



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report 2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Asia Pacific
Country (ies):	China
Project Title:	Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Huangshan Municipality
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/CPR/049/GFF
GEF ID:	4526
GEF Focal Area(s):	BD
Project Executing Partners:	Huangshan Administrative Committee (HSAC)
Project Duration:	7 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	N 30° 8' 4" E 118° 9' 48"

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	February 12, 2014
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	September 17, 2014
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	September 16, 2019
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	September 17, 2022
Actual Implementation End Date³:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 2,607,273
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 10,508,212

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

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

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

Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 2.512.488
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 11,566,459

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	March 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	
Actual Mid-term review date:	March 2019
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	March 2022 (TBC)
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes

Ratings

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

Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	6 th PIR
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⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

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

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

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

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Affiliation	E-mail
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2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcomes (DO)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s): To secure the effective conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the mountainous forest ecosystems of Huangshan Municipality.						
Outcome 1: Policy, Planning & Institutional Arrangements	Outcome 1.1: Number of large scale plans that incorporate biodiversity as a planning priority	Component 1: Biodiversity not described as a planning priority in Municipal 12th 5 Year Social and Economic Development Plan	50 % Outline of 13 th 5 year plan and sector agencies consulted	Component 1: Biodiversity conservation identified as a priority in the Municipal 13th 5 Year Social and Economic Development Plan.	100% achieved. The formulation of Municipal 13 th 5 year Social and Economic Development Plan is completed. Biodiversity conservation has been identified as a priority by relevant departments, such as the forestry department, environmental protection department etc. BD conservation is included the Planning of Xin'an River Eco-economic demonstration area.	S
	Outcome 2.1a: BD	Component 2:	Increased by 10%	Component 2:	100% achieved.	HS

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

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

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

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Outcome 2: Improved NR Management Effectiveness & Networks	TT score for management efficiency of NRs	Average management efficiency in 12 project supported NRs included in the municipal network of protected areas (measured by using the BD O1 TT) is 50.		Average management efficiency in 12 project supported nature reserves included in the municipal network of protected areas increased by 22% (measured by using the BD O1 TT) is 65.	According to the METT results submitted by 12 NRs, average management efficiency has increased by 43.5% (measured by using the BD O1 TT) and reached 71.75 in 2020. METT will be reviewed again during the Terminal Evaluation.	Exceeded the target
	# of hectares of PA for which management efficiency is increased.	0		Increased management efficiency across 67,496 ha (direct impact – Tiers 1,2,3). Indirect: 35,504 ha Total: 103,000 ha.	100% achieved. 109,296 ha in total. 1) 67,496 ha of PAs' management efficiency is increased, which have direct impact on tiers 1.2.3 NRs. 2) More than 35,000 ha PA in Qi county increased management efficiency.	HS Exceeded the targets
	Number of hectares of productive landscape into which biodiversity conservation practices and objectives are mainstreamed	0		46,614 ha agriculture/forest land 2,100 ha forest land (corridor). Total: 50,414 ha.	134% achieved 67,496 ha forest land were mainstreamed due to the Forest Chief policy in the whole Huangshan City and redlining as well.	HS Exceeded the targets

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
					About 6,800 ha biodiversity-friendly corridor was built around Jiulongfeng NR	
	Number of sectors into which biodiversity conservation objectives are mainstreamed.	0		3 Direct (Forestry, Ecotourism, Agriculture) 3 Indirect (fisheries, water, transport)	100% achieved. Biodiversity conservation has been identified as priority by 6 departments, including the forestry department, environmental protection department, tourism, agriculture department, water resources department and fisheries department .	S
	Outcome 2.1b: Improvement in biodiversity species indicators: a) Population of <i>Paa spinosa</i>	Population numbers of <i>Paa spinosa</i> (amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 17.	Population numbers of <i>Paa spinosa</i> (amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 21	Population numbers of <i>Paa spinosa</i> (amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 26.	50% achieved. In general, biodiversity species increased according to the monitoring report from third-party contractors. For specific species mentioned in ProDoc. Monitoring reports on <i>Paa spinosa</i> (amphibian) from 2016-2018 shows the population was on	U The project has been in implementation for 6 years, but has not done any monitoring on <i>Paa spinosa</i> yet, despite the workplans and FAO reminders

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
					<p>average 23 per 2 km transects from 3 censuses in 2016 and increased to an average of 39 per 2 km transects from 3 censuses in 2018. The PMO will carry out another survey in the summer of 2021.</p> <p>In Jiulongfeng NR, illegal poaching was reduced due to three-level access management supervision system establishment and the population of <i>Paa spinose</i> in Jiulongfeng NR has increased.</p>	
	b) Number of bamboo species in Qingliangfeng NR.	22 bamboo species found in Qingliangfeng NR (http://kns.cnki.net/KCMS/detail/detail.aspx?dbcode=CJFD&filename=ZZYJ199103007)	22	No change. 22 species recorded at end of project.	100% achieved. The Bamboo species have not changed.	S
	c) Numbers of Chinese Yew (<i>Taxus</i> spp.) in 6 project supported NRs (tier	Baseline and targets to be established in 1st semester of project	The same as baseline	Population of Yew to be maintained over life of project.	100% achieved. The same as baseline.	S

