

Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land Management in the Soda Saline-Alkaline Wetlands and Agro-Pastoral Landscapes in Western Jilin



(GCP/CPR/048/GEF)

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
China, 2021

Response by recommendation

In this section, Management should address each recommendation, discussing them in the order presented in the executive summary of the MTR report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below and include:

- a. The recommendation number and text copied from the MTR report;
- b. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;
- c. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
- d. The responsible party or FAO unit for implementing the action/s;
- e. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
- f. Indication if further funding from FAO or a resource partner is required for implementing the recommendation.

Management response matrix¹

Management response to the [Title]					Date
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Time frame (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The site selected earlier overlooked information like availability of water storage, existence of the cultural relics within the site and uncertainty of the boundaries due to government policy. Due to this, the project had to spend one and half year to find a new sites for piloting its activities. The PMO should immediately (October 2021) conduct thorough study of the sites before replicating the good practices in the second half of the project.</p>	Accepted	The PMO will conduct a comprehensive survey of the project demonstration and promotion area in the near future to make statistics of the project achievement promotion and demonstration area.	PMO	October 2021	N
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>As the SLWM model needs to be agreed with the stakeholders before implementation, the PMO should give priority to complete the model, and associated guidelines and manual.</p>	Accepted	The model and associated guidelines and manual will be completed in December 2021. The PMO will give priority to complete the SWLM model, guidelines and manual.	PMO Northeast Institute of geography and Agroecology, Chinese	November to December 2021	N

¹Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

Work should be initiated immediately after the MTE i.e. October 2021.			Academy of Sciences		
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>The project implementation was affected due to having only part-time staffs. The project has large amount works which has to be complemented within limited time. Large number of activities are to be completed by October 2022. It is challenging to complete all activities within the remaining time. An implementation in rush may affect the quality of the work. Number of person trained will not confirm knowledge gained.</p>	Partially Accepted	<p>The PMO will arrange required number of staffs to support the project implementation. Affected by the climate, the mostly activities about agriculture and wetland are mainly in growing season. The activities about policy formulation, meetings, training, guidelines formulation and other activities can be held after growing season. So, there will be no problem with the quality of project. The PMO will test the knowledge growth of the trainee through questionnaire.</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Northeast Institute of geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences</p> <p>PMO</p>	<p>December 2021</p> <p>April to October 2022</p> <p>December 2021</p>	N
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>The PMO should assign responsibility to conduct assessment of the potential support from different sector to make project results sustainable after the project end. Based on the thorough assessment they should develop an</p>	Partially Accepted	<p>In the context of China's major policies, such as the protection of black soil can effectively ensure the sustainability of project results. The policy makers and planners training will be held in fourth quarter of</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Northeast Institute of geography and Agroecology, Chinese</p>	<p>The fourth quarter of 2021 and before spring ploughing in 2022.</p>	N

<p>exit strategy with provisions for making project results sustainable even after the project end date. The development of exit strategy should begin from January 2022.</p> <p>The project has trained relevant government’s technical staffs. Also farmers and communities were training on wetland management and eco-agriculture. This makes the project results sustainable socio-economically and institutionally to some level. But training for policy makers and planners are yet to be completed.</p> <p>No written commitment for financial support for project results beyond the project life is available. Even for technical assistance only verbal assurance available. This does not ensure sustainability of the project results beyond the project life.</p>		<p>2021 and before spring ploughing in 2022.</p>	<p>Academy of Sciences</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The project implementation has suffered due to a lack of full-time project staff. Therefore, the PMO should arrange increase its number of full-time staff to the number required to fully support project implementation. Staff arrangement is very important to move project activities so it should be initiated immediately after MTE i.e. from October 2021.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The PMO will continue employing relevant staff as needed to improve work efficiency. The change of indicators was derived from long time field investigation. In the project, the regular monitoring was implemented by the Northeast Institute of geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences,</p>	<p>PMO</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>The project document didn't have Theory of Change. It is now developed by the MTE team. The indicators in the RF was not gender disaggregated. Also some indicators were not realistic so need to correct.</p> <p>It is necessary to make regular monitoring of the results of the project to analyze the dynamism of the results. Yield from the improved practices need to be monitored in regular basis beyond the project life and analyse if any changes are observed. This helps to further improve the results of this project. Similarly, the project reinstated several wetlands and some initial benefits are observed. It will take some years for the wetlands to offer its complete ecological functions</p> <p>Due to difference of financial reporting time of FAO and PMO, the disbursement of money was affected. As per contract FAO disburse money only after it receives financial report of the earlier installment. But late financial closing time of PMO caused late submission of financial report which delayed disbursement of money from FAO to PMO and that has affected the project activities.</p>		<p>in different wetland and agriculture through three growing seasons.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 6:</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This section should be changed.</p>	<p>PMO</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>Some indicators need change e.g. IUCN red-listed Eurasian otter is not found in the project sites so it should be removed. The baseline yield from degraded range land is much exaggerated (1,500kg/ha) so need to make realistic (800kg/ha). The annual yield target from the improved agriculture practices together with irrigation is also very ambitious (10,500kg/ha), so need to make it 8,500kg/ha. Hence, it is recommended that PMO should take initiation to get GEF approval to change these indicators to make them realistic. This should be done immediately i.e. in October 2021.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 7: The PMO should communicate and negotiate with the relevant departments of the University (province based) to arrange regular monitoring of effect of agricultural practices and wetland functions. Discussions should be immediately initiated i.e. from October 2021 to initiate the negotiation for M&E arrangements.</p>	<p>Rejected</p>	<p>The Northeast Institute of geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, has professors in different disciplines, such as wetland, agriculture, biodiversity and etc. Therefore, it is enough for the project and not necessary to communicate or negotiate with the relevant departments of the university.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 8: The project has not met its mid-term level targets (as per work-plan) and completing all remaining activities within a year (October</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Because it will take nearly half a year to prepare the project closing materials. The project is planned to be closed in</p>	<p>PMO</p>	<p>October 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>2022) is not possible. Hence a 1-year no cost extension is recommended. The PMO and FAO should discuss this with the relevant executing partners and recommend to GEF for no cost extension immediately i.e. in October 2021.</p>		<p>October 2022, so the time to complete the project is obviously not enough. However, the project can achieve the project objectives within one year through the monitoring and evaluation for three growing seasons. Therefore, an extension of one year is recommended by PMO.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 9: Women play key role in agriculture sector so their role need to be strengthened from all aspects. Women’s role in decision making was not observed in this project. Programme should include leadership building training for women and also should give priority to women headed household while selecting the beneficiary household. The PMO & FAO should initiate planning and implementing leadership programme immediately (October 2021)</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The PMO will employ female experts to carry out training for women and give priority to women headed household while selecting the beneficiary household.</p>	<p>PMO</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>N</p>