	5 best practice guidelines produced - 10 coordination meetings conducted involving all 6 NRs and NP	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 GSA-wide 'best-practices' has been summarized. (1) The "West Hubei -- East Chongqing Natural Reserves Alliance" and (2) "Hubei Shennongjia Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Foundation" are currently identified as "best practices". The former may contribute to cross-provincial protection - a rare but precious case study in China - and thus become a model for other regions. The latter may serve as a vehicle for the sustainability of this project in the future. (3) The value of Jiudao Eco-corridor for the establish of an official, instead of trial, national park is elaborated. These best practices are subject to replacement at the end of this project 	S
	3.2.d. Increase in media coverage for biodiversity conservation in GSA on TV news broadcasts, radio, and newspapers (articles or features).	Ad hoc based	20% increase in media coverage for biodiversity conservation in GSA on TV news broadcasts, radio, and newspapers (articles or features)	40% increase in media coverage for biodiversity conservation in GSA on TV news broadcasts, radio, and newspapers (articles or features) 7 rotating public education	40%+	Number of news articles: (National / provincial + local = total) 2017: 9 + 18 = 27 2018: 11 + 25 = 36 2019: 20 + 39 = 59 2020: 18 + 62 = 80 2021: 24 + 125 = 149 2022: 66 + 82 = 148 "In China, iconic national park is redefining conservation" was published on UNEP website.	S

	3.2.e. At least one government policy amended/adopted to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services in GSA	N/A	1 time annually	1 time annually	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 2018, the Hubei Provincial Government issued the Shennongjia National Park Protection Regulations • In September 2019, the Shennongjia Forest District Government issued a new draft Plan of Shennongjia Biodiversity NR • "The 14th five-year plan for economic and social development of Hubei Province and the outline of long-term objectives for 2035" was released by Hubei Provincial government in April 2021. It is planned to better promote the Shennongjia National Park in next 5 year plan. • Some areas around the SNJ National Park was selected to include in the future (There is no updates in 2020 and 2022, as Hubei Province was seriously hit by the COVID) 	S
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For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TN: Progress rating
Under Comp 1		copy from previous			
Output 1.1.1: Improved capacity of provincial and local DRC personnel of the importance of the integration of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in development planning.	Jun-21	90%	90%	This project keeps communicating with personnels in different departments in Hubei Province, and provided trainings. Thanks to the national momentum, the awareness of biodiversity is widely spread.	S
Output 1.1.2: Development of guidelines for use by provincial DRC to promote integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services assessment in sector planning and decision-making	Jun-21	90%	90%	Most policies studies are finished, but still need to wait until they come to effect	S
Output 1.1.3: Two county-level 13th 5-year development plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations	Jun-22	90%	100%	The two counties are: Shennongjia Forest District; and Baokang County.	S
Output 1.2.1: Assessment of IAS presence, impacts and anticipated spread in GSA	Jun-23	100%	100%	A comprehensive report of IAS on its presence, impact, and spread pathways, etc. was developed in 2020. After several rounds of revisions, it has been eventually finalized in July 15th, 2022.	S
Output 1.2.2: IAS Strategy and action plan	Jun-23	80%	100%	An action plan for IAS prevention is finalized.	S
Output 1.2.3: Seven county-level policies and funding for mainstreaming IAS mitigation	Jun-23	50%	60%	Plans are made, but not yet all approved.	S

