



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report 2022 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Table of contents

1. BASIC PROJECT DATA	2
2. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) (DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE)	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP).....	11
4. SUMMARY ON PROGRESS AND RATINGS	22
5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS (ESS)	27
6. RISKS	29
7. FOLLOW-UP ON MID-TERM REVIEW OR SUPERVISION MISSION	35
8. MINOR PROJECT AMENDMENTS	41
9. STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT.....	42
10. GENDER MAINSTREAMING	44
11. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	45
12. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT.....	47
13. CO-FINANCING TABLE	48

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 (years):	7 years
Project coordinates:	<i>Submitted online</i>

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	February 12, 2014
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	September 17, 2014
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	September 16, 2019
Revised project implementation end date (if approved) ²	September 17, 2023

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 2,607,273
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc³:	USD 10,508,212
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2022 (USD)⁴:	USD 2,572,994
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2022⁵	USD 11,671,031

¹ As per FPMIS

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

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

⁴ For DEX projects, the GEF Coordination Unit will confirm the final amount with the Finance Division in HQ. For OPIM projects, the disbursement amount should be provided by Execution Partners.

⁵ Please refer to the section 12 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

M&E Milestones

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	March 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	
Actual Mid-term review date (when it is done):	March 2019
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date⁷:	June 2022
Tracking tools/Core indicators updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes.

Overall ratings

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

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low
---	-----

Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	7 th PIR
--	---------------------

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Guo Ke, HSAC	mailto:Wei.zhao@fao.org gkray@163.com
Budget Holder	Carlos Watson, FAOR of China	carlos.watson@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Sheila Wertz, LTO, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	sheila.wertz@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Yurie Naito, Technical Officer	Yurie.naito@fao.org

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

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

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

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level at 30 June 2022	Progress rating ¹¹
Global Environmental Objective: The goal of the proposed project is to secure the effective conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the mountainous forest	Outcome 1.1 An integrated approach to the conservation and management of forest biodiversity supported by a coherent policy, planning and institutional framework in	<u>Outcome 1.1:</u> Number of large scale plans that incorporate biodiversity as a planning priority	<u>Component 1:</u> Biodiversity not described as a planning priority in Municipal 12th 5 Year Social and Economic Development Plan		<u>Component 1:</u> Biodiversity conservation identified as a priority in the Municipal 13th 5 Year Social and Economic Development Plan.	100% Achieved. Following the 13th five year plan of Huangshan Municipality, biodiversity conservation (BC) has become the main subject of three long-term plans, including the 14th five year plan, Xin'an River Eco-Economic Area (XREA) and the establishment plan of ecological civilization construction demonstration district. According to these plans, the ecological conservation space of Huangshan Municipality has been expanded, and the protective restricted development area has accounted for more than 90% of the city's area.	S

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic Co-benefits as well.

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

ecosystems of Huangshan Municipality.	Huangshan Municipality.					In addition, the important government forums and norms of Huangshan Municipality, such as the Salon of "building a mountain of ecological civilization in a new era" for youth in Huangshan scenic area, and the implementation plan of the activity of "Creating a demonstration area for ecological civilization construction" in Huangshan District, all cover the core theme of biodiversity.	
	Outcome 2.1 An increase in Average management efficiency in 6 project supported nature reserves included in the municipal network of protected areas improving the status of biodiversity.	Outcome 2.1a: BD TT score for management efficiency of NRs	Component 2: 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.		Component 2: 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.	100% achieved. Compared with the METT assessment results, with the support of GEF, the scores of METT in the NR such as NR facility, management plan formulation, habitat and species monitoring and conservation, capacity building, environmental education activities, co-management development, NR M&E have significantly increased, the METT management effectiveness score of the NRs increased 56% since 2012 and has been greatly improved	HS Exceeded the original targets
	# 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	100% achieved. Outside the reserve, the forest chief system and co-management have promoted an overall and long-term socialized participation management mechanism and effectively conserved the 6,800 ha biodiversity corridor area.	S	

					Total: 103,000 ha.	In 2020, Huangshan City completed the integration and optimization of natural reserves, which further defined the legal management and control areas of the ecological red line area. After the integration and optimization of NRs, 26 natural reserves, with a vector area of 117936.4 hectares, have been effectively protected by laws and regulations. 60 country reserves retaining a total of 35504 ha have been included in the strict management and control area of Huangshan ecological red line.	
		Number of hectares of productive landscape into which biodiversity conservation practices and objectives are mainstreamed	0		46,614 ha agriculture/forest land 3,800 ha forest land (corridor). Total: 50,414 ha.	100% achieved. Commercial logging of natural forests was stopped, and the management and conservation of 47,647.8 hectares of public welfare forests were strengthened; Co-management promotes both conservation awareness and protected area increase. Three community protected areas totaling 4,500 ha in Guocun village connecting Wuxishan (PNR) and Jiulongfeng (NNR) have been formed, Jiulongfeng NR developed another protected areas of 2700 ha..	HS Exceeded the original targets
		Number of sectors into which biodiversity conservation objectives are mainstreamed.	0		3 Direct (Forestry, Ecotourism, Agriculture) 3 Indirect (fisheries, water, transport)	100% achieved.	S

