Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program
Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme

GEF ID
10754

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Strengthening in-situ Biodiversity Conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt

Countries
China

Agency(ies)
IUCN

Other Executing Partner(s)
National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Government of the People's Republic of China

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector
Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Communications, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Education, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, SMEs, Local Communities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Enabling Activities, Targeted Research, Biomes, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Grasslands, Wetlands, Rivers, Lakes, Temperate Forests, Species, Threatened Species, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

12/6/2021

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

297,248.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	3,302,752.00	56,150,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**3,302,752.00**	**56,150,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Safeguarding biodiversity through sustainable protected areas networks in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Strengthening protected areas networks in Yangtze	Technical Assistance	1. In-situ conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin improved through strengthened and better financed protected areas network	Output 1.1 Protected Area networks in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui adjusted towards increased representativeness, coverage and viability by taking into account globally important biodiversity.	GET	2,028,868.00	37,980,407.00
			Output 1.2 Governance and management capacity of selected protected areas in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui enhanced as per international PA standard and supported by digital technology applications.			
			Output 1.3 Mechanisms to diversify PA financing through actualizing the values and benefits of natural capital explored and demonstrated			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Supporting policy development for protected areas and biodiversity management in Yangtze	Technical Assistance	2. Values and conservation of biodiversity as natural capital are considered in the development of YREB	Output 2.1Summarize experiences and lessons learned from the assessment of protected areas in the Yangtze River Basin, and make recommendations for the development and implementation of updated national protected area regulations	GET	605,908.00	9,434,099.00
			Output 2.2 systematic conservation plan for threatened species, protected areas coverage, and sustainable use of natural capital provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Knowledge, information and program coordination	Technical Assistance	3. Programme and project's knowledge and experience consolidated, documented and disseminated.	Output 3.1 Knowledge management and dissemination effectively conducted to enhance the capacity of protected areas associated stakeholders at all levels	GET	510,724.00	5,950,264.00
			Output 3.2 Programme level coordination and M&E effectively conducted.			
				Sub Total ($)	**3,145,500.00**	**53,364,770.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
GET	157,252.00	2,785,230.00
Sub Total($)	**157,252.00**	**2,785,230.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**3,302,752.00**	**56,150,000.00**

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	National and Local Forestry Authorities	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	923,077.00
Recipient Country Government	National and Local Forestry Authorities	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	34,779,841.00
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Sub-national governments	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,297,082.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**56,150,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investments have been mobilized through the National Forest and Grassland Administration?s conservation and protected areas development programmes, including but not limited to, the Compensation of Public Welfare Forest initiative and the Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve program.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
IUCN	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,302,752	297,248	3,600,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**3,302,752.00**	**297,248.00**	**3,600,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

137,615

PPG Agency Fee ($)

12,385

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
IUCN	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	137,615	12,385	**150,000.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**137,615.00**	**12,385.00**	**150,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	1,140,111.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	1,140,111.30	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Anhui Danshuitun NR		Strict Nature Reserve		31,518.00			64.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Anhui Gujingyuan NR		Strict Nature Reserve		7,904.30			65.66		
Anhui Yaolongping NR		Strict Nature Reserve		12,300.00			67.00		
Jiangxi Jiulingshan NR		Strict Nature Reserve		11,541.00			54.00		
Jiangxi Taohongling NR		Strict Nature Reserve		12,500.00			75.00		
Poyanghu National Nature Reserve	555542692	Others		22,400.00			60.00		
Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaties ? (Wolong, Mt Siguniang and Jiajin Mountains), possible to extend to Giant Panda National Park	902902	National Park		924,500.00			65.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Sichuan Heizhugou NR		Strict Nature Reserve		29,643.00			56.00		
Sichuan Mabiandafengding NR		Strict Nature Reserve		30,164.00			63.00		
Sichuan Mamize NR		Strict Nature Reserve		57,641.00			57.00		

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		3,000		
Male		2,000		
Total	0	5000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The area target for indicator 1 is developed as per Core Indicator Worksheet, for the expected area with improved management for conservation of protected areas in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui Provinces. The gender-disaggregated target for beneficiaries is developed based on estimate of likely coverage and scope of beneficiaries of the project. The core indicator has been populated and updated.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

The project design has remained consistent with the proposal present in the PIF.

