



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Review

### 2019 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019



## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Asia Pacific
<b>Country (ies):</b>	China
<b>Project Title:</b>	Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Huangshan Municipality
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/CPR/049/GFF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	4526
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	BD
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Huangshan Administrative Committee (HSAC)
<b>Project Duration:</b>	5 years

### Milestone Dates:

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	February 12, 2014
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	September 17, 2014
<b>Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	September 17, 2019
<b>Revised project implementation end date (if applicable)<sup>2</sup></b>	September 17, 2021
<b>Actual Implementation End Date<sup>3</sup>:</b>	N/A

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	USD 2 607 273
<b>Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc<sup>4</sup>:</b>	USD 10 508 212
<b>Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2019 (USD m):</b>	748 334 USD
<b>Total estimated co-financing as of June 30, 2019<sup>5</sup></b>	USD 8 633 411

<sup>1</sup> as per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup> In case of a project extension.

<sup>3</sup> Actual date at which project implementation ends/closes operationally -- only for projects that have ended.

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

<sup>5</sup> Please see Section 7 of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

## Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee:	18 January 2019
Mid-term Review or Evaluation Date planned (if applicable):	N/A
Mid-term review/evaluation actual:	March 2019
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2018 – June 2019).	No
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2017 – June 2018).	No
Terminal Evaluation Date Actual <sup>6</sup> :	N/A
Tracking tools required <sup>7</sup>	Yes

## Ratings<sup>8</sup>

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes:	S
Overall implementation progress rating:	MS
Overall risk rating:	M

## Status

Implementation Status (1 <sup>st</sup> PIR, 2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):	4 <sup>th</sup> PIR
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## Project Contacts

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<sup>7</sup> Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure. At mid-term tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD.

<sup>8</sup> **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.)

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Affiliation	E-mail
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<b>Budget Holder</b>	Vincent Martin, FAO Representative in China and DPRK	Vincent.Martin@fao.org
<b>CBC-GEF Funding Liaison Officer, Investment Centre Division</b>	Yurie Naito, Programme Officer, GEF Coordination Unit	Yurie.naito@fao.org

## Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on project implementation.

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

Max 200 words:

### **Component 1: Policy / Planning / Institutional Arrangements**

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan of Huangshan Nature Reserve was approved by the Huangshan Municipal People's Government in June 2019.

Huangshan Scenic Area Biodiversity Conservation Action (2018-2030) was approved by the Huangshan Municipal People's Government in May 2019.

### **Component 2 Improved NR Management Effectiveness and Networks**

The Mid-term Evaluation of the project has been conducted in March 2019. The MTE proposed recommendations for the project implementation and adjustment, including a no-cost extension of 2 years and recruiting a provincial or national level Chief Technical Advisor by FAO.

Six Nature Reserves of Tier 1 and 2 have been measured. The average Tracking Tool score for management efficiency of Nature Reserve has increased from 47.5 to 64.5. The other 6 nature reserves will be measured by the end of 2019.

### **Component 3: Capacity Building, Environment Education, and Public Awareness**

Trainings for staff of nature reserves and general public have been organized with the support of co-financing. "The Training Plan" and "Training Plan of Trainers" have been developed for the trainings supported by the project.

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

Max 200 words:

The MTE mission has identified issues in the project design to be adjusted. The PMO needs a provincial level CTA, an experienced M&E officer, the financial officer and a communication officer to improve the project management and accelerate the implementation.

## 2. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
<b>Objective<sup>12</sup></b>	To secure the effective conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the mountainous forest ecosystems of Huangshan Municipality.					
<b>Outcome 1: Policy, Planning &amp; Institutional Arrangements</b>	<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	50 % Outline of 13 <sup>th</sup> 5 year plan and sector agencies consulted	<u>Component 1:</u> Biodiversity conservation identified as a priority in the Municipal 13th 5 Year Social and Economic Development Plan.	The formulation of Municipal 13 <sup>th</sup> 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.	S
<b>Outcome 2: Improved NR Management Effectiveness &amp; Networks</b>	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	Increased by 10%	Component 2: Average management efficiency in 12 project supported nature reserves included in the municipal network of protected areas increased by 22%	2.1a) Six NRs of Tier 1 and 2 have been measured by using METT and the average TT score for management efficiency of NRS has increased by 36%, from 47.5 to 64.5. The other 6 NRs are not measured.	MS

<sup>9</sup> This should describe indicators captured in the approved results framework of the project and in the tracking tools. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

<sup>10</sup> Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

<sup>11</sup> Project team to insert ratings that will be confirmed by BH/LTO. Please 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)**.