		Outcome 2.1b: Improvement in biodiversity species indicators: a) Population of Paa spinosa	Population numbers of Paa spinosa (amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 17.		Population numbers of Paa spinosa (amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 26.	100% achieved. Latest investigation in 2022 shows, population numbers of Paa spinosa found in 1,000 meter transects in the 5 project supported NRs are: Lingnan 40, Qingliangfeng 58.5, Tianhushan 72.5, Wuxishan 40, Jilongfeng 50. Only Huanshan NR is 20 less than 26. The latest results are added.	S
		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=ZYZJ199103007)		No change. 22 species recorded at end of project.	100% achieved.	S
		c) Numbers of Chinese Yew (Taxus spp.) in 6 project supported NRs (tier 1 and tier 2 project supported NRs)	Baseline and targets to be established in 1st semester of project implementation)		Population of Yew to be maintained over life of project.	100% achieved.	S
		d) Populations of four plant indicator species	Baseline and targets to be established in 1st semester of		Populations of four species to be maintained over life of project.	100% achieved. In 2021, after the discussion between the project expert advisory committee and the project experts, except for the retention of <i>Rhododendron Huangshan</i> ,	S

		(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)	project implementation)			the other three plants were replaced by <i>Quercus stewardii</i> Rehd, <i>Berberis anhweiensis</i> Ahrendt and <i>Cornus kousa</i> subsp. <i>chinensis</i> (Osborn) Q. Y. Xiang. The monitoring report resent coming shows the 4 indicator plants distributed well and kept in good condition. LTO has approved the three new plant species and corrected one of the names as <i>Enkianthus chinensis</i> , the other one with two different names (<i>Quercus stewardii</i> and <i>Quercus dentata</i> subsp. <i>Stewardii</i>) has been confirmed to be the same plant.	
	Outcome 3.1 Increased institutional capacity and public and political support for the conservation of biodiversity in China’s forest ecosystems.	<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. With the support of national regulations on wildlife protection, through GEF project training, communication and education, and in cooperation with the natural assets departure and in-service audit system of government leaders, the biodiversity and wildlife protection system has gone deep into all departments and all areas of society. Projects supported school environmental education has become the regular course. Activities are carried out every year on 14 special days related to environment and	S

						<p>conservation, which are evenly distributed for 12 months, and almost participated by all government departments and all urban groups.</p> <p>Until now, 14 primary schools have participated the biodiversity mainstream pilot activities, they are: Huangshan Jiaocun central school, Huangshan Gantang primary school, Tunxi Jiangnan experimental primary school, Tunxi Longshan experimental primary school, Tunxi Baishu primary school, Tunxi Bainiaoting primary school, Tunxi modern experimental school, Qishan Primary School of Qimen County, Chengbei School of Qimen County, Tangkou Central Primary School, Ivy experimental school, Hefei Furong primary school, Tanjiaqiao central school and gengcheng central school.</p> <p>3 middle schools Participated the biodiversity mainstream pilot activities, Huangshan Jiaocun Central School (Middle School Department), Tangkou central school and Gantang Central School.</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	<p>100% achieved.</p> <p>The following economic sector development plan have incorporated biodiversity conservation, they are: The 14th Five Year Forestry Plan of Huangsha municipal. Planning for Aquaculture Shoals in Huangshan (2021-2030). The 14th Five Year Plan of Culture and</p>	S

						Tourism of Huangshan Municipal. The 14th Five Year Plan of Rural modernization in Huangshan Municipal.	
		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	100% achieved. The visitors to Wuxishan NR from 2017-2022 were 4634, and visitors to Linnan NR from 2020-2022 were 198083 and visitors to Jiulongfeng NR from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022 were 64,200. The total number of the visitors to Project supported NRs were more than 266921 during last four years.	HS Exceeded the original targets
	Outcome 4.1 Evidence that “lessons learned” from the project are being taken up and replicated elsewhere in the non-participating NRs.	<u>Outcome 4.1:</u> Number of Tier 3 and 4 NRs adopting new approaches generated by the project	Huangshan’s tier 3 and 4 NRs have no CCCs, co-management plans and/or participation in network		Five (5) Tier-3 and/or Tier-4 NRs adopt one or more of the new approaches generated by the project during life of project.	100% achieved. The knowledge management and lessons learned of the project can be easily and quickly shared through the public web page and special web page of GEF website. 1. Website address: http://www.ahhsgef.com/ 2. Data base address: http://119.3.202.16:8033/admin/index.aspx The tool kits of the community development in the NRs and the practices of community alternative livelihoods have been summarized and improved for sharing and using for NRs in Tier 3 and 4. At the same time, the web page also builds an effective way for the public to obtain the best practice achievements of the project.	S

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

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

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
<u>Outcome 1.1</u>	Number of large scale economic development plans that identify biodiversity as a priority.			
<u>Output 1.1.1</u>	Policies adopted for: (i) the conservation of biodiversity, (ii) establishment of a municipal NR	Work completed	100% Completed.	