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
	1 and tier 2 project supported NRs)	implementation)			The 22 Chinese Yew in 6 monitoring points were maintained.	
	d) Populations of four plant indicator species (Rhododendron maculiferum, Enkianthus chiensis, Baeothryon subcapitatum and Carex brevicuspis) in proximity to tourism visitation infrastructure in 4 project supported reserves (Huangshan NSR, Jiulongfeng PNR, Tianhushan PNR and Lingnan PNR)	Baseline and targets to be established in 1st semester of project implementation)	The same as baseline	Populations of four species to be maintained over life of project.	50% Ecological ground monitoring project had started. Partners planned to carry out additional survey and deliver the updated reports in 2021. Wildlife and plant survey were carried out at the beginning of the project, these 4 species will be replaced by other more representative species. Data to be collected and will be provided in the 2 nd Project Progress Report of 2021.	U The project has been in implementation for 6 years, but has not done any monitoring on any of the 4 species, or provided the list of new alternative species, despite the workplans and FAO reminders.
Outcome 3: Capacity Building, Environmental Education and Public Awareness	<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Number of schools that mainstream biodiversity modules into their curricula	<u>Component 3:</u> Baseline Value: Zero		<u>Component 3:</u> 1 primary and 1 secondary schools “mainstream” pilot supported biodiversity modules in their respective curricula.	100% achieved. Biodiversity was incorporated in their curricula. Furthermore, additional biodiversity related activities were organized.	S

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
					<p>In 2020, biodiversity related activities were organized for 5 primary and 5 secondary schools and 552 students (330 girls) attended the activities.</p> <p>HSAC and Green Anhui also organized lessons and courses for primary schools and secondary school by co-financing.</p> <p>The nature education courses have been institutionalized, especially in Jiulongfeng and expected to continue after project completion.</p>	
	Outcome 3.2: Number of economic sector development plans that mainstream biodiversity	Baseline value: Zero Mainline agency sector plans presently reflect biodiversity considerations.		2 economic sector development plans incorporate biodiversity considerations in their respective 13th 5 year plans	100% achieved. Two economic sector development plans were developed and released. 1) The Planning of Xin'an River Eco-	S

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
					<p>economic demonstration area was developed by the economic sector and was approved in 2018.</p> <p>2) Forest tourism planning of Huangshan City was approved in 2015. The Master Plan for Huangshan Municipal Forest Tourism has included biodiversity.</p>	
	Outcome 3.3: Number of visits to Huangshan NRs	8,000 visits to 5 project supported Huangshan NRs		Visitation increases to 80,000 visits to 5 project supported Huangshan NRs	119% completed. Add up to more than 95,000 visitors visited 5 project sites. For instance, more than 13,000 people visited Jiulongfeng site in 2020 and 2021.	HS The number of visitors exceeded the target.

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
<p>Outcome 4: Information Dissemination and M&E</p>	<p><u>Outcome 4.1:</u> Number of Tier 3 and 4 NRs adopting new approaches generated by the project</p>	<p>Huangshan's tier 3 and 4 NRs have no CCCs, co-management plans and/or participation in network</p>		5	<p>70% completed. The new approaches and 2 best practices were summarized by NTA and was disseminated to other NRs through training and will be shared during CBD COP15 events in October 2021.</p> <p>Conservation best practices and approaches were disseminated during the activity organized by UNWTO, and expert seminar on collaborative management of listed Heritage by UNESCO in Dec. 2020.</p>	S

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 2.1b: Improvement in biodiversity species indicators: a) Population of <i>Paa spinosa</i>	To carry out intervention to increase the population and collect data.	PMO	September 2021
d) Populations of four plant indicator species (<i>Rhododendron maculiferum</i> , <i>Enkianthus chiensis</i> , <i>Baeothryon subcapitatum</i> and <i>Carex brevicuspis</i>) in proximity to tourism visitation infrastructure in 4 project supported reserves (Huangshan NSR, Jiulongfeng PNR, Tianhushan PNR and Lingnan PNR)	To carry out surveys ASAP or justify why the monitoring is not carried out.	PMO	September 2021

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

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
O 1.1.1: Policies developed for: (i) the conservation of biodiversity, (ii) establishment of a municipal NR system and (iii) management of alien species in Huangshan municipality.	2021, June	1. National consultants recruited 2. Studies and workshops on baseline conditions in nature reserves of the Huangshan Municipality		3 Draft policy is prepared and submitted to the People's Government of Huangshan Municipality.	The Guidelines of Biodiversity Conservation in Huangshan Municipality, the Implementation Plan for Natural Reserve Conservation in Huangshan Municipality and the Implementation Advices for Management and Control of Alien Species in Huangshan Municipality have	The Guidelines of Biodiversity Conservation in Huangshan Municipality, the Implementation Plan for Natural Reserve Conservation in Huangshan Municipality and the Implementation Advices for Management and Control of Alien Species in Huangshan Municipality	No change since previous PIR.	100% completed	

¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

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

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

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

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
		lity conducted 3. Meeting minutes of various consultations and experts workshops prepared			been finalized and will be submitted to relevant government departments for reference in July 2020.	have been finalized.			
O 1.1.2: Two draft policies addressing specific biodiversity conservation issues.	completed				No issues identified.	Huangshan District issued <Forest Operation Plan Regarding to “Customized Policy for Each Forest” in Huangshan District 2018-2025> in August 2019. Huangshan Municipal	No change since previous PIR.	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
						Government Office issued <Notification on Implementation Plan of Creating Forest Chief System Demonstration in Huangshan> on Dec. 26 th 2019.			
O 1.1.3: Three long-term plans to guide the implementation of the three project supported policies (Output 1.1.1) and a municipal forest ecotourism master plan developed and under initial implementation.	June 2021	The Master Plan for Ecotourism prepared	The Master Plan for Forest Tourism in Huangshan Municipality is ready for review; Survey, assessment and suggestions on the existing protected areas in Huangshan Municipality	The Master Plan for Forest Tourism in Huangshan Municipality is ready for review; Survey, assessment and suggestions on the existing protected areas in Huangshan Municipality have been drafted.	The Master Plan for Forest Tourism in Huangshan Municipality was drafted. Survey, assessment and suggestions on the existing protected areas in Huangshan Municipality were completed.	The contract of the Strategic Plan was signed in early 2020 and will be implemented. The report of the Master Plan for Forest Tourism was drafted and will be reviewed in 2020. The report, survey, assessment and suggestions on the existing protected areas	The draft of the <i>Strategic Plan of Management on Biodiversity Sustainability in Huangshan Municipality</i> was delivered in November 2020. The ecotourism report was reviewed and accepted by tourism department.	90% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			was drafted for review.			in Huangshan Municipality have passed the expert review and are under implementation.			
O 1.1.4: A permanent Biodiversity Committee (BCC-policy) functioning with regular meetings.	completed	1. TORs for the committee defined 2. Committee members selected and the committee created	completed	completed	completed	Completed BCC is established and in function.	BCC is established and in function.	100% completed	
O 1.1.5: A permanent Biodiversity Advisory Committee (technical) functioning and providing technical support to the BCC.	completed	1. Committee bylaws formulated 2. Government approval obtained	completed	completed	completed	Completed BAC held regular meetings and kept connection between PMO to provide technical support or reports review.	BAC established and in function.	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
		3. Research activities designed and organized 4. Monitoring, supervising conducted and reporting made							
O 2.1.1: Sector plan promoting the integration of biodiversity conservation as management objective integrated into Huangshan NSR master management plan developed and under initial implementation.	completed	1.TORs prepared 2.Services of qualified institution secured 3.Studies and workshops conducted	The sector master plan for biological conservation in HSNR is being drafted. The formulation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in	The sector master plan for biological conservation in HSNR is being drafted. The formulation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in Huangshan NR is ongoing	Huangshan Scenic Area Biodiversity Conservation Action (2018-2030) was approved by the Huangshan Municipal People's Government in May 2019.	Completed.	Huangshan Scenic Area Biodiversity Conservation Action (2018-2030) was approved by the Huangshan Municipal People's Government in May 2019.	100% completed	*PMO used the additional fund to develop more policies than originally planned.

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			Huangshan NR is ongoing				Some priority actions are under implementation. In addition, some other sector plans*: The <i>Special environmental sanitation planning of Huangshan Scenic Area</i> and <i>Special planning of sewage treatment in Huangshan Scenic Area</i> were developed.		
O 2.1.2: Management plans (2) and framework plans (3) for the remaining 5 project supported NRs developed and under initial implementation.	June 2021		Management plans for 5 NRs of 2nd tier completed and reviewed in September 2016 are to be approved by the relevant government departments	Management plans for 5 NRs of 2nd tier (2.1.2(i)) have been completed. Three NR management plans, namely Qiliangfeng, Wuxishan, and	Management plans for 5 NRs were completed. Three NR management plans have been officially released; Implementation plans of NRs of	Management plans for 5 NRs were completed. Three NR management plans have been officially released; Implementation plans of NRs of	Administrative Measures for 5 NRs completed and reviewed in September 2017. Three NR management plans, namely Qiliangfeng, Wuxishan, and Lingnan, have	100% completed	*PMO used the additional fund to develop more policies.

