

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	5139
Project Name:	Sustainable Forest Management to Enhance the Resilience of Forests to Climate Change
Countr(ies):	China
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Sustainable Forest Management to Enhance the Resilience of Forests to Climate Change

Country

China

GEF ID

5139

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

State Forestry Administration (SFA)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/6/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 8th PIR

Objective

To enable local communities in four Chinese provinces to effectively employ incentive-based sustainable forest management (SFM) practices in reforestation and forest restoration activities, enhancing carbon storage and sequestration as well as biodiversity conservation.

### B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

7,832,237.00

Cumulative Disbursement

7,114,964.87

### C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

4/10/2015

Agency Approval

7/21/2016

Implementation Start 9/30/2016	First Disbursement 8/1/2017
Expected MTR	Actual MTR 5/19/2020
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The reporting period has witnessed the physical completion and financial closure of the GEF056 project. With continuous support from FAO, PMOs at all levels, the pilot forest farms and the four project provinces have kept pushing forward the final implementation of the project activities according to the annual work plan and the technical guidelines. In September 2024, Wang Chunfeng, the Executive Deputy Director-General of ICC and the Director of GEF056 Steering Committee led a delegation to visit FAO headquarters in Rome of Italy. In November, Ms. Naito the FAO technical officer came to Beijing to supervise GEF056 by having a work discussion with NFGA. In early December, with the invitation of FAO, the CPMO sent one representative to attend the FAO-GEF Wetland Project Summary and Promotion Meeting in Jiangxi to learn the good practices of the project closure and disbursement. During the reporting period, an additional area of pilot demonstration activities on SFM, biodiversity and forest carbon reached 639.5 hectares. The CPMO actively promoted the financial progress of the project with collaboration efforts from FAO and national counterparts by additional reimbursement of USD 1.36 million. As of March 31, 2025, the project has completed a total grant payment of about USD3.607 million accounting for 52% of the actual available grant fund of the project (USD 6.97 million). In terms of publicity and dissemination, the 15th and 16th project newsletters were compiled for distribution, with the book publication of GEF056 Good Practices of SFM plus a video production for technological dissemination. Two pilot units (Minquan FF and Xinxian FF) passed CFC forest certification and two pilot forest farms (Nanwan FF and Xinxian FF) completed preparation of their Forest Management Plans. The CPMO and the four provinces organized totally during project implementation 85 training courses with 4,005 person times for participation. By thorough reviewing the preparation and implementation of GEF056 and with the guidance of FAO, the terminal self-assessment report and the terminal completion report were prepared for GEF056. CPMO has also organized preparing a separate completion report for submission to Ministry of Finance according to related governmental regulations. Started from April 2025, FAO has recruited an International team to conduct independent terminal assessment to GEF056 by detailed desk-to+B19p work, representative interviews and site visits to Hainan, Fujian and Guangxi. B28+B27+B44

### B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

- a. The public institution reform procedures and personnel change affected the project execution. It has taken a long time to shift the official authority and financial account of the project national partner for which the project withdrawal and reimbursement was delayed, and the fiscal progress of project lagged behind.
- b. It is a complicated process to integrate biodiversity and carbon monitoring information system into national information system (such as “national forest and grassland sensing system”). As the systems are currently

independent from each other, the challenges mainly lie in difficulty of the integration and consistency between information systems.

c. This project focuses more on the ecological benefits of forests by mitigating environmental risks (as from climate change). Under the current economic downturn with slow transformation of forest ecological service value into programmatic economic values, the livelihood and sustainability of communities in the project area are more likely be affected. Relevantly, lack of investment for the long forest management cycle may downsize project outcomes in some project areas.

### **C. Stakeholder Engagement**

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
<b>Government Institutions</b>			
Government Institutions	International Cooperation Center of NFGA (Central Project Management Office, CPMO)	Project execution partner	Responsible for daily project implementation management, closely consult FAO to guide the implementation of provincial sub-projects. To meet the needs of project management, CPMO staff need to build up their professional competence and coordination, organization and management capabilities+H23
Government Institutions	Relevant departments, bureaus and units of the NFGA (including Department of International Cooperation, the Ecological Center, Academy of Inventory and Planning, NFGA, the Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences, etc.)	Supporters of the CPMO to achieve project objectives	According to the needs of project implementation, provide assistance in the following areas: human resources, policies and services of relevant policies, technologies, project management, international cooperation and exchanges, etc
Government Institutions	Fujian, Guangxi, Henan and Hainan Provincial Forestry Bureaus	Provincial Project Managers	Under the guidance of the CPMO, organize and guide the implementation of the project work within the province according to the project legal agreement and project design. To meet the needs of project management, provincial PMO staff need to build up their professional competence and coordination, organization and management capabilities
Government Institutions	Henan Huangbaishan Forest Farm, Minquan Forest Farm, Nanwan Forest Farm, Guangxi Qipo Forest Farm, Yachang Forest Farm, Shankou Forest Farm, Fujian Jiangle Forest Farm, Shunchang Forest Farm and other, 16 pilot forest farms in total	Project implementation units	Responsible for the implementation of forest farm project activities. The forest farm workers need to improve their knowledge level on such topics as forest management to address climate change
<b>NGOs</b>			
NGOs	FAO	project guidance	Supervise and monitor the use of funds of implementing partner and the achievements of project
NGOs	WWF	project partner	Jointly organize training workshops, exchange and sharing of project implementation experience and good practices
Private Sector entities			
NGOs	About 40 project entities in Dongfang City, Hainan Province	Project implementation units	According to the project design, carry out forestation and restoration of precious tree species, under-forest income generation, forest tourism, homestay etc