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
	system and (iii) management of alien species in Huangshan municipality.		The three policies, i.e. i) The Guidelines of Biodiversity Conservation in Huangshan Municipality, ii) The Implementation Plan for Natural Reserve Conservation in Huangshan Municipality, and iii) The Implementation Opinions for Management and Control of Alien Species in Huangshan Municipality, as the guiding documents of the government, stipulate the requirements and measures for biodiversity conservation in Huangshan Municipality, define the NR network building and management, and the effective management and control measures for alien species. At the same time, it also provides biodiversity conservation decision support for Huangshan Municipality and Huangshan District in preparing various department work plans and social economic development plans.	
Output 1.1.2	Two draft policies addressing specific biodiversity conservation issues.	Work completed	<p>100% Completed in 2021.</p> <p>Under the guidance of the above three policies, Huangshan Municipality issued five measures again in December 2021 to promote the building and effective management of the NR system, promote the financing of the NRs and improve the infrastructure capacity of the reserve.</p> <p>Huangshan Municipality has formulated a “one forest one policy” forest management plan based on biodiversity conservation, which has strengthened the conservation of natural forests and expanded the areas of biodiversity conservation. The Forest Chief system policy reinforced the government and socialized</p>	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			management system in all forest areas, resulted in the effectively managed forest ecosystem and biodiversity outside the NRs.	
<u>Output 1.1.3</u>	Three long-term plans to guide the implementation of the two project supported policies (i and ii of Output 1.1.1) and a municipal forest ecotourism master plan developed and under initial implementation.	The Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Huangshan Municipality is revised.	100% Completed. The implementation of the three policies has promoted the integration of biodiversity conservation into the later large area economic planning. Biodiversity conservation has become a key content in the 14th five year plan of Huangshan Municipality and the planning of the ecological and economic demonstration zone in Xin'an River Basin. The Huangshan Forest Tourism Development Plan (2013-2020) has been developed and ready for implementation.	
<u>Output 1.1.4</u>	A permanent Biodiversity Conservation Committee (BCC-policy) functioning with regular meetings.	Biodiversity Conservation Committee meeting Seminar meeting organized.	100% Completed. The Biodiversity Conservation Committee established in 2014 has been playing a its coordination role in formulating conservation policies, and promoting the implementation of the policies among various government departments	
<u>Output 1.1.5</u>	A permanent Biodiversity Advisory Committee (technical) functioning and providing technical support to the BCC.	Project implementation report is reviewed by the BCC.	100% Completed. The expert group of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee established in 2014 provides the scientific basis for the government to formulate conservation policies, and has become an important think tank for the government in the future.	
<u>Outcome 2.1a</u>	BD TT score for management efficiency of NRs			