In the YRB, China?s largest river basin, over the past 25 years, many environmental issues including biodiversity loss have emerged driven by multiple factors such as urbanization, industrialization, agricultural intensification, and large-scale population migration. The most prominent environmental effects of these environmental problems are mainly manifested as loss, fragmentation, and degradation of species habitats; significant decline or even extinction of rare and endangered species with international and national conservation importance; water environmental quality decline and imbalance of water ecological functions; soil erosion and land degradation leading to a significant decline in the regulation and sustainability of ecosystems. In addition, YRB also involves threats to biodiversity from climate change and invasive alien species?Xu et al 2010?.

In recent years, various economic activities carried out around the development of the YREB have had a serious impact on the water ecosystem of the YRB. The increased discharge of water pollutants, the shrinking area of wetlands, the increased threat of flood disasters, lake water eutrophication, and other ecological and environmental problems have led to the degradation of the water ecosystem, the reduction of biodiversity, and the fragmentation of habitats of rare and endangered species Island, resulting in many species have been in a small population state. Natural vegetation is seriously damaged, water and soil loss, rivers and lakes are blocked, wetlands and lakes are reduced, water environment pollution, biodiversity is reduced, endangered species are increased, and the contradiction between national economic development, natural resource development, and biodiversity protection is prominent.

There are 3728 threatened vascular plants listed in the IUCN red list in the YREB, 847 species of wild higher animals are listed threatened in the IUCN red list. These species are very few and have a very narrow distribution range, and are very sensitive to habitat changes. Some wild plant resources with high economic value have been greatly reduced, especially the number of orchid plants and some wetland plants that are not resistant to human interference. The population of large and rare birds such as goose, black-faced spoonbill, curly pelican, and Tundra swan, which have high requirements for habitat environment, has shown a downward trend in recent years. In addition to artificial breeding, the wild populations of turtles have been very small. The number of Oriental salamanders, Chinese salamanders, and fat salamanders is also declining sharply, and the number of tiger frogs is less than one-tenth of that in the 1960s. Baiji dolphin has become functionally extinct, and the populations of

rare and endangered species such as Chinese sturgeon, finless porpoise, and hooded crane are declining(Xu, et al, 2010).

In general, the programme?s TOC will achieve expected change and transformation, taking advantage of the unprecedented partnership between the two EAs of the CPs, who have been among the most relevant and important sectoral agencies for biodiversity conservation in China. This child project will contribute to the improved protection of habitats of globally important biodiversity sites in the YRB through improving the coverage, management, and financing of PA networks. The project aims to ensure the sustainability of protected area networks which will be achieved through activities in target provinces, KBAs, and PAs, as well as development of legislation at the national level, specifically the new national PA legislation. The project will also contribute to improved knowledge and information base as well as enhanced capacity of the stakeholders? working in close coordination with the Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt project.

1. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, Threats, Root Causes, and Barriers

As one of the most biodiverse river basins in the world, the YRB is home to some of the most important ecosystems in the country and globally. The forest coverage rate in the YRB is over 40% and the area of river and lake wetlands accounts for about 20% of the total in China. The YRB is rich in species, including 14,000 species of higher plants, 280 species of mammals, 762 species of birds, 311 species of amphibians and reptiles and 378 species of fish. The YRB is famous for global biodiversity conservation with many hotspots identified by international organizations such as WWF, CI, and TNC. Among these global hotspots, the Southwest Forest Ecoregion is one of the top 25 ecological areas. 10 of the 35 priority conservation areas listed in China?s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) are located in the Yangtze River Basin, including Sanjiangyuan Qiangtang, southern Hengduanshan, northern Hengduanshan of Minshan, Wulingshan, Dabashan, Dabieshan, Huangshan, Huaiyushan, Wuyishan, Dongtinghu and Poyanghu. As one of the most sensitive ecosystems, the river ecosystem is affected by forest, wetland, farmland, grassland management and utilization, aquatic fishery, and aquaculture, as well as urban and rural residents? life, infrastructure construction and industrial activities.