<sup>12</sup> Applicable only for projects with objective level indicators.

## 2. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
	# of hectares of PA for which management efficiency is increased.	(measured by using the BD O1 TT) is 50. 0		(measured by using the BD O1 TT) is 65. Increased management efficiency across 67,496 ha (direct impact – Tiers 1,2,3).	Application for upgrading the Jiulongfeng Provincial Nature Reserve to the National Nature Reserve is ongoing. The overall plan for Jiulongfeng Nature Reserve has been developed. Ecological Corridor connecting Huangshan, Jiulongfeng and Wuxishan will be included.	
	Number of hectares of productive landscape into which biodiversity conservation practices and objectives are mainstreamed	0		Indirect : 35,504 ha Total: 103,000 ha.  46,614 ha agriculture/forest land 2,100 ha forest land (corridor). Total: 48700 ha.	Completed.	
	Number of sectors into which biodiversity conservation objectives are mainstreamed.	0		3 Direct (Forestry, Ecotourism, Agriculture) 3 Indirect (fisheries, water, transport)		
	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	Population numbers of <i>Paa spinosa</i>	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.	2.1b) The population of Paa spinosa found in 1,000 meter transects reached 22;	

## 2. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
		project supported reserves is 17.	(amphibian) found in 1,000 meter transects in streams located in proximity to villages in 6 project supported reserves is 21		Bamboo species remain at 40;	
	b) Number of bamboo species in Qingliangfeng NR.	Forty bamboo species found in Qingliangfeng NR	40	No change. Forty species recorded at end of project.	Chinese Yew does not decrease.	
	c) Numbers of Chinese Yew ( <i>Taxus spp.</i> ) 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.		
	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	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.	Populations of four plant species do not decrease.	
			The same as baseline			

## 2. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
	Lingnan PNR)					
<b>Outcome 3: Capacity Building, Environmental Education and Public Awareness</b>	Outcome 3.1: Number of schools that mainstream biodiversity modules into their curricula	Component 3:  Baseline Value: Zero		Component 3: 1 primary and 1 secondary schools “mainstream” pilot supported biodiversity modules in their respective curricula.	3.1) The project is developing the reading materials.	S
	Outcome 3.2: Number of economic sector development plans that mainstream biodiversity	Baseline value: Zero Mainline agency sector plans don't presently reflect biodiversity considerations.	2 sectors incorporate biodiversity considerations in their respective 13 <sup>th</sup> 5year plans	2 economic sector development plans incorporate biodiversity considerations in their respective 13th 5 year plans	3.2) The Huangshan Municipal Tourism Committee has greatly promoted eco-tourism and developed the Master Plan for Huangshan Municipal Forest Tourism considering biodiversity. The Municipal Forestry Bureau has integrated biodiversity conservation into the 13th 5 year forestry development plan. The Huangshan Municipal Agriculture Committee has greatly promoted the development of ecological agriculture to conserve biodiversity.	
	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	80,000 visitors have been received in 5 project supported Nature Reserves besides the Huangshan National Scenic	



## 2. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
					Nature Reserve	
<b>Outcome 4: Information Dissemination and M&amp;E</b>	<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		5	The new approaches and best practice will be collected in a later stage.	S

**Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU rating <sup>13</sup>**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action(s) to be taken</b>	<b>By whom?</b>	<b>By when?</b>
Outcome 2	Recruit an M&E Officer and national consultants for the monitoring of key indicators and collect data. The TT score of the remaining 6 NRs will be updated.	PMO	December 2019

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<sup>13</sup> To be completed by Project management Unit / Budget Holder in coordination with the Lead Technical Officer

## 4. Progress in Generating Project Outputs

Outputs <sup>14</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>15</sup>	Achievements at each PIR <sup>16</sup>					Implement. status (cumulative )	Comments. Describe any variance <sup>17</sup> or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 <sup>st</sup> PIR	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR	3 <sup>rd</sup> PIR	4 <sup>th</sup> PIR	5 <sup>th</sup> PIR		
O 1.1.1: Three implementing guidelines (policies) for: (i) the conservation of biodiversity, (ii) establishment of a municipal NR system and (iii) management of alien species in Huangshan municipality.	First half of 2018	1. National consultants recruited 2. Studies and workshops on baseline conditions in nature reserves of the Huangshan Municipality conducted 3. Meeting minutes of various consultations and experts workshops prepared		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 been finalized and will be submitted to relevant government departments for reference in July 2020.		90%	
O 1.1.2: Two draft policies addressing specific biodiversity conservation issues TBD during project implementation					No issues identified.		0%	