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
<u>Outcome 2.1b</u>	Improvement in biodiversity species indicators:			
<u>Output 2.1.1</u>	Sector plan promoting the integration of biodiversity conservation as management objective integrated into Huangshan NSR master management plan developed and under initial implementation.	Formulating Sector Plan for Biodiversity Conservation in Huangshan NSR.	100% Completed. Under the promotion of the project, HNSR has developed the "fourteenth five year plan" for ecological environment conservation in Huangshan District after the development of the action plans on biodiversity and sewage treatment, with special emphasis on carrying out regional biodiversity investigation and supervision, strengthening the prevention and control of alien invasive species, and effectively ensuring the process of HNSR biodiversity conservation.	
<u>Output 2.1.2</u>	Management plans (2) and framework plans (3) for the remaining 5 project supported NRs developed and under initial implementation.	Training of NR management.	100% Completed. The management plans and Administration Measure of the 5 NRs have been completed and implemented. During the preparation process, each NR has carried out 2-3 management plan preparation training and information sharing respectively, which further strengthened the NRs' understanding of the national requirements of the management plan and provided strong support for the NR in various aspects such as scientific research, monitoring, efficient management and community co-management.	
<u>Output 2.1.3a</u>	Six local community co-management committees (CCCs) to assist NR staff in conserving local biodiversity resources.	CCCs meeting and training.	100% Completed. Driven by CCCs (Comunity Co-management Committees of Shangling, Tangliu and Datong villages), community protected areas have	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			<p>been established and community patrol teams have been established to effectively conserve the biodiversity outside the NRs.</p> <p>During the implementation of co-management, the Green Anhui , Huangshan Qianniaogu Ecological Technology Co., Ltd., Jiulongfeng NR and local communities work together to create the "Jiulongfeng model" of co-management, which is characterized by the establishment of a new mechanism for social welfare organizations to participate in the sustainable management and development of natural resources in the nature reserve.</p>	
<u>Output 2.1.3b</u>	Number of people benefitting from sustainable production activities in target villages.	Evaluation on co-management.	<p>100% Completed.</p> <p>The project has helped 410 households around Jiulongfeng NR in total, and 5000 people have sold nearly 4.2 million Yuan in tea, local special products, shrimp and rice, with an additional income of 20000 yuan per household.</p>	
<u>Output 2.1.4</u>	Computer-based NR Network for Huangshan NRs	Web-site and data base.	<p>100% Completed.</p> <p>The project webpage has been put into operation, including the public access webpage and the internal access port for the exchange of NR network members. The content covers project information, special research, conservation lessons learned, best practice of community co-management in the area, public and school education achievements, etc., and has become a two-way communication and exchange channel between the NRs.</p>	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			<p>Website address: 1.Website address: http://www.ahhsgef.com/ 2.Data base address: http://119.3.202.16:8033/admin/index.aspx</p> <p>As planned by the project exit strategy, the website will be managed by the Huangshan Garden Bureau as the NR exchange platform after the project is completed.</p>	
<u>Output 2.1.5</u>	3,800 ha of landscape supporting Biodiversity Conservation by insuring forest ecosystem connectivity between three NRs.	Work completed.	<p>100% Completed.</p> <p>Through the "one forest, one policy" forest management policy system at the municipal level, commercial logging of natural forests is completely stopped, the conservation and management of 47647.8 hectares of public welfare forests has been strengthened, and a biodiversity corridor was formed.</p> <p>Through co-management, three community protected areas have been established: the Yanghucun community protected area of 1000 ha, the Shanglingcun community protected area of 2300 ha, and the Datongcun community protected area of 1200 ha, resulted in an effectively increasing the biodiversity corridor between Wuxishan and Jiulongfeng protected areas.</p>	
<u>Output 2.1.6</u>	Competitive applied research grant program to support science-based management decision-making in project supported NRs	Survey and monitoring of Key Animals and Plants.	<p>100% Completed.</p> <p>Through 25 small grant scientific research projects, the monitoring of key indicator species, biodiversity value assessment and ecosystem status assessment in Huangshan scenic area were completed, providing decision</p>	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			support for regional conservation and sustainable development and the management of NRs.	
<u>Output 2.1.7</u>	Integrated monitoring program among project supported NRs operating and baseline established.	Forest Ecological System Monitoring (Huangshan NNSR and Jiulongfeng NR) (integrated monitoring project).	<p>100% Completed.</p> <p>The construction of long-term ecosystem monitoring system in Huangshan has been completed, including three large, long term plot of Forest Research in HNSR, 6 forest plant and biodiversity monitoring sites, 6 soil monitoring sites, 4 water quality monitoring sites, 5 hydro and meteorological monitoring sites, various ecosystem monitoring stations and other positioning monitoring systems, and has been used as the long-term ecosystem monitoring system in Huangshan.</p> <p>The ground monitoring report of Huangshan forest ecological environment in 2021 shows that the regional ecosystem is stable and balanced, with extremely rich biodiversity resources and unique species diversity. It has a large number of rare and endangered species, including 4 species of national level I key protected wild plants, 35 species of national level II key protected wild plants, 10 species of national level I key protected animals and 55 species of national level II key protected animals.</p> <p>Furthermore, 2 new mammalian species in Huangshan were found in early 2020 and named as <i>Crocidura anhuiensis</i> and <i>Crocidura huangshanensis</i>. 3 new species of cave insects were found, named as <i>Shenoblemus</i></p>	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			minusculus, Wanoblemus huangshanicus and Jujiroa inexpectata.	
<u>Outcome 3.1</u>	Number of schools that mainstream biodiversity modules into their curricula			
<u>Outcome 3.2</u>	Number of economic sector development plans that mainstream biodiversity			
<u>Outcome 3.3</u>	Number of visits to Huangshan NRs.			
<u>Output 3.1.1</u>	Master training plan.	Work completed.	100% Completed.	
<u>Output 3.1.2</u>	600 NR staff, 280 government official and 120 community leaders trained.	Implementing training plan.	100% Completed. Huangshan Municipality forestry bureau held a training course on the development and management capacity of NRs in the city. On April 20, 2022, more than 110 persons, include people from each district and County Forestry Bureau, from Nature Reserve Station and from relevant law enforcement departments, and the technical members of each NRs participated in the training. In total, 560 NR staff, 260government official and 700 community leaders and villagers have been trained from 2014 to 2022.	
<u>Output 3.2.1</u>	Project public education plan.	Work completed.	100% Completed. According to the project indicators, the public education plan has been prepared, and the training work has been completed and will be continued as planned.	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
<u>Output 3.2.2</u>	Biodiversity-based curricula applied in pilot primary (1) and secondary (1) schools.	Biodiversity-based curricula applied in pilot primary and secondary schools	100% Completed. In order to achieve the goal of long-term sustainable environmental education, the school textbooks have been revised according to the early use, and training for teacher has started.	
<u>Output 3.2.3</u>	Annual primary and secondary school readers compiling biodiversity related material for Huangshan school system.	Publishing the readers.	100% Completed. A series of six school readers, including hydrology, geography, meteorology, animals, plants and birds has been published by the Beijing Times Chinese Language Book Company, total copies printed 6*2000 volumes.	
<u>Output 3.3.1</u>	"World class" biodiversity interpretation center in Huangshan National Scenic Reserve.	Work completed.	100% Completed. The biodiversity conservation media activities and educational materials on display in the exhibition hall have been in function, including an artificial intelligence travel service robot and display boards in English and Chinese to interpret the value of the biodiversity in Huangshan along the 80 km trail .	
<u>Output 3.3.2</u>	80 km of trails in HNSR posted with biodiversity conservation interpretive materials.	Install billboards.	100% Completed. 80 km of trails exhibition has been visited by more than 1.5 million domestic tourists and 200 000 foreign tourists from 2018 to 2020.	
<u>Outcome 4.1</u>	Number of Tier 3 and 4 NRs adopting new approaches generated by the project			
<u>Output 4.1.1</u>	Project webpage.	Operationalization of web page	100% Completed.	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			<p>The web page has been completed. The contents related to the sharing of achievements in the NR network of Huangshan Municipality , summaries of experiences of the management of NR, research and monitoring information, capacity-building can be found and exchanged through public access or authorized access.</p> <p>Knowledge and capacity needs assessment, integrated monitoring system and other contents are fully integrated to provide rich information support for Huangshan Municipality NR Network. Website address: 1. Website address: http://www.ahhsgef.com/ 2. Data base address: http://119.3.202.16:8033/admin/index.aspx</p>	
<u>Output 4.1.2</u>	Publication of project-related "best-practices" in biodiversity conservation.	Selection and evaluation of "best-practices"	<p>100% Completed. The following best practices be summarized for publication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity conservation policies to improve the network management efficiency and capacity building of protected areas; 2. BCC is combined with the forest chief system to establish an efficient decision- 	

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
			making and socialized management mechanism for biodiversity conservation; 3. Co-management and win-win results in an expanding the scope of community biodiversity conservation; 4. The new model of socialized management in the nature reserve, "Jiulongfeng model": the new mechanism for social welfare organizations to participate in the sustainable management and development of natural resources in the nature reserve	
<u>Output 4.1.3</u>	Peer-to peer consultative workshops for NR staff.	workshops	100% Completed	
<u>Output 4.1.4</u>	Project monitoring system providing six-monthly reports on progress in achieving project outputs and outcomes		90% completed. PPRs and PIRs have been submitted and is ongoing.	
<u>Output 4.1.5</u>	Midterm and final evaluations carried out and reports disseminated.		70% completed. Midterm evaluation was completed and Final Evaluation has started.	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcome of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR.