The Yangtze River is an important treasure of ecosystems and biological genes in China. In terms of biodiversity, with a variety of flora and fauna as well as precious rare aquatics, the YRB ranks first among the seven major river basins in China. The Yangtze River is also China?s most resource-rich river with average annual total water resources of 996 billion cubic meters. The forest coverage rate in the YRB is over 40% and the area of river and lake wetlands accounts for about 20% of the total in China. In recent years, realizing the need to protect biodiversity, China has established a system of protected areas (PA). By 2020, China had established 2,676 nature reserves, covering 15% of China?s land area. However, national assessment on the impact of these conservation areas mainly focuses on biodiversity and ecosystem diversity (i.e. protected species and different ecosystem types) without paying attention to ecosystem services. The establishment of nature reserves is an important means to address ecological degradation and protect biodiversity. As of the end of 2018, China had established 153 national nature reserves in 11 provinces (cities) in the YREB with a total area of 71,100 km2, playing an irreplaceable role in biodiversity conservation. The national nature reserves of the YREB

are generally well managed. However, as a relatively developed region in China, the YREB faces serious challenges in the development of nature reserves due to resource exploitation and utilization activities. The YREB scores relatively high in terms of management but relatively low in terms of investment. Among all indicators, it scores relatively low in terms of the impact of development and construction activities, professional and technical capabilities, institutional settings and staffing, and dynamic monitoring.

1. Threats

The increasing scale of infrastructure development and urbanization: With the rapid development of the economy, the ecological environment of the Yangtze River Basin has been increasingly seriously affected by such projects as the construction of hydropower projects, sand mining operations, dredging waterways, port construction, shipping, bridge construction, lake reclamation, gates and dams, and tree planting. This destruction is often devastating and irreversible, leading to the gradual loss of the Yangtze river's fishing function.

Illegal use or over-utilization of biological resources such as overfishing, overgrazing, and illegal collection of orchids: Illegal fishing aggravates the destruction of resources, and illegal operations such as electrifying and poisoning fish are an important reason for the decline of fishery resources in the Yangtze River. Electric fishing is a destructive operation, which also exacerbates the decline of large mammals and seriously threatens the survival of some rare aquatic wild protected species such as white-tipped dolphins, finless porpoises, and Chinese sturgeon. The illegal operation of electric fish has become the main reason for the destruction of fishery resources and the ecological environment of the Yangtze River. Overgrazing leads to grassland degradation, soil erosion, and illegal orchid harvesting leads to the wild extinction of wild orchids

Large scale illegal and excessive discharge of environmental pollutants into water bodies: Five years ago, there were more than 30,000 pollution sources in the Yangtze River, and more than half of the 394 major sewage discharge outlets did not meet national standards. A large number of pollutants are discharged into the river, resulting in frequent major pollution accidents. The natural fishery resources of polluted waters have been devastated and will be difficult to recover for a long time. Water quality issues have become an important environmental threat to aquatic life. If about 70 percent of the water body of the Yangtze River becomes a class III or less water quality and does not meet the fishery water quality standards, some aquatic organisms in the Yangtze River will face the danger of extinction, the biological diversity of the Yangtze River will be seriously damaged, the food chain will be broken, and cyanobacteria will erupt in a large area.

Wetland reclamation: In the past 20 years, the area of towns along the Yangtze River has increased by 39. 03%, urban development and construction seriously squeezed the ecological space of rivers and lakes, coupled with the construction of the Yangtze River reservoir group and the diversion of water in the project, resulting in a sharp decline in the number of lakes in the Tongjiang river, the area of lakes and wetlands in the middle and lower reaches of the river has shrunk in a large number, and the quality has declined. Dongting Lake and Poyang Lake are 39% smaller than in the 1950s, respectively. 7% and 43. 6%? Dongting Lake and Poyang Lake frequently show ultra-low water levels during dry periods,

and the area covered by aquatic vegetation such as water-standing plants and submerged plants is reduced, resulting in a decline in the number of fish populations and serious degradation of lake ecosystems. At the same time, the construction of reservoir groups in the middle and upper reaches of the Yangtze River, sand dredging in waterways, and environmental pollution have also destroyed the habitat environment of aquatic organisms, and the number of various aquatic biological species in the Yangtze River has dropped sharply. Since 2006, the baiji dolphin has been functionally extinct, the finless porpoise is in a critically endangered state, and the rare species of the Yangtze River are on the verge of extinction. In addition, the population of large rare birds such as geese, black-faced spoonbills, curly-winged pelicans, and cygnets, which have higher requirements for habitat environment, also showed a downward trend.