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			for public release; Implementation plans for NRs of the 2nd Tier are ongoing, and survey and collection of the relevant data were completed for 3 PAs.	Lingnan, have been officially released by local governments. Implementation plans (2.1.2(ii)) for NRs of the 2nd Tier are ongoing, and survey and collection of the relevant data were completed for 3 Protected Areas.	the 2nd Tier has been drafted.	the 2nd Tier has been drafted.	been officially released by local governments in 2018; Management plans for 5 NRs has passed the panel review in late 2020. HSAC developed *Technical standard for working path in scenic spots, which was released in Dec. 2020.		
O 2.1.3: a. Three local community conservation committees (CCCs) to support local sustainable production pilot activities b. Number of people	June 2021	1.TORs for consultants being formulated	Survey and workshop trainings of pilot programs were completed for sustainable livelihood activities to the selected	Survey and workshop trainings of pilot programs were completed for sustainable livelihood activities to the selected six local	Two CCCs have been established.	a) Completed. 3 CCCs have been established. (Jiulongfeng, Wuxishan, Fuxi) b) 3720 local residents benefitted from	3 CCCs have been established. (Jiulongfeng, Wuxishan, Fuxi) 4521 local residents benefitted from co-management, Community patrol	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
benefitting from sustainable production activities in target villages.			six local communities and co-management experts;	communities and co-management experts;		co-management, Community patrol team establishment, and other sustainable community employment in Pas. The preliminary draft of the "The Forest Ecotourism Demonstration Development Plan in Tianhushan PA has been completed for review. Local residents could be benefit from the Ecotourism.	team establishment, and other sustainable community employment in PAs. Includes: 801 destitute families received medical aid during the pandemic in the reporting period.		
O 2.1.4: Computer-based NR Network for Huangshan NRs	June 2021	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	The TOR was drafted and the open bidding will be in 2020.	The open tender of the website and network was carried out in late 2020. The network and database have	70% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
							been built and in function. It will be further updated.		
O 2.1.5: 2,100 ha of landscape supporting Biodiversity Conservation by insuring forest ecosystem connectivity between three NRs.	completed			A leading group has been established to prepare for the upgrading of Jiulongfeng NR to national level NR; baseline investigation and promotional video has been developed; The drafting of master plan is ongoing.	Jiulongfeng is applying to be a national NR. Xingling Co-management Protection Area and Ant Forest Construction Area have been established.	The upgrading of Jiulongfeng to national level was postponed due to the initiative of Huangshan National Park. About 2,100 ha biodiversity-friendly corridor was built between Jiulongfeng NR Yanghu protected area. Xingling Co-management Protection Area and Ant Forest Construction Area have been established.	About 6,800 ha biodiversity-friendly corridor was built between Jiulongfeng NR Yanghu protected area.	100% completed	
O 2.1.6: Competitive applied research	June, 2021	1. Biodiversity Advisory	Several surveys were conducted	Surveys have been conducted and monitoring	11 of 24 surveys were conducted and monitoring	11 of 24 surveys were conducted.	24 small research were merged into 15. First drafts of	80% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
grant program to support science-based management decision-making in project supported NRs		Committee consulted on research priorities and grant mechanism 2. Research activities to support biodiversity conservation and NR management selected	and monitoring data collected	data have been collected	data were collected.	The rest was included to 4 integrated surveys of mammalian and aquatic animals and insects. 7 researches were undertaken to support the decision-making process.	these researches were delivered. PMO designed 2 new researches and surveys which will be undertaken in 2021. Panel review was organized on June 25, 2021. The research shows the trend of the biodiversity is stable and increasing.		
O 2.1.7: Integrated monitoring program among project supported NRs level by the end of the project	June, 2021		One 10-hectare sample plot and two one-hectare sample plots already set	One big plot of 10 hectares and two small plots of 1 hectare have been established to collect data. A	One big plot of 10 hectares and two small plots of 1 hectare are collecting monitoring data. The biological	New species were founded in early 2020 via integrated monitoring program:	Integrated monitoring program (phase 1) were accomplished by co-financing.	100% completed	Achievements will exceed the original plan.

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			up; feasibility report for the construction of biological and environmental observation station filed (ECCE12169, contract for basic information database collection signed; 1st phase of monitoring system at Jiulongfeng under construction.	10-year investigation and monitoring project of terrestrial vertebrates has been launched. The biological environment monitoring baseline database (1st phase) has been set up. The 1st phase of the biodiversity monitoring system in Jiulongfeng NR is being established.	environment monitoring baseline database (1 st phase) was established. The biodiversity monitoring system in Jiulongfeng NR is being established.	(1) One big plot of 10 hectares and two small plots of 1 hectare are collecting monitoring data. Two new mammalian species were found in Huangshan in early 2020, which were named <i>Crociduraanhuiensis</i> and <i>Crocidurahuangshanensis</i> . (2) Three new species of cave insects, <i>Shenoblemus minusculus</i> , <i>Wanoblemus huangshanicus</i> and <i>Jujiroa inexpectata</i> were found in Huangshan. This is the results of	The Mid-term report of biodiversity survey and evaluation in Jiulongfeng NR was delivered to PMO in November 2020. Some findings about the second phase Integrated monitoring program (phase 2) were delivered in last reporting period. The progress report was delivered in November 2020. Panel review was organized on June 25, 2021. The final report will be delivered in December 2021.		