Progress

By the end of June 2022, the project objectives and 13 outcomes have been achieved, and 25 outputs supporting the achievement of objectives and outcomes have been completed.

Outcome

Component1:

Since 2021, under the influence of three policies promoted by the project, biodiversity conservation has been further incorporated into more than ten government planning and guiding norms, including: Huangshan Municipality's 14th five year plan, Huangshan District's 14th five year plan for ecological environment protection, Huangshan Municipality's 14th five year plan for forestry conservation and development, Huangshan City's 14th five year plan for water resource development, Huangshan local standard "technical specification for accounting of gross ecosystem product (GEP)" etc., covering forestry, water resource, agriculture, land and resources and other departments. On the other hand, biodiversity conservation has now become an important topic in Huangshan Municipality and Huangshan District government's important forums and ecological civilization construction plans, such as the theme Salon of "building a mountain of ecological civilization in a new era" in Huangshan scenic area, the implementation plan of Huangshan District's "establishment year of ecological civilization construction demonstration area" and so on.

In the municipal and district level natural resources management system, Huangshan District has adjusted and clearly defined the management responsibilities and scope of the district level forest chief and the responsible areas of each member. At the beginning of 2022, Huangshan Municipality held a joint meeting of "forest chief + procurators", proposing to promote co-governance according to law, strengthening the conservation and management of forest resources, improving the conservation and management efficiency, actively creating a national ecological civilization construction demonstration area, strengthening the supervision of NR network and the conservation of biodiversity. As a result of the promotion of government policies and conservation actions, the restricted development areas in the ecological conservation space of Huangshan Municipality have accounted for more than 90% of the total city area.

Component 2:

In terms of management efficiency and capacity of nature reserves, the operation guide for co-management of nature reserves was completed and relevant training was carried out in 2021.

The project cooperates with The Paradise, Shenzhen, Green Anhui and other NGOs to implement and complete the joint management of Datong and Shangling community conservation areas and co-management, and establish two community patrol teams.

The co-management work covers 15 villages around the Jiulongfeng nature reserve. The original 27 square kilometers of protected area in the Jiulongfeng Nature Reserve has been expanded to 72 square kilometers through the expansion of the community protected area.

Nearly 5000 (project estimated benefiting approximately 4000 people) people have benefited from the project. Through the community assistance work, 185 households in 9 villages around the reserve have been covered to release from poverty. The community has been upgraded and developed sustainably. Through ecological poverty alleviation, 410 households around the Jiulongfeng NR have been assisted. Through the sales of tea, local specialties, shrimp and rice, nearly 4.2 million yuan have been sold, with an additional income of 20000 yuan per household.

In terms of biodiversity research and ecosystem monitoring system development, in 2021, the ground monitoring report on the forest ecological environment of Huangshan in Anhui Province and the first and second investigation reports on the biodiversity sample plots of Huangshan scenic Area were completed, and an integrated field monitoring system for Huangshan was established to comprehensively and systematically monitor various ecological indicators and biodiversity.

Component 3:

In terms of capacity-building, environmental education and public awareness, Huangshan District government clearly proposed to carry forward ecological culture in the implementation plan of the "Creating a demonstration area for ecological civilization construction".

Ecological and environmental conservation lectures have been held in Huangshan Party school and training bases, and the proportion of Party and government leading cadres participating in ecological civilization training reached 100%.

The construction of Anhui provincial environmental education base in Jiulongfeng primary and secondary schools was launched, including the preparation of teaching materials, the construction of a specimen center and a student laboratory. The overall government investment was 500000 yuan. GEF investment was 500000 yuan. The Paradise, Shenzhen investment was 1 million yuan.

Component 4:

KM (Knowledge Management) :

Case of Jiulongfeng co-management was selected as the training material of the Nature Reserve Division of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. Jiulongfeng co-management was selected as the "advanced unit of poverty alleviation in Huangshan Municipality" issued by

Huangshan Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau. They cooperated with Qianniaogu, participated in the competition for the Social Enterprise Award in 2020, and won the title of social enterprise for the good.

Challenges

1. The Biodiversity Conservation Committee (BCC) needs to closely coordinate with the municipal and district forest chief system to form a joint decision-making and multi sectoral management mechanism.

Through the combination of BCC, BAC and forest chief system, establish a long-term cooperation mechanism, give full play to the resources of BCC and BAC expert think tanks, and provide more scientific and systematic decision-making basis for the forest chief system. Forest Chief, by using its systematic advantages from top to bottom, from the high level government to the village level, will intern fully implement the biodiversity conservation strategic plan in the area.

2. The community co-management project is combined with the village planning of Huangshan District and integrated into the government working system.

In November 2021, Huangshan District launched the detailed rules for the implementation of three-year village planning in Huangshan District. In terms of planning principles, it stipulated that conservation should be the priority and consideration should be given.

The departments involved in the planning include: Natural Resources and Planning Bureau, Development and Reform Commission, Finance Bureau, Agriculture and Rural Water Conservancy Bureau, Culture, Tourism and Sports Bureau, Rural Revitalization Bureau, Township People's governments at all levels.