Under Comp 2

Output 2.1.1: Development of co-management plans for three GSA nature reserves.	Jun-20	85%	100%	4 plans are finished, in: Shennongjia National Park, Wanchaoshan, Badong, and Duheyan.	S
Output 2.1.2: Development of four NR-specific co-management contracts supported by pilot activities in local communities (one per NR).	Jun-23	75%	75%	Three co-management plans are signed: 1, Badong NR wit Yanduhe Town; 2, SNJ National Park with Xiagu Town; 3, Wanchaoshan with Dianziping Village.	S
Output 2.1.3: Development and implementation of 24 small-scale biodiversity conservation tools and activities (3 per NR).	Jun-23	50%	60%	13 of 24 grants are in progress, but may not be able to reach 24 eventually.	S
Output 2.1.4: Training of NR and PMO staff (420 participant times over 14 course-specific thematic topics).	Jun-23	100%	100%	From beginning of the project till now, 25 training sessions were organized for NR staff, public and officials, 1,982 people times were trained (402 women), about 20% women were involved.	S
Output 2.2.1: The establishment of one new county-level NR (SFD) covering a total area of 120,000 ha	Jun-23	100%	100%	The 120,000 ha comes from two parts: 1, During the establishment of the national park, not only two former reserves were merged, but 47,933 ha was increased; 2, a new protected area for orchids of 72,667 ha <i>The key activities include: (1) the Baseline Survey of new PA is done; (2) boundary markers have been installed and the geographic data has been inputted into the Department of Nature Resource in Shennongjia Forestry Area; and (3) the socio-economic study of the new PA is done</i>	S
Output 2.2.2: Creation of ecological corridor connecting 2 NRs in GSA (20,000 ha).	Jun-23	90%	100%	20,298 ha Jiudao ecological corridor was established. The management plan was approved. 57 boundary markers are installed and 17 board are established, etc.	S
Output 2.3.1: Development and implementation of two landscape-based species conservation action plans in GSA covering the following Class I and II species/groups: (i) primate species (2) and (ii) large & middle size mammals (10)	Jun-23	80%	100%	The action plans are developed and incorporated into nature reserve management plans. They include species: (i) primates: snub-nosed monkey (<i>Rhinopithecus roxellana</i>) and Rhesus monkey (<i>Macaca mulata</i>); and (ii) other mammals: <i>Ursus thibetanus</i> , <i>Viverra zibetha</i> , <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> , <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i> , <i>Panthera pardus</i> , <i>Moschus berezovskii</i> , <i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i> , <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> , <i>Naemorhedus griseus</i> , <i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>	S
Output 2.3.2: Development and implementation of 2 GSA NR system-wide conservation action plans for 8 unique vegetation communities/formations and 8 rare & endangered plant species.	Jun-23	80%	80%	Information of plants are collected and studied. Now in the progress of developing management plans for all nature reserves.	S
Output 2.3.3: Establishment of a spatial database and ecological monitoring program in the 8 GSA nature reserves.	Jun-23	70%	90%	A GIS system and database, forest fire warning system, video monitoring system have been established in Shennongjia National Park Information Management Center. Most monitoring facilities have been established. An Action Plan for Establishing Ecological Monitoring Programme is drafted. It will finalize after coordinating with wildlife, plant, IAS, etc. The system started to generate data and some data is under study for protected area management.	S

Under Comp 3

Output 3.1.1: Establishment and institutionalization of a GSA-wide environmental education information exchange and coordination mechanism.	Jun-23	60%	90%	The study of status quo of environment education (EE) in GSA, the necessity and feasibility of establishing EE programme, coordination mechanisms have been studied. A curriculum and textbooks are developed. Regular EE exchange programmes are organized. Special events like "exploring the secret of GSA", camera trap photo contest, etc. are organized.	S
Output 3.1.2: Development of a 5-year comprehensive environment education plan for GSA.	Jun-22	80%	90%	EE planning of 7 protected areas in GSA is finalized.	S
Output 3.1.3: Establishment of a public education and awareness center in the Shennongjia UNESCO Reserve	Jun-23	70%	100%	The Guanmenshan area in the tourist site was transformed to a public centre, with modern exhibition settings and installations of 3D demonstrations, interactive games, etc., to communicate the monkey and biodiversity. In addition, in two tourist centres, screens and boards are installed for communicating biodiversity.	S
Output 3.1.4: Establishment and operationalization of a Plant Breeding Centre (55 ha) in the SNNR.	Jun-23	85%	100%	A plant breeding botanic garden is established, which exhibits and serves as a knowledge hub for endemic and endangered species. Interpretations for these species are well designed and developed. The SNJ Tourism Group is in charge of its day-to-day operation.	S
Output 3.2.1: Design and implementation of a Hubei province-wide biodiversity conservation communications and outreach strategy.	Jun-23	60%	90%	The plans are developed. Training materials are finalized. And some activities already started. Will further communicate for better impacts.	S
Output 3.2.2: Establishment of a bi-lingual website on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services covering all 6 natural reserves in the GSA.	Jun-23	60%	70%	A website was established under the website of SNJ National Park, but has limited exposure. The Chinese webpage is well maintained and updated. The English webpage is premature.	S