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
						integrated monitoring program on insect resources (Phase 1). The biological environment monitoring baseline database (1st phase) was established. The biodiversity monitoring system in Jiulongfeng NR is being established.			
O 3.1.1: Master training plan	completed		More than 150 local community residents (female upon 30%) were trained for “Agricultural and Forestry Techniques”	Bidding and national consultant contracting is ongoing.	The training plan for government officials, protected areas and community staff has been drafted.	“The Training Plan” and “the Teaching Guideline” have been finalized. The drafts of training materials for government officials,	No change since the last PIR.	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			as a part of in-kind contribution to strengthen local public awareness			protected areas and community staffs have been completed in 2019.			
O 3.1.2: 600 NR staff, 280 government officials and 120 community leaders trained	June 2021		More than 150 local community residents (female upon 30%) were trained for “Agricultural and Forestry Techniques” as a part of in-kind contribution to strengthen local public awareness	More than 300 local community residents (female upon 30%) were trained for “Agricultural and Forestry Techniques” to strengthen local public awareness. 30 NR staff have attended the first aid training to improve the capacity of working in wild environment.	Training targets were met with the support of co-financing. The project supported trainings will be organized in 2020.	In total, around 1050 person-times were trained, including NRs management (350 person-times) and communities (700 person-times). No training organized in 2020 due to CIOVID-19. The PMO will organize on-line trainings in the next period.	In total, around 1186 person-times were trained, including NRs management (380 person-times) and communities (700 person-times). 106 government officials were trained on Man and the Biosphere and biodiversity. Online training courses were developed and will carry out online training regularly in 2021.	70% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
							In addition, more than 3,000 tour guides were trained on biodiversity by co-financing in 2020.		
O 3.2.1: Public education plan	Dec. 2020		More than 150 local community residents (female upon 30%) were	Bidding and national consultant contracting is ongoing.	More than 150 local community residents (female up to 30%) were trained for "Agricultural and	The environmental education readers for tourists and community	The public education plan was developed. The environmental education readers	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
			trained for "Agricultural and Forestry Techniques to strengthen local public awareness		Forestry Technologies". Reading materials on biodiversity knowledge was drafted.	residents have been drafted.	for tourists and community residents have been drafted		
O 3.2.2: Biodiversity-based curricula in pilot primary (1) and secondary (1) schools	June 2021				The subcontract of developing the reading materials was prepared.	On October 23rd, the project provided a special "Biodiversity Conservation" science course to 53 students (31 girls) in 2 classes in Jiaocun Central School. On November 2nd-3rd, the first Anhui Provincial Children's Wild Plants Scientific Research Competition was hosted for nearly 100 pupils from three to five grade (K6-K8)	In 2020, biodiversity related activities were organized for 10 schools and 552 students (330 girls) attended the activities.	100% completed	The indicator was changed according to MTR's comments to pilot primary (1) and secondary (1) schools.

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
						from 16 counties in Anhui Province participated. Courses were given to students of 2 primary schools in Huangshan on the World Environment Day.			
O 3.2.3 Primary and secondary school readers compiling biodiversity related material for Huangshan school system	Dec. 2020	Day, Bird week, and Bird Watching Festival were organized in the four NR		Bidding and national consultant contracting is ongoing.	Environmental education plans for primary and secondary school students were developed.	Environmental education plans for primary and secondary school students has been developed, which need to be further reviewed.	The books are under revision. Authors from Anhui Writers Association and Anhui Association for science and technology and were drafting 6 books, including hydrology, geology, meteorology, animals, plants and birds. They	50% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
							will be completed in early 2022.		
O 3.3.1 "World class" biodiversity interpretation centre in Huangshan National Scenic Reserve	completed			The interpretation centre is ready to open in 2019.	A biodiversity exhibition area was set up in the Huangshan Geopark Museum.	A display venue at the Huangshan Geopark Museum was set up.	No change since previous PIR.	100% completed	
O 3.3.2 80 km of trails in HNSR posted with biodiversity conservation interpretive materials	completed	completed	completed	completed	completed	Completed in 2015 by co-financing.	80 km of trails in HNSR posted with biodiversity conservation interpretive materials was settled by the co-financing during 2016-2017 and the GEF fund was saved. With this budget, PMO supported HSAC to develop an AI machine to introduce biodiversity related knowledge to the general public.	100% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
<u>Output 4.1.1.</u> Project webpage	December 2020				The ToR of the webpage design subcontract was drafted.	TOR drafted. The website construction subcontract will be signed in late 2020.	The open tender of the website and Network was carried out in late 2020. The network and database have been built and used. It will be further updated.	70% completed	
<u>Output 4.1.2.</u> Publication of project-related best-practices in biodiversity conservation.	June 2021				The best practices are to be summarized.	2 best-practices have been summarized.	2 best-practices were identified and was disseminated to other NRs through training and will be shared during CBD COP15 events in 2021.	50% completed	
<u>Output 4.1.3.</u> Peer-to peer consultative workshops for NR staff.	June 2021				Regular meetings and workshops have been held for NR staff for experience exchange.	Very few meetings and workshops organized due to COVID-19 in early 2020. PMO communicated with members of	Consultation activities were combined with training for NR staff in August 2020. 29 attendees with 3 women.	90% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
						PSC, BCC and BAC regularly through phone calls.			
<u>Output 4.1.4.</u> Project monitoring system providing six-monthly reports on progress in achieving project outputs and outcomes	Every six months until the end of the Project in 2019	Progress reports for period Jan.- June, July- December 2015 prepared . Progress report for Jan.- June 2016 being translated to English	Staff member and experts for M&E are in place at HSAC. 4 Project Progress Reports of GEF- Huangshan available.	7 PPRs have been submitted to FAO.	9 PPRs have been submitted to FAO.	9 th and 10 th PPR were approved.	The 11 th PPR was approved.	90% completed	
<u>Output 4.1.5.</u> Midterm and final evaluations carried out and	Second half of 2017 for midterm and 2019 for		Staff member and experts for M&E are in place at HSAC.		The MTE report was finalized in June 2019.	MTE was completed in the 1st half of 2019. The overall	No change since the last PIR.	50% completed	