The project should carefully summarize the key experience of co-management, sustainable development and joint patrol on conservation, seek opportunities, and fully integrate the good experience and achievements of the project into the village planning of Huangshan District.

3. Promote WCBIC ("World Class" Biodiversity Interpretation Centre) to play a greater role.

In terms of value the biodiversity in Huangshan, except that Huangshan Pine and other important species in Huangshan have a wide national and global popularity, the biodiversity value of Huangshan has not been fully realized. The value should be calculated with the effort in considering to keep biodiversity intact as fulfilling the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In view of the important value and significance of biodiversity in Huangshan, it is necessary to connect with the media, culture and tourism departments, develop high-quality tourism line products such as biodiversity appreciation, research and nature education, plan and produce video works with strong knowledge and interest, and show the unique species diversity of Huangshan, rare and endangered species and the

origin of rich biodiversity brought by the special geographical environment. Gradually, it will play its valuable role in the process of social and economic development.

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

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

	FY2022 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2022 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	<i>The project has achieved the objectives and most of the outcomes and outputs.</i>
Budget Holder	S	S	<i>The project has achieved the objectives and most of the outcomes and outputs.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁸	S	S	
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<i>Based on the information provided, I understand the project has achieved the objectives and the majority of outcomes and outputs.</i>
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<i>The PMO made a great progress since 2021 PIR, including substantial disbursement, policy dialogue and improvement in biodiversity species indicators. The PMO is preparing the project sustainability plan to ensure continuation of key achievements.</i>

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.

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

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁸ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

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

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made complying with the approved ESM plan. 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. Add new ESS risks if any risks have emerged during this FY.

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 (ESS) Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Low

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.

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

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	<p><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 NRs and their networks.</p>	Low	Y	<p>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.</p>	<p>After six years of project implementation, each reserve has improved its understanding and demand for the project and the enhancement of biodiversity conservation capacity. In addition, in terms of national conservation policies, no matter which department it belongs to, each reserve has strictly defined its own conservation responsibilities, and has common goals in biodiversity conservation. It is necessary to strengthen its own capacity-building in order to meet the national requirements.</p>	

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
g u i d e n c e 2	<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.	Low	Y	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.	After biodiversity was mainstreamed in 13th FYP, the 14th FYP was also issued and biodiversity was highlighted again, which has provided the macro environment and framework for the guidance of biodiversity conservation in the next five years.	

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Insufficient and timely provision of co-financing	Low	Y	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.	The partner has always provide co-financing timely. The total project co-financing has exceeded the targets.	
4	<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	Low	Y	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.	Climate change has been considered during project implementation. At the government level, forest fire prevention, flood control and drought emergency action have always been the major tasks of the government.	

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>	Low	Y	<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. According to the ground monitoring report on the forest ecological environment in Huangshan in 2021, the areas where alien species frequently occur are mainly around the residential areas and the surrounding farmland, so it is necessary to strengthen the prevention of proliferation. In 2021 and 2022, Huangshan municipal government set up mailboxes for publics to report on alien species. The agricultural department carried out regional prevention and control training, and carried out public alien species removal on the World Environment Day every year.</p>	
---	--	-----	---	--	---	--

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
6	<u>Currency Risk</u> . Significant fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates may pose a risk to the achievement of all project outputs and outcomes.	Low	Y	This has been addressed through incorporating appropriate price contingencies in the project budget.	The national partner has provided sufficient co-financing to mitigate the risk.	
7	<u>Capacity Risk</u> . The PMO does not have sufficient capacity or human resources to keep up the implementation speed.	M	N	FAO has recruited a national technical advisor to support the project management and implementation.	After the Mid-term Review, FAO has recruited 2 technical advisors and a project assistant to support the PMO and partially solved the problem.	

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

FY2021 rating	FY2022 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	L	The project has extended to September 17, 2022, so far, Risk Identified in the ProDoc are all kept low level. On the other hand, short of staff in PMO has been the risk since the project was in full swing from 2018.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>Recommendation 1: A. With regards to the co-management pilot projects, these should be reduced to three based on justification given and vetted in the meeting with the stakeholder and the visit to the pilots. The viability of the co-management sites are critical to showcase success and biodiversity-friendly practices. The scope of this endeavour was overambitious and the learning and adaptive management have determined that the three which have already started are the ones that should go forward. Focus should be on three pilot results, and on documenting and sharing for scaling good biodiversity management and other practices.</p> <p>B. Because the project is running out of time and needs to be accelerated, it will be important to consolidate all the IT, learning and monitoring, knowledge sharing and networking activities as one work area such that there are results contributing to the expected results on sustained learning. The MTE suggests the PMO immediately design and scale up the work on the knowledge NR networking, training and learning strategy—include a strategy for indirect strengthening of capacities of tiers three and four per the information management portal, schools and teacher training, the documenting and sharing of good practices and finally the development of web interface for data collection and a knowledge portal.</p>	<p>A. The three co-management pilot sites achievement and co-management good practices were summarized during 2021-2022.</p> <p>B. With the support of former NTA, the overall training plan and KM management plan were revised and three best practices were summarized.</p>

Recommendation 2:

A. Based on the delays in project implementation, the GEF/FAO/GOC in consultation with the Steering Committee should grant the project a no-cost extension for minimum of two years.

B. As the Steering Committee and technical committees are not fully functioning to enable substantive FAO oversight and communications and there has been no effective formal way for FAO to guide or provide technical support, a critical priority is to establish a functioning project Steering Committee to oversee and guide implementation including to ensure the project has full staffing and fully negotiated adapted work plans linked to the log frame. The PMO can also amalgamate the two biodiversity technical groups. Only one is needed and they serve a similar function.