Expansion of invasive alien species: In the Yangtze River Basin, four species of sturgeon, including the Russian sturgeon (Acipenser gueldenstaedtii), the Siberian sturgeon (Acipenser baerii), the Spoon Sturgeon (Polyodon spathula) and the European Sturgeon (Huso huso), have become one of the most numerous exotic species. It could have catastrophic impacts on the aquatic life and ecology of the Yangtze River. Biological invasions cause certain harm to local ecosystems. Invasive plants such as hyacinth in East Lake, hyacinth and hollow lotus in Honghu Lake are particularly serious, with an invasion area of up to 1, 200 more than hm2 in the summer of 2017, and a biomass fresh weight of up to 120,000 t.

Frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters caused by climate change: With the frequent occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, and tides in the Yangtze River, the serious siltation of Tongjiang Lakes has led to a great weakening of the storage capacity, resulting in dangerous situations in flood control often caused by excessively heavy rains during the peak f rainy season, and even caused accidents in the breaking of embankments in Hunan, Hubei, Anhui, and other places, triggering large-scale aquatic aquaculture escape incidents.

Main biodiversity threats in the target KBAs: For target Liangshan KBA in Sichuan, the main biodiversity threats include overgrazing, fire, habitat fragmentation of major protected wildlife such as giant pandas due to infrastructure and urbanization, collection of firewood and bamboo shoots, and collection of Chinese medical herbs. The main challenge of Mufushan-Poyanghu KBA Lake in Jiangxi Province is the serious conflict between economic development and protection. Infrastructure development, urbanization, land reclamation, pollution, etc. are all threats there. Also, the human-wildlife conflict has seriously affected the production and life of the surrounding communities. The problem of Dabieshan KBA in Anhui Province is that many alien species invade the PAs, such as pinewood nematodes, Canadian Goldenrod (Solidago canadensis), and so on. Illegal collection of orchids, the main conservation focus of the PA, is a major threat too. In wetlands along the Yangtze KBA also in Anhui: the environmental pollution and water infrastructure projects affect the finless porpoise, traffic and shipment are also impacting the finless porpoise, and due to unsustainable fishing and lack of conservation efforts, the reduction in prey base of finless porpoise is also a challenge.

2. Root Causes:

Firstly, the root causes for these problems are insufficient in understanding and lack of information on biodiversity conservation; uncoordinated actions on biodiversity conservation, especially for the river ecosystem, aquatic biological protection and habitat protection; lack of monitoring and research of the species and ecosystems, and lack of supervision on the management effectiveness of protected areas. Secondly, legislation for biodiversity and protected areas is not yet in place and related law enforcement is inadequate. Finally, related to governance, there is a lack of unified and adequate policy framework and financing system in place for comprehensive conservation and thus affecting the effectiveness of conservation.

The root causes are identifying as following: weak legislative context, such as weak enforcement of existing regulations and especially lack of clear regulations defining community co-management responsibilities, population growth, lack of alternative livelihood as income sources for local communities, lack of awareness, lack of overall PA systems plan, including uneven coverage and lack of climate change adaptation strategy, lack of monitoring and access to good information on biodiversity, inadequate investment into PA management (low staff levels, staff capacity, operational budgets and support facilities), Lack of coordination between different agencies leading to conflicting activities and plan, and man-induced accelerating climate change.

With increasing population growth and increased aspirations for higher levels of income, resources have been utilized in an unsustainable way (particularly wetlands, but also wildlife, and medicinal plants harvested from the wild).