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴						Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR	6 th PIR		
reports disseminated	final evaluations					rating is satisfactory.			

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

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

The overall progress of this project was well under way during the reporting period. As of June 30, 2021, about 9 out of 13 outcome level indicators have been achieved. 15 out of 24 outputs have been completed. The remaining outcomes and most of outputs will be achieved before the project NTE.

Cumulative achievements for the project outcomes are 1) biodiversity mainstreaming, biodiversity was mainstreamed in 6 different municipal departments, including forestry, environment protection, tourism, agriculture, water resources, fisheries departments. Biodiversity conservation was included into economic plans, for instance, Planning of Xin'an River Eco-economic demonstration area. 2) Management effectiveness improved through management plans developed and capacity building provided. 3) Public awareness raised through various activities. 4) Biodiversity status improved through the corridor construction. Etc.

Highlights in the reporting period are the public awareness activities for the students that were carried out in many local schools, reaching 5 primary and 5 secondary schools and 552 students (including 330 girls).

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

Short of staff has always been a problem of the PMO. There had been 2 key staff in the PMO, and FAO recruited a part-time consultant and a part-time assistant to help accelerating the implementation. However, one of the key PMO staff has been assigned to another position in early 2021, but no new member has been assigned to the PMO yet. FAO will discuss with the operational partner to find a solution.

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

	FY2021 Development Objective rating ¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating ¹⁷	Comments/reasons ¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	<i>Most project outcomes and outputs have been achieved.</i>
Budget Holder	S	S	<i>Most project outcomes and outputs have been achieved. Some achievements would exceed the original design.</i>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<i>In spite of COVID-19 related restrictions and under-staffing, the team has been successful in moving the project implementation forward during the reporting period. It is promising to see that many outputs have been completed, in some cases the delivery has even exceeded the targets. In the remaining project duration, maximum efforts have to be made to address the staffing and disbursement issues. The exit strategy including communication, knowledge management and outreach needs to get particular attention in order to maximise the project impact and project sustainability – most of these elements are related to project Outcome 4.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point	S	S	<i>Most project outcomes and outputs have been achieved. Some achievements would exceed the original design.</i>

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

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

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

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

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

FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<i>The PMO, though under-staffed, is committed to deliver quality and timely project implementation. Also during this reporting period, the PMO has made a solid progress towards achieving the project objective. However, the situation on the disbursement has not yet improved significantly, which is a concern considering the scheduled project completion.</i>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

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

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

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

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>

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

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE

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

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	<u>Inter-institutional Coordination</u> . Poor coordination among protected areas administered by different line agencies could undermine the achievement of conservation objectives by limiting the effectiveness of human and financial resources in improving management of individual PAs and their networks.	M	Project design has provided for adequate resources, both in terms of time and financing, to support the needed consultation and participation to reach an agreed vision, strategy (the master plan) and priority actions to be supported by the project. During project preparation, initial consultative efforts laid the basis for the development of the necessary institutional arrangements to support project objectives. These resulted in the establishment of the Biodiversity Consultative Committee (BCC) led by the municipal government leaders with representatives from all participating sectors. Over the longer term, the sustainability of the approach will be supported through the project's policy, institutional arrangements and strengthening and public awareness activities. During implementation, it will be the primary task of the PMO to ensure that the necessary institutional arrangements and consultation continue and to identify and resolve any potential issues early before they begin to affect implementation.	The PSC has been re-established in 2019. FAO has recruited a national technical advisor to help build the connection, especially with the forest sector because the other NRs are under the supervision of the forest department.	With the re-established PSC and the new NTA, the inter-institutional coordination was strengthened, but the actual cooperation with the forest sector is still to be improved.