C. In response to the issues flagged throughout this report concerning the lack of FAO technical oversight, the project must include a competent CTA to technically vet and accelerate the project implementation with an eye on the end results in two years. The CTA would: 1) conceptualize the work programme into the key areas discussed and consider larger strategic institutional contracts for implementation and 2) prioritize a review of technical implementation for good and negative practices i.e. invasive species, exclusion of marginalized groups and communities. The CTA position might be cost shared by FAO and Government of China. This position should remain until the end of the project and be jointly monitored by and GOC and the FAO Representation in China. The position profile is a proven advisor with knowledge of the interlinkages to forestry, communities fisheries and agriculture and the ability to put forth the GEF and FAO value added and support and institutionalize the cross sectoral approaches. If this is not agreed to, then as a fundamental MTE condition for success this project should be stopped.

A. Project extension of 2 years was approved.

B. The former National Technical Advisor resigned in September 2021. A new National Technical Advisor was recruited by FAO in 2022.

Recommendation 3:

A. As flagged throughout the report, the project IT, monitoring system, network learning and sharing aspects are weak, and so a priority for technical assistance is: to scope an integrated monitoring system, undertake a knowledge and capacity needs assessment including the most relevant way to set up a NR network to meet project goals. The MTE discussed options for institutionalizing the network portal with the PM and implementing experts team and endorsed the option: to integrate three IT-based portals across components, namely, a computer-based NR network, an integrated monitoring system for Huangshan This would entail web monitoring for the species and knowledge learning platform into the currently government public promotion project “Digital Huangshan” as a cost-effective measure to sustain GEF/ FAO program results.

B. Also, key would be the scoping of knowledge and learning needs of tiers three and four in consideration of the web design with functionality linked to the monitoring of fragile species work area. In relation to this problem, the PMO—with support of FAO—should take measures to network all NRs through the training plan. Additionally, the inclusive development of the learning network (knowledge needs and baseline study) should contribute to, and benefit from, the holistic Huangshan NR network planning and management in order not to scatter project work across components. In relation to the “learning” results, the PMO, supported by the LTO and CTA (TBH), should undertake a scoping of all biodiversity-friendly practices across the project area tiers one to four. They could review all management work and policies developed to ensure integration of key linkages and learning from cases. A technical workshop can be held. This needs some thinking around the linkages to FAOs value added including peoples (focus on women’s) livelihoods, fisheries and forestry, and resilience approaches.

C. To ensure that the expected results on gender are properly captured and reported, it is recommended that the PMO (with support of

A. HSAC and Anhui Meitu Information Technology Co., Ltd. signed a biodiversity database and management system construction project. In this system, knowledge and capacity needs assessment, integrated monitoring system and other contents are fully integrated to provide comprehensive information support for Huangshan nature reserve network.

B. HSAC recruited a national consultant to investigate the training needs of tiers three and four NRs before designing the overall training plan. Web-based activities was developed on the computer system to provide overall technical support to the tiers three and four NRs.

C. The former NTA has experience of GEF projects and gender monitoring, and took over partially the role.

D. The PMO, NTA. and service providers such as Green Anhui jointly worked on knowledge management and communication

E. The project management training was not organized due to the impact of COVID 19.

FAO) undertake gender assessment. A gender specialist can be integrated to develop a plan for priority gender mainstreaming across the co-management pilots, and other activities: by linking work to national priorities, including Eco-Compensation and Ecological Poverty Reduction with gender considerations that fit with local

D. In relation to the cross-cutting implementation gaps including capacity development, monitoring and communications, the PMO should hire a KM, communication and monitoring officer for the project. The PMO (supported by the FAO Representation in Beijing) should focus implementation and activities on visibility, documenting, sharing results-knowledge management and communicating. Since this project is even more relevant to the national priorities on biodiversity mainstreaming, the result can be shared to contribute to national policies on resilience and park priorities. The PMO can develop a communication and partnership strategy for scaling up learning including work with GEO Park and developing and targeting a bimonthly newsletter for sharing at the national and provincial levels. This work also includes the need to document and share the research and biodiversity-friendly practices and co-management cases: research can be shared broadly in journals. Through a project information network, a public awareness and education strategy can be devolved with schools economized by using a training of trainers approach with teachers. More public information can be disseminated by making concrete partnership and linkages in the geo-centre and by partnering with other NR media and learning activities, i.e. communicating project messages on billboards and creating new exhibits in the 12 NRs. Project results could be prepared to be showcased at COP 22 in two years' time.

E. In response to the need for better project reporting that imparts a better understanding of the project expected results to PMO staff, FAO Beijing host a results-based project management

<p>(RBM) training. It will be critical to ensure the RBM training is speaking to this project’s key messages, good practices and interlinkages, amplifying the GEF and FAO value added in biodiversity work- resilience strategies, digital finance, and innovation in technology, such as Alibaba partnership, fisheries, forestry, sustainability, women, livelihoods, and education and farmers schools on conservation agriculture.</p>	
---	--