3. Barriers

Three main barriers underline these multiple threats:

1: The planning and design of the PA system is unreasonable, and there is a lack of timely assessment of the conservation effectiveness of the PA system, which affects the management effectiveness of PAs in the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

(1) The establishment of PAs is in the stage of rescue establishment. In the past, many government departments such as agriculture, environmental protection, water conservancy, etc. have also established nature reserves together with local prefectural and county governments. In China, PA management effectiveness has been hindered by the lack of comprehensive PA planning, which has so far been based on a single objective without the necessary consideration of landscape ecology. At the beginning of its establishment, the boundaries, areas and functional zoning of PAs were mainly determined based on human activities, and the lack of systematic analysis of the needs and effective protection of the key protection objects could not necessarily achieve the main protection functions.

(2) The optimization and integration of PAs started in 2020 is mainly aimed at the overlapping of PAs. Plantation forests, farmland and towns in the protected areas are transferred outside the protected areas, and there is a lack of effective attention to the main protection objects. How to strike a balance between fragmentation of protected areas and increasing conservation effectiveness is an urgent need for research.

(3) Due to the lack of government input and management effectiveness assessment in protected areas, although the government has issued a management effectiveness assessment system for protected areas, it has not been formally implemented, but only carried out from time to time. The assessment of management effectiveness lacks effective monitoring data to support, the human interference of PA protection objects has not been effectively controlled, and the protection actions taken by protected areas are not targeted.

2. The laws and policies are not perfect, and the protection project has not been implemented

Insufficient investment in protection, inadequate ecological compensation policies, lack of realization mechanism for ecological products, and lack of comprehensive financial and legal support for protection work The nature reserve is located in an economically underdeveloped area, with a high degree of resource dependence and great pressure from human activities in the reserve. The collection of non-timber forest products (NTFP) such as traditional Chinese medicinal materials (TCM), bamboo shoots, mushrooms and seedling seeds is unsustainable. The impact of grazing Wildlife habitat. The regulations of nature reserves stipulate that collection and grazing are not allowed, which actually does not conform to the actual situation of the reserves. Wildlife conflict has increasingly become a key issue between protected areas and surrounding communities, and there is a lack of compensation for damage to protected areas. The regulations on nature reserves are being revised, and there is a need for nature reserve regulation and policies that are adapted to the actual conditions of different regions. There is a lack of laws and policies related to the establishment of community co-management in nature reserves. Lack of technical guidelines for community-based co-management of protected area management plans and community-based resource co-management plans.

The ecological services and ecological products of nature reserves have become the basis for the formulation of ecological compensation policies. China has made great efforts to develop poverty-stricken areas, and the country has achieved poverty alleviation. However, how to enable these protected or surrounding residents to obtain effective living support, it is necessary to establish an ecological compensation mechanism to realize the value of local ecological products. The state put forward opinions on the realization mechanism of ecological products, how to realize the value realization mechanism of ecological products according to the situation in the region, increase the value of ecological products, reduce the damage to natural resources, and improve the living standards of local communities.

The Yangtze River Basin Conservation Policy, Legislation, Coordination, and Financing Mechanisms Are Incomplete The Yangtze River Biodiversity Conservation Policy is not perfect. Taking the protected area system as an example, there is no law applicable to all protected areas. The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves was promulgated in 1994 and was only revised in 2017. Focusing on national parks, the pilot projects for national park construction are still in their infancy. There are still many uncertainties in governance mechanisms, financing, and development models for different pilot projects, and different countries will face different challenges. planned provinces. That is to say, the governance and financing mechanisms of the Giant Panda National Park may be different from those of the Hubei New National Park pilot. For example, different provinces may adopt financing tools such as PES and biodiversity compensation. These all bring complexity to the program. Other protected areas under reform may have a similar situation, requiring adaptive

management during project implementation, with a focus on policy and financing mechanisms. Therefore, it is necessary to systematically solve the problems of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River Basin, main and tributaries, rivers and lakes, wetland landscapes, and urban and rural areas. It is necessary to systematically solve problems in terms of natural property rights registration, clear property rights, ownership, management, utilization, protection, restoration, restoration, monitoring and evaluation, legislation, law enforcement, and supervision. The conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, the control of human influence and legislation are the most effective indicators of governance capacity and management effectiveness. The state has put forward a strategy for the protection of the Yangtze River, promulgated the Yangtze River Protection Law, and issued a major project plan for the protection of important ecosystems. However, how these laws, policies and plans are implemented in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, there is no project planning and design based on the priority areas of protection in this region. , do not guide these laws, policies and projects to invest in the biodiversity of the region, and do not contribute to addressing key constraints in biodiversity conservation. .