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

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

2	<p><u>Policy Formulation.</u> Slow uptake of policy recommendations stemming from project supported policy studies could prolong the current situation characterized by growing threats to forest biodiversity, low management effectiveness and limited inter-institutional collaboration in response to existing threats and constraints.</p>	L	<p>As a risk, this was addressed in project design through promoting a number of capacity building and public awareness raising activities in support of relevant policy reforms directed at both key decision makers as well as the public at large and includes site visits to areas where policy related studies and related activities are being supported. Working directly with the Municipal mayor's office through the BCC will facilitate policy reform. To monitor performance, the project has integrated tracking tools (in its M&E system). During the project inception workshop a proposal to integrate these with well defined triggers to ensure a timely integration of policy reforms into municipal policy frameworks will be introduced and discussed.</p>	<p>Biodiversity were mainstreamed in 13th FYP. Policy outputs and outcomes are developed and submitted to government. Some policies have been issued. The 14th FYP is in revision and biodiversity will still be highlighted.</p>	<p>The MTE agrees that the policy targets of the project are too ambitious. The approval of the policies is a long and complicated process of the government and it is out of the project's control. Therefore, some indicators have been revised to be more realistic. Most policy targets have been achieved.</p>
3	<p>Insufficient and timely provision of co-financing</p>	L	<p>Environmental protection is becoming a high priority issue at all political levels in China including the conservation of biodiversity. The availability of co-financing is not judged to be a significant issue, particularly in the relatively well-developed municipality such as Huangshan. This assessment is further supported by the high priority that the government is placing on ecotourism for the municipality's future development and economic well-being.</p>	<p>The project has reached the co-financing targets.</p>	<p>Co-financing is sufficient and on time.</p>

4	<p><u>Climate Change.</u> Climate change as manifested through increased drought and heightened risk of forest fire could undermine the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives</p>	M	<p>The project will integrate <i>inter-alia</i> climate risks and climate proofing measures into the NR management plan preparation process as well as the planning process of specific NRs to promote the integration of adaptation measures. Similarly, climate change variation will be taken into account in the monitoring programme and working with local communities in identification and piloting of alternative / sustainable livelihoods to account for climatic variability. The project will also forge linkages and synergies with on-going projects and efforts to mainstream adaptation and to contribute to the knowledge base through its information dissemination and public awareness activities.</p>	<p>Climate change has been considered during project implementation. Although there are disasters in the recent years, the impact is still under control.</p>	
5	<p><u>Invasive Species.</u> Forest pests (and other invasive species possibly associated with climate change) could affect the ecological “health” of the forest ecosystems targeted by the project.</p>	M	<p>The project will support a science based monitoring program to provide advance warning of possible outbreaks of pests and/or evidence of invasive species. Protocols will be established among NRs participating in the network for facilitate a coherent and cost-effective response to this risk.</p>	<p>The invasive species of the forest is under control. However, the invasive species of the surrounding farmlands need more attention and assessment, which has been pointed during MTE.</p>	<p>Research about the Invasive Species was carried out. There is no significant impact on the project.</p>
6	<p><u>Currency Risk.</u> Significant fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates may pose a risk to the achievement of all project outputs and outcomes.</p>	L	<p>This has been addressed through incorporating appropriate price contingencies in the project budget.</p>	<p>The national partner has provided sufficient co-financing to mitigate the risk.</p>	<p>The exchange rate did not change much during the years. The national partner have achieved many outputs with the support of co-financing.</p>

7	<p><u>Capacity Risk.</u> The PMO does not have sufficient capacity or human resources to keep up the implementation speed.</p>	H	<p>FAO has recruited a national technical advisor to support the project management and implementation.</p>	<p>NTA started working in January 2020 and a project assistant was recruited by FAO in early 2021. Both will continue supporting the project until the end of the project. .</p>	<p>The human resource and capacity of the PMO is not sufficient. Although FAO has recruited the national technical advisor and an assistant, but the newly appointed project manager has been assigned to work in a village, which will definitely affect the project implementation in the future.</p>
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Project overall risk rating (Low, Medium, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	M	<p>The project will extend for another 12 months until September 17, 2022. However, because of the change of the key PMO staff, it is uncertain if the project could complete all activities on time.</p>

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy

Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

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

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	N/A
Recommendation 2:	N/A
Recommendation 3:	N/A
Recommendation 4:	N/A

Adjustments to the project strategy.

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

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	No	No change in the reporting period.
Project Indicators/Targets	No	No change in the reporting period.

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluations or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval,

please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Due to the pandemic, the outdoor survey and other activities were postponed and the extension will further enhance the best practices dissemination through CBD COP15 and other big events, around \$500,000 will be planned for some new activities before September 2021. Base on the reason above, PMO applied for another 12 month project extension. Draft revised workplan and budget will be prepared by the PMO before mid-September 2021 for review.

8. Stakeholders Engagement

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

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

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

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

1. List of all stakeholders:

Anhui Forestry Department, Huangshan Municipal Forestry Bureau, Huangshan Municipal Ecological and Environment Bureau, Green Anhui. The departments/organizations listed above were all PSC members and Green Anhui is a NGO.

Other stakeholders, including the NR staff from 12 Reserves, local communities, students, teachers, medias and third-party contractors, etc.

2. The project actively works with NGOs, including Green Anhui and The Paradise, especially on trainings and communication. NGO organized training and communication activities for NR staff and officials.