<p>Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please describe</p>	<p>The objectives of Exit Strategy developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Institutional coordination mechanisms for conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the mountainous forest ecosystems of Huangshan Municipality promoted and established by the project will be further strengthened; 2. The biodiversity conservation will always be the priority in the Huangshan Municipal Social and Economic Development Plan; 3. The NR Management Networks will be further developed to improve all the NRs’ management effectiveness in Huangshan Municipality to support the biodiversity improvement; 4. The computer based NR network will be the major knowledge exchange platform and Integrated Information Management System in Huangshan Municipality; 5. The systematic scientific research monitoring system in Huangshan started by the project will be gradually improved. The biodiversity value assessment and forest ecosystem health assessment in Huangshan will gradually become the basis for major planning and decision-making of Huangshan Municipal governments. 6. The demonstration results of co-management of the project will be further summarized and improved, and become the best practice case of socialized management of national protected areas. 7. The model of biodiversity environmental education and public awareness raising carried out by the project will be gradually expanded, making use of the advantages of Huangshan world-class tourist attraction will become a national and world-class demonstration area for ecological civilization construction. 8. Driven by the project, the biodiversity value will be recognized by various departments, and together with the world-class natural landscape of Huangshan, it will become an important value indicator for social and economic sustainable development. 9. Project managers and other technical people at all levels who have participated in project training and capacity building
---	---

	<p>activities will continue to play the key role in biodiversity conservation and related work.</p>
--	---

8. Minor project 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 GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories. And, provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	N/A		
Components and cost	N/A		
Institutional and implementation arrangements	N/A		
Financial management	N/A		
Implementation schedule	N/A		
Executing Entity	N/A		
Executing Entity Category	N/A		
Minor project objective change	N/A		
Safeguards	N/A		
Risk analysis	N/A		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	N/A		
Co-financing	N/A		
Location of project activity	N/A		
Other	N/A		

²² Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
HSAC	Follow the Execution Agreement managing and coordinating of the project.	Coordinate and promote conservation policies, coordinate NR in cooperation and capacity building.	Coordinate the combination of BCC and forest chief system to achieve the coordination of conservation policy and management system
Bureau of Garden and Forests (BGF)	Chairing the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and daily project management	Complete the development of the annual regional scientific research monitoring system and the capacity building of the NRs.	Not enough human resources
12 NRs	Developing and implementing co-management project	Completed the implementation of three co-management demonstration projects with Green Anhui and the Paradise International, and completed the network improvement and capacity building of the NRs	
Non-Government organizations (NGOs)			
Green Anhui	Provided training for NRs and supported co-management	Completed the preparation of the operation guide for co-management of nature reserves. The project, in collaboration with The Paradise International, Shenzhen, Green Anhui and other NGOs, implemented and completed the co-management of Datongcun and Shanglingcun community protected areas and co-management.	
Private sector entities			
The Paradise International	Developing a new agriculture social	Through alternative livelihood development, the	

	enterprise to support local residents to develop alternative livelihood and increased the income around Jiulongfeng NR	income of communities around the NR has increased, benefiting nearly 5000 people.	
<i>Others[1]</i>			
<i>New stakeholders identified/engaged</i>			

[1] They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women’s groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then.

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	A gender action plan has been developed.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	The project is collecting data on female involvement in project activities.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources		
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women participated in all kinds of project activities and decision making processes.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Women group has benefited from the project.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	No	The project is collecting data on female involvement in project activities.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	The former NTA has experience of GEF projects and gender monitoring.
Any other good practices on gender		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.

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
<p>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>	<p>Knowledge management strategy was not required at the project design stage. The major good practices were normally collected and documented through 1. PMO staff summarizing during annual monitoring both in the field sites and online interviewing; 2. The service provider; 3. NTA collection and documenting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity conservation policies to improve the network management efficiency and capacity building of protected areas; 2. BCC is combined with the forest chief system to establish an efficient decision-making and socialized management mechanism for biodiversity conservation; 3. Co-management and win-win results in expanding the scope of community biodiversity conservation; 4. The new model of socialized management in the nature reserve, "Jiulongfeng model": the new mechanism for social welfare organizations to participate in the sustainable management and development of natural resources in the nature reserve
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.</p>	<p>Knowledge management strategy was not required at the project design stage. PMO follow the project communication outputs allocate project resources and developing partnership with NGOs, companies and governmental sectors.</p> <p>The communication events and facilities developed this year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anhui Wanwei Forestry Science and Technology Co., Ltd. (the Forest Protection Family) was entrusted to organize the introduction of biodiversity into the campus for 4 times in primary and secondary schools 2. Anhui Wanwei Forestry Science and Technology Co., Ltd. (the Forest Protection Family) held 2 biodiversity city square activities; 3. NACA Investment Management (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. installed an artificial intelligence robot on biodiversity communication in Huangshan scenic Area.
<p>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</p>	

<p>expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.</p>	
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p>web page: http://www.ahhsgef.com Date base: http://119.3.202.16:8033/admin/index.aspx</p>
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>Huangshan biodiversity conservation and sustainable use demonstration material for CBD cop-15 Co-management best practice report on Jiulongfeng NR. Biodiversity readers for schools, tourists, public. Biodiversity-based curricula for primary and secondary schools.</p>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's Name and contact details</p>	<p>Guo Ke tel: +86-15655972085, email: gkgray@163.com</p>

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

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

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

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

There are no indigenous people in the project site.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2022	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	5,838,943
Municipal Government	Huangshan Municipal Bureau of Finance	Cash	3,900,000	3,078,127	2,373,555	3,078,127
County Government	Yixian County Bureau of Forestry	In-kind	88,200	238,594	238,594	238,594
Tourism Company	Huangshan Tourism Development Company	Cash	372,000	301,994	301,994	301,994
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	124,546
NGO	The Paradise	In-kind	0	1,213,520	913,520	1,213,520
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	326,787
TOTAL			10,508,212	11,671,031	9,181,931	11,671,031

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
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. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
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.

Risk rating. It should assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.