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

<sup>16</sup> Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible

<sup>17</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

O 1.1.3: Three long-term plans to guide the implementation of the three project supported policies (Output 1.1.1)t		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 was drafted for review.	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.	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan of HS NP was approved by the Huangshan Municipal People's Government in June 2019. 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.		90%	
O 1.1.4: A permanent Biodiversity Committee (policy)	completed	1. TORs for the committee defined 2. Committee members selected and the committee created	completed	completed	completed		100%	
O 1.1.5: A permanent Biodiversity Advisory Committee (technical)	completed	1. Committee bylaws formulated 2. Government approval obtained 3. Research activities designed and organized	completed	completed	completed		100%	

		4. Monitoring, supervising conducted and reporting made						
O 2.1.1: Biodiversity sector plan contributing to a strengthened Huangshan NSR master management plan.	November 2016	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 Huangshan NR is ongoing	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.		100%	
O 2.1.2: Management plans (2) and framework plans (3) for the remaining 5 project supported NRs.	Second half of 2017		Management plans for 5 NRs of 2nd tier completed and reviewed in September 2016 are to be approved by the relevant government departments 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	Management plans for 5 NRs of 2nd tier (2.1.2(i)) have been completed. Three NR management plans, namely Qiliangfeng, Wuxishan, and Lingnan, have been officially released by local governments. Implementation plans	Management plans for 5 NRs were completed. Three NR management plans have been officially released; Implementation plans of NRs of the 2nd Tier has been drafted.		70%	

			PAs.	(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.				
O 2.1.3: Six local community conservation committees (CCCs) to support local sustainable production pilot activities	End of the project in 2019	1.TORs for consultants being formulated	Survey and workshop trainings of pilot programs were completed for sustainable livelihood activities to the selected six local communities and co-management experts;	Survey and workshop trainings of pilot programs were completed for sustainable livelihood activities to the selected six local communities and co-management experts;	Two CCCs have been established.		70%	The total number of CCCs was reduced from 6 to 3 by the MTE.
O 2.1.4: Computer-based NR Network for Huangshan NRs	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started		0%	
O 2.1.5: Creating Landscapes to Support Biodiversity Conservation	End of 2016			A leading group has been established to prepare for the	Jiulongfeng is applying to be a national NR. Xingling Co-management Protection Area and Ant Forest Construction Area have been established.		50%	The area of biodiversity-protected corridors in Huangshan-Jiulongfeng is reduced to 2,100 hectares by

				upgrading of Jiulongfeng NR to national level NR; baseline investigation and promotional video has been developed; The drafting of master plan is ongoing.				the MTE.
O 2.1.6: Competitive applied research grant program to support science-based management decision-making in project supported NRs	End of 2019	1.Biodiversity Advisory Committee consulted on research priorities and grant mechanism 2.Research activities to support biodiversity conservation and NR management selected	Several surveys were conducted and monitoring data collected	Surveys have been conducted and monitoring data have been collected	11 of 24 surveys were conducted and monitoring data were collected.		40%	
O 2.1.7: Integrated monitoring program among project supported NRs level by the end of the project	End of 2019		One 10-hectare sample plot and two one-hectare sample plots already set up; feasibility report for the construction of biological and	One big plot of 10 hectares and two small plots of 1 hectare have been established to collect	One big plot of 10 hectares and two small plots of 1 hectare are collecting monitoring data. The biological environment monitoring baseline database (1 <sup>st</sup> phase) was established. The biodiversity monitoring system in Jiulongfeng NR is		70%	

			<p>environmental observation station filed (ECCEI12169, contract for basic information database collection signed; 1st phase of monitoring system at Jiulongfeng under construction.</p>	<p>data. A 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.</p>	<p>being established.</p>			
O 3.1.1: Master training plan	Second half of 2016		<p>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</p>	<p>Bidding and national consultant contracting is ongoing.</p>	<p>The training plan for government officials, protected areas and community staff has been drafted.</p>		50%	