3. Green Anhui is one of the PSC members of FAO-GEF Huangshan project. The responsible person attended the project PSC meetings every year. Green Anhui has developed training plan for Huangshan project, provided training for NRs and supported co-management, etc. One of the Huangshan project sites, Jiulongfeng NR has been partly entrusted to Green Anhui by the government for management of 50 years. Green Anhui invited PMO to join the nature education activities in Hangzhou. Staff of Huangshan GEF project attended the 7th nature Carnival in early June.

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

Green Anhui introduced the foundation, The Paradise International, and then a new agriculture social enterprise, named Qianniaogu was founded to support Jiulongfeng. The company supported local residents to develop alternative livelihood and increased the income. It promised that all the income of the company will be returned to the Green Anhui for conservation. In the reporting period in late 2020, Green Anhui aligned with the company to provide medicines to Huangshan local residents.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)
<p>Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?</p> <p>No. The project is collecting data on female involvement in project activities.</p>
<p>Does the project staff have gender expertise?</p> <p>Yes. The new NTA has experience of GEF projects and gender monitoring.</p>
<p>If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; - ✓ improving women's participation and decision making; and or - ✓ generating socio-economic benefits or services for women
<p>For the technical training, females were encouraged to attend trainings organized by PMO and third-party contractors. For the training for the communities, more than 50% trainees were female in total. In 2020, biodiversity related activities were organized for 5 primary and 5 secondary schools and 552 students (330 girls) attended the activities under Output 3.2.2.</p>

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far. <p>1. The knowledge management strategy was not developed at CEO endorsement stage. Since national technical advisor joint the PMO after MTR, she has summarized 2 best practices with stakeholders for dissemination, including the "Sustainable development policies of Huangshan Scenic Area" and "Entrusted management -- a new mode of social organizations participating in nature conservation". The latter was selected as a case study in the report produced by Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, which will be released during CBD COP15 in 2021. The best practices were also disseminated through trainings to 3-4 level NRs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year. <p>2. The project did not have a communication strategy. After NTA joined the project, the communication activities were categorized and budget was allocated for communications. PMO have signed contracts for communication</p>

service, and organized communication activities with NGOs. For instance, staff of Huangshan GEF project and partners from NGO attended the 7th nature Carnival in early June under Output 4.1.2.

- Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.

N/A

- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.

Communication activities:

Public awareness raising for students in September 2020: https://www.sohu.com/a/420271327_531786

Staff of Huangshan GEF project attended the 7th nature Carnival in early June:

<http://hsgwh.huangshan.gov.cn/xwzx/jqdt/8899322.html>

- Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses
4. The project has no knowledge management focal point. Please contact the national technical advisor, Ms. LENG Fei, fei.leng@fao.org for communication related issues of the project .

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

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

Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?
There is no indigenous people in the project site.

12. Innovative Approaches

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

Output 3.3.2, 80 km of trails in HNSR posted with biodiversity conservation interpretive materials was settled by the co-financing during 2016-2017 and the GEF fund was saved. With this budget, PMO made adaptive management and supported HSAC to develop an AI machine to introduce biodiversity related knowledge to the general public. AI machine was used to avoid in-person communication, which is more acceptable during the pandemic period. It is used in the tourism center.

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

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

- Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.
Some outing activities, e.g. site visits and field surveys, were affected by COVID-19 which will influence the timeline of the progress and achievements.
- Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?
MTR is completed. TE will start in March 2022.
- What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
COVID-19 influenced the local residents who rely on tourism/eco-tourism, but on the other hand, COVID-19 made positive impact to the environment due to less visitors.
- Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?
Two good practices have been summarized. More good practices will be summarized before TE.

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

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Municipal Government	Huangshan Administrative Committee (HSAC)	Cash/in-kind	5,473,612	5,838,943	4,438,943	5,473,612
Municipal Government	Huangshan Municipal Bureau of Finance	Cash	3,900,000	2,973,555	2,373,555	3,900,000
County Government	Yixian County Bureau of Forestry	In-kind	88,200	238,594	238,594	88,200
Tourism Company	Huangshan Tourism Development Company	Cash	372,000	301,994	301,994	372,000

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

Village Producer's Councils	Shanchacun Village of Tangkou Town, Fucun Village of Gengcheng Town, Chengcun Village of Jiaocun Town, Shanglingcun Village of Jiaocun Town, Lianguangcun Village of Hongxing Town,	In-kind	436,500	124,546	124,546	436,500
NGO	The Paradise	In-kind	0	1,213,520	913,520	0
other	Jiulongfeng Provincial PA	Cash/in-kind	0	548,520	548,520	548,520
GEF Agency	FAO	in kind	237,900	326,787	242,259	242,259
		TOTAL	10,508,212	11,566,459	9,181,931	11,056,732

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

There is an increase of the total co-financing than committed because: 1) new co-financing sources have been identified as Jiulongfeng Provincial Protected Area and The Paradise, because a partnership has been established with The Paradise, who is responsible for the management of Jiulongfeng PA; 2) the project has been extended for 2 years.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

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

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