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

Lack of Inter-institutional Coordination. Poor coordination among the 8 participating nature reserves (consisting of one per county and one forestry district) could undermine the achievement of conservation objectives by limiting the effectiveness of human and financial resources in improving management of individual NRs and their networks.		M	M	L	L	L	L				West Hubei -- East Chongqing Natural Reserves Alliance was established and the PSC is function well. The inter-institutional coordination was built and all 7 PA were well involved.
Slow Policy Formulation and Adoption. Slow uptake of policy recommendations stemming from project supported studies in particular those associated with "mainstreaming" and IAS could prolong the current situation characterized by growing threats from poorly planned economic development.	Outcomes 2.1-2.3									=	
	Outcomes 1.1-1.2	M	M	M	L	L	L			=	There used to be delays. However, as most of the policy studies are finished and communicated to the policy makers, as well as the top-down awareness of biodiversity, the policy adoption was better than expected. The COVID did slowed down some process, but it is still likely that all expected policy results may be achieved before the end of this project.
Failure to "uptake" biodiversity considerations in other economic sectors. Nature reserves in GSA are located in zones characterized by other economic interests, in particular, tourism development, hydropower generation and mining. There is a risk that the project will fail to engage with these industries effectively and achieve the improvements in land-use practices and integrated planning needed to ensure the long-term conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Outcome 1.1	M	S	M	L	L	L			=	The mainstreaming of biodiversity is realized. Also in November 2021, the central government issued "Opinions on Improving Mechanisms for Realizing Values of Ecological Product". This guidance should be made full use for realizing relevant outputs. The finish of the outcome 1.1 now lies in the justification on itself.
Risk 4: With the inhabitants of the protected areas being poor communities, there is a risk when it comes to the education/awareness outputs	Outcome 3.1-3.2	M	L	L	L	L	L			=	Training session and communication activities were organized. Co-management as well as support for alternative income generation with three villages are developed. So it remains low risk.
Risk 5: Currency Risk. Significant fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates may pose a risk to the achievement of all project outputs and outcomes.	Overall	M	L	L	L	L	L			=	The budget was revised after the MTR. The fluctuation of USD/CNY is within 8% in the past year.

Consolidated project risk		Not Applicable	M	M	L	L	L				The project was on track during the reporting period. The risk is rated as Low.
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4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project 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 Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor amendments	Changes
Results framework	Yes
Components and cost	
Institutional and implementation arrangements	
Financial management	
Implementation schedule	Explain in table B
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	
Other	

Minor amendments
With the establishment of the Shennongjia National Park, the former two nature reserves, Dajiuhe and Shennongjia, were merged.
The final target of output 2.2b, was changed from "120,000 ha gazette as NR" to "120,000ha gazette as new PA".
FORMER 2.3c Increasing # of vegetation transects established & generating data. Target: Dajiuhe PNR-4; Shibalicangxia NNR-6; Yerengu PNR-6; Wudaoxia PNR-6; Wanchaoshan PNR-6; Shennongxi PNR-6; Duheyuan NNR-10; and Shennongjia NNR-20 NEW 2.3 c Establishment of a spatial database and ecological monitoring program in the 8 GSA nature reserves.
For the 64 sampling sites, formerly it requires 6 sites in each of the 8 nature reserves, now the project still needs to hit the 64 target, but regardless its distribution.

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument					
Amendment 1	Revision	26-May-23	30-May-23	30-Nov-24	Date of technical completion and valid until date
Extension 1	Extension	26-May-23	30-May-23	30-Nov-24	Date of technical completion and valid until date

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project Longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79>) or GeoNames(<http://www.geonames.org/>) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here(<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Shennongjia	N 31° 35' 0"	E 110° 29' 49"	Shennongjia (2984052)	https://www.openstreetmap.org/search?query=shennongjia#map=10/31.5810/110.4545	

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

[Annex any linked geospatial file]