O 3.1.2: 600 NR staff, 280 government officials and 120 community leaders trained	End of 2019		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.		100%	
O 3.2.1: Public education plan	December 2016		More than 150 local community residents (female upon 30%) were trained for “Agricultural and Forestry Techniques to strengthen local public awareness	Bidding and national consultant contracting is ongoing.	More than 150 local community residents (female upon 30%) were trained for “Agricultural and Forestry Technologies”. Reading materials on biodiversity knowledge was drafted.		100%	
O 3.2.2: Biodiversity-based curricula in pilot primary (1) and secondary (1) schools	March 2019	built in nearby communities in West DTNR			The subcontract of developing the reading materials was prepared.		10%	End of project target of 10 primary and 10 secondary schools “mainstream” pilot

								supported biodiversity modules in their respective curricula has been reduced to 1 primary and 1 secondary schools by the MTE.
O 3.2.3 Primary and secondary school readers compiling biodiversity related material for Huangshan school system	End of 2017	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.		30%	
O 3.3.1 "World class" biodiversity interpretation centre in Huangshan National Scenic Reserve	End of 2017			The interpretation centre is ready to open in 2019.	A biodiversity exhibition area was set up in the Huangshan Geopark Museum.		70%	
O 3.3.2 80 km of trails in HNSR posted with biodiversity conservation interpretive materials	completed	completed	completed	completed	completed		100%	
<u>Output 4.1.1.</u> Project webpage	First half of 2017				The ToR of the webpage design subcontract was drafted.		10%	
<u>Output 4.1.2.</u> Publication of project-related "best-practices" in biodiversity conservation.	September 2019				The best practices are to be summarized.		0%	
<u>Output 4.1.3.</u> Peer-to peer consultative workshops for NR staff.	End of 2019				Regular meetings and workshops have been held for NR staff for experience exchange.		50%	
<u>Output 4.1.4.</u> Project monitoring system providing six-monthly reports on progress in	Every six months until the end of the	Progress reports for period Jan.- June, July- December 2015	Staff member and experts for M&E are in place at HSAC. 4 Project	7 PPRs have been submitted to FAO.	9 PPRs have been submitted to FAO.		50%	

achieving project outputs and outcomes	Project in 2019	prepared. Progress report for Jan.-June 2016 being translated to English	Progress Reports of GEF-Huangshan available.					
<u>Output 4.1.5.</u> Midterm and final evaluations carried out and reports disseminated	Second half of 2017 for midterm and 2019 for final evaluations		Staff member and experts for M&E are in place at HSAC.		The MTE report was finalized in June 2019.		50%	

### Development Objective Ratings, Implementation Progress and Overall Assessment

	FY2019 Development Objective rating	FY2019 Implementati on Progress rating	Comments/reasons justifying the rating for FY2019 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordina tor	S	MS	In general, the project progress is behind schedule. The mid-term evaluation was organized in March 2019, which has identified some of the key issues hindering the project implementation and proposed a no-cost extension of 2 years. FAO and the national partners will take actions in response to the MTE results and accelerate the project implementation.
Budget Holder	S	MS	Some of the outcomes have been completed with the support of co-financing from the national partners, who have shown strong commitment. Partnerships have been established with related sectors to accelerate the project implementation. This project is expected to achieve more outcomes than originally designed in the Project Document.
Lead Technical Officer <sup>18</sup>	S	MS	The project implementation is behind schedule. We are confident that with the recommendations from the MTE as well as the proposed extension of two years, the project will get back on track and deliver the results successfully. RAP, together with other concerned units, will continue to ensure maximum possible technical support to the PMO for the successful implementation of the project.
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	MS	The project went through MTE this year with concrete recommendations. In order to successfully implement the planned/revised activities, we will provide required support to the PMO including training of new PMO team and continuous follow up to remove bottlenecks.

<sup>18</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

## 5. Risks

There are two tables to assess and address risk: the first “risk factor table” to describe and rate risk factors; the second “top risk mitigation plan” should indicate what measures/actions will be taken with respect to risks rated **Substantial** or **High** and who is responsible to for it.

### Risks ratings

#### RISKS TABLE

The following table summarizes risks identified in the **Project Document** and reflects also **any new risks** identified in the course of project implementation. The Notes column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, **as relevant**.

	Risks <sup>19</sup>	Risk rating	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions	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	H	H	With the re-established PSC and the new CTA, the inter-institutional coordination will be strengthened.
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.	M	M	M	The MTE has found out that the project objectives and contents are perfectly in line with international protocols and national policies. Policies could be formed through a top-down approach.