3. The institutional and personnel capacity of protected area management is weak, and new technologies for monitoring biodiversity and human activities are rarely applied in protected areas

The current capacity of the Provincial Forestry and Grassland Bureau to oversee multiple protected areas, make sound operational decisions, manage budgets, deploy personnel, and monitor performance is insufficient for effective protected area management. Protected area management sections and protected area staff at all levels have received little specialized training in protected area management and no work standards have been applied. Provincial forestry and grassland bureaus have a limited role in hiring or firing such personnel. Most of these protected area workers do not have the relevant technical background to perform their assigned duties, and many work part-time only. Most protected areas are understaffed. Protected areas lack opportunities for training and learning techniques.

There is a lack of new ICT applications in the protected area, and the monitoring and patrolling of the protected area is only done by temporarily hired personnel. Infrared cameras, voiceprint monitoring, and drone patrols have not been scientifically applied. Most protected areas also lack basic infrastructure (such as a ranger's protection station) and sufficient field equipment for monitoring and communication. While past projects and government efforts have attempted to address some of the issues of institutional and staff capacity building, they have been sporadic, non-comprehensive, and largely reliant on external support and based on individual protected areas.

2. Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The project, as a child project implemented by National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) under the Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Program (Yangtze Program), will work in 3 provinces of the YRB, Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui as already confirmed during the Program Framework Document (PFD) phase.

Sichuan Province, located in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, is one of the richest provinces in terms of biodiversity inChina. There are 1,238 species of vertebrates in Sichuan, accounting for over 40% of the country?s total. There are over 10,000 species of higher plants in Sichuan, accounting for

one third of the country?s total and belonging to over 1,600 genera in over 230 families[1][1]. 11 nature reserves in Sichuan are included on KBA mapping?after consulting with the provincial stakeholders and the Ministry of Environmental and Ecology, Liangshan KBA has been selected as the target area.

There are over 3,000 species of higher plants growing in Liangshan Nature Reserve. The vegetation of Liangshan belongs to the mountainous vegetation type, with typical vertical distribution and a complete vertical band spectrum structure. The fourth National Giant Panda Survey shows that there are 124 wild giant pandas in Liangshan. Meigu Dafengding Nature Reserve is located in the center of Liangshan and the intersection of large and small Liangshan mountains. It is home to 90% of the total population of giant pandas in Liangshan and it is the southernmost point of giant panda distribution. There are 6 species of national level I key protected terrestrial wildlife and 31 species of national level II key protected terrestrial wildlife. Over 40 species are unique to China, such as small muntjac, Sichuan partridge, Meigu ridge snake and Daliang newt. It is an important wintering place for rare birds such as black stork and black necked crane. Among them, Sichuan partridge is an endemic bird in the mountains of Southwest China and a national level I key protected wild animal. The IUCN has listed it as a globally endangered (EN) species. It is known as the "giant panda" among birds.

Yi nationality communities have the traditional habit of using natural resources, such as hunting, grazing, digging medicine, shooting bamboo shoots and so on. The rapid growth of the population, as well as the impact of unsustainable grazing and collection, exerts increasing pressure on the protected areas. The giant panda habitats in some areas are seriously disturbed by human activities, and the quality of some giant panda habitats is reduced, which makes the survival of giant pandas potentially threatened. In the management of nature reserves, we should fully carry forward the traditional culture of Yi nationality.