#### D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Women have equal opportunities to participate in project activities such as planting, tending and protecting forests, which involves usually lower physical input and "equal pay for equal work" with men.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The project management involves usually more women especially in the financial management activities. There are female staff in GEF056 management at all levels.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The implementation of the project provides women with employment and development opportunities, which is conducive to improving women's economic and social status and further promoting gender equality.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Efforts were continuously made in carrying out gender data monitoring, and counting the number of women participating in project tasks and training in the semi-annual progress report, of which over 22% are women. In Huangbaishan Forest Farm In Henan Province, the project needs about 2,700 units of labor service each year of which about 200 are occupied by forest farm staff, and the rest is completed by surrounding communities through project bidding. About half of them are women.

#### E. Knowledge Management

<p><b>Knowledge management and Learning (KML):</b> Does the project have a KML strategy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If <b>YES</b>, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.</p>	<p>Knowledge activities have been carried out in various ways including utilizing home website, bulletin, video, books, technical management standards etc. During this reporting periods, 2 newsletters, 1 video, 1 SFM good practice book have been prepared or published for public dissemination at national and local levels.</p>
<p>If <b>NO</b>, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?</p>	
<p>Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.</p>	<p>Integration of a dissemination book with a video (with the same content) can be a good practice of the project. It is such that the interested people can read it in book while and seeing its concrete application in the video therefore more acknowledged for acceptance.</p> <p>The GEF056 SFM Good Practices published contained 25 major good practices of SFM extracted from GEF056 implementation.</p>
<p><b>Communication strategy:</b> Does the project have a communication strategy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <i>this fiscal year</i>.</p>	<p>In the reporting year, the GEF056 Communication Strategy was continuously executed. There had been online national and local meetings plus field meetings for conducting project tasks such as compiling the best practice book, making the technological dissemination video when good communication can be made between top and grassroots administrations. Now the project is completed, the challenge is the formed communication channels should be sustained.</p>
<p><b>Human-interest story:</b> Please share a <i>human-interest story</i> from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any <i>Socio-economic Co-benefits</i> that were generated by the project. Include at least <i>one beneficiary quote and perspective</i>, and please also <i>include related photos and photo credits</i>.</p>	<p>Hainan GEF056 is implementing a strategy to involve women and ethnic minority couples in the project, this has been taken as model for other project areas to learn. In Dongfang city a minority people concentrated project county, the project enterprise employs couples rather than individuals to work for the project so that they can work all-heartedly without separation of the family. This approach actually encourages couples to take on a wider range of work, share all tasks and no longer give up opportunities for project related activities. For example, the enterprise employer allows them to do some "non-timber economy" for family income addition. In this way, the farmers can have some income for the family while contributing environment benefit by tree planting. In the GEF056 publicity video, a minority representative commented that under the GEF project "Men and women get the same pay for the same work".</p>
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.</p>	<p>Sustainable Forest Management to Enhance Resilience of Forest to Climate Change in China Good Practice of Sustainable Forest Management (in Chinese and English), Compiled by International Cooperation Center, NFGA and Institute of Forest Resources Information Techniques, CAF and published by China Forestry Publishing House, 2024</p>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.</p>	

### III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	6 national CCER schemes were changed into 3 local CER schemes due to national policy change
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	Adjusted the project balance funds to mainly expand the pilot demonstration activities under Component II and Component III
Implementation Schedule	Extended twice on non-cost basis the Operational Partner Agreement and the project to new NTEs: from September 5 2022 to October 31,2023; and then to another new NTE of December 31, 2024
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	Tianlin County withdrew from the project and replaced by Qipo Forest Farm in Guangxi
others	

### IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Zhengzhou Shi, Henan	34.757777	113.554166	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Haikou Shi, Hainan	20.045833	110.341666	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nanning Shi, Guangxi	22.816666	108.316666	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fuzhou Shi, Fujian	26.061388	119.306111	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

## V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID5139_2025PIR_FAO_China