<sup>19</sup> Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks 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 and/or the project may face substantial risks); **Modest 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 modest risks.); **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 modest risks.)

**Please add any new risk not initially foreseen in the Project Document.**

	Risks <sup>19</sup>	Risk rating	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	Insufficient and timely provision of co-financing	L	L	L	The co-financing has always been provided timely and sufficiently.
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	M	M	M	No such risks identified.
5	<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.	L	L	L	The pests of pine are approaching Huangshan, which is a vulnerable ecosystem with the main tree species as pine. Effective actions have been taken but the project sustainability might be affected.
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.	M	M	M	The project has applied for a no-cost extension of 2 years. The exchange loss will be covered by co-financing.
7	<u>Capacity Risk</u> . The PMO does not have sufficient capacity or human resources to keep up the implementation speed.	N/A	H	H	The capacity risk has been hindering the project implementation and was reflected in the MTE report and the latest audit report. With the promised management actions responding to the MTE, the problems might be solved.

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

FY2018 rating	FY2019 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2019 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	L	The project has missed the best time of implementation. The capacity of the PMO is not sufficient.

Environmental and Social Safeguards (Under the responsibility of the LTO)

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

## 6. Adjustments to Project Strategy

Please report any adjustments made to the project strategy, as reflected in the results matrix, in the past 12 months<sup>20</sup>

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outcomes	No	
Project Outputs	Yes	<p>Output 2.1.3: Six local community conservation committees (CCCs) to support local sustainable production pilot activities. The total number of CCCs was reduced from 6 to 3 by the MTE, because the original targets are too ambitious.</p> <p>Output 2.1.5: Creating Landscapes to Support Biodiversity Conservation The area of biodiversity-protected corridors in Huangshan-Jiulongfeng is reduced to 2,100 hectares by the MTE, because the Jiulongfeng site is applying to be a national protected area and the work scope of the project has to be changed accordingly.</p>

<sup>20</sup> Minor adjustments to project outputs can be made during project inception. Significant adjustments can be made only after a mid-term review/evaluation or supervision missions. The changes need to be pre-cleared by the GEF Unit, then approved by the whole Project task Force and endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.

	<p>Output 3.2.2 Biodiversity-based curricula in pilot primary (1) and secondary (1) schools.  End of project target of 10 primary and 10 secondary schools “mainstream” pilot supported biodiversity modules in their respective curricula has been reduced to 1 primary and 1 secondary schools by the MTE, because the original targets are too ambitious.</p>
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**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, 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
<b>Project extension</b>	<p>Original NTE: September 17, 2019 Revised NTE: September 17, 2021</p> <p>Justification: The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> installments to the Execution Partner has been delayed for almost 2 years in total, so the MTE has proposed a no-cost extension of 2 years.</p>



## 8 Gender Mainstreaming

**Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)?**

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment? Please briefly indicate the gender differences.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender impacts and results?

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

For the capacity building activities, the project is monitoring the number of women participants.

**At least 50% of the trainees are female.**

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- improving women's participation and decision making;

The capacity of women is improved through capacity building activities;

## 9. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

n/a

## 10. 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))

The awareness and capacity of stakeholders have been improved by project activities.  
Partnerships have been built with the forest, agriculture and environmental protection sectors, who will help the project accelerating implementation and achieve more outcomes than expected.  
The Paradise, as an important project partner, is entrusted by the local government of Jiulongfeng for the management of the Nature Reserve for 50 years.

## 8. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

With the improved environment, the rice produced near Huangshan is now with a better price than before. Farmers' income has increased.

## 11. Co-Financing Table (USD)

Sources of Co-financing <sup>21</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing <sup>22</sup>	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2019	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	4438943	4438943	5,473,612
Municipal Government	Huangshan Municipal Bureau of Finance	Cash	3,900,000	2373555	2373555	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	301994	372,000
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	124546	436,500
NGO	The Paradise	In-kind	0	913520	913520	0
other	Jiulongfeng Provincial PA	Cash/in-kind	0	548,520	548,520	548,520
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash/in kind	237,900	242,259	242,259	237,900
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,508,212</b>	<b>9,181,931</b>	<b>9,181,931</b>	<b>11,056,732</b>

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

N/A

<sup>21</sup> 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, Other.

<sup>22</sup> Type of Co-financing may include: Grant, Soft Loan, Hard Loan, Guarantee, In-Kind, Other.