Jiangxi Province is located on the southern bank of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. There are 5,115 species of higher plants, 870 species of wild vertebrates in the province.190 nature reserves, 181 forest parks and 93 wetland parks, and the total area of nature reserves, forest parks and wetland parks in the province has reached 25.51 million mu, accounting for 10.2% of the land area. Mufushan-Poyanghu KBA in Jiujiang city has been selected as the target KBA in Jiangxi. Mufushan-Poyanghu KBA is one of the national priority areas for biodiversity conservation. It is one of the best preserved areas of low-altitude zonal evergreen broad-leaved forest in the humid area of the mid-subtropical zone of East China. There are over 2,100 species of higher plants and 429 species of vertebrates, including 4 species of national level I protected plants and 15 species of national level II protected plants. There are 6 species of national level I key protected wildlife and 37 species of national level II key protected wildlife. It is one of the areas with the richest species diversity in Jiangxi. There are 52 nature reserves in this area, covering an area of 345,649 hectares. There are 5 national nature reserves, covering an area of 78,061.5 hectares[2][2].

Anhui Province is located in the Yangtze River Delta. There are 4,245 species of higher plants and 742 species of wild vertebrates. The world?s unique wildlife, alligator and Baiji dolphin, are found in the

Yangtze River Basin in central Anhui. Anhui has successfully established 106 nature reserves with a total area of 505,579 hectares. The types of nature reserves are mainly forest ecosystems, including wetland ecosystem and wildlife areas. There are 37 forest parks, 23 national forest parks and 38 scenic spots in the province, including 5 national scenic spots. Dabieshan and Wetlands along the Yangtze River in Anhui Province that are identified as KBAs are selected as target areas

Dabieshan KBA is the transition zone from subtropical zone to warm temperate zone. With rich species diversity, it has more than 2,800 species of higher plants, and 425 terrestrial vertebrates. The main ecological problems are: the structure of forest ecosystems has been seriously damaged and the function of water and soil conservation has decreased. At the same time, habitat fragmentation is serious and biodiversity is threatened.

The Yangtze River finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis asiaeorientalis*), main species for the Wetlands along the Yangtze KBA, is a rare cetacean species in China, which is found only in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, Dongtinghu and Poyanghu. The Yangtze River finless porpoise faces threats mainly from a variety of human activities, such as excessive and illegal fishing, rapid growth of Yangtze River shipping, large-scale water retention and dam construction projects and continuous water pollution. Tongling freshwater dolphin national nature reserve is located in the river stretch with the most concentrated distribution of Baiji, which is of great significance for the protection of Baiji, known as "giant panda in water".

International environmental conservation projects, especially GEF projects, have unique advantages and experiences in this regard and can bring new concepts, theories, technologies, methods, and best practices on ecological environment and biodiversity conservation to the governments, corporates, academic communities, and general public in the YREB. During the past 12 years of GEF-5 to GEF-7, about 28 projects in the focal area of biodiversity have been approved and implemented in China, their focusing areas are mainly nature reserves, agricultural biodiversity, and forestry ecosystems, etc. Although these GEF projects generally mentioned that environmental pollution harms biodiversity when analyzing biodiversity threat factors, they do not design relevant intervention strategies and specific activities to eliminate or mitigate the relevant pollution factors and their root causes, let alone establish and improve a regulatory and coordination mechanism for the ecological environment (including biodiversity) in the YRB or the YREB and guiding enterprises to personally participate in biodiversity practices to effectively manage, eliminate or mitigate environmental pollutants from land and water bodies. In addition, these aforementioned GEF projects also involve addressing threats to biodiversity from land space use and land resource use. Among them, this project will closely coordinate with them to complement each other, reduce redundancies and achieve coordination and greater impacts. These include the GEF-6 China?s Protected Area System Reform program (C-PAR), the GEF-7 Demonstrating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin project (ECM), and the GEF-7 Transformational wildlife conservation management in China (TWC).

At the national level, recognizing the emergent challenges, China is embarking upon a transition to a more balanced and sustainable economic growth model. China?s national 12th FYP (2011-2015) highlighted the need for green development and committed to establishing a resource-saving and environmental-friendly society. The 13th FYP (2016-2020) and the 19th CPC Congress Report (October 2017) called for a beautiful China and founded a new era of ecological civilization by pursuing efficiency and innovation-driven development; improving equitable access to basic public services; and reversing environmental degradation. In the national 14th Five Year Plan, the following priorities concerning YRB and PAs are put forward: comprehensively promote the development of the YREB, develop a protected area system, improve the compensation mechanism for ecological protection. China is building a protected area system that takes the National Parks as of main focus, legislation for protected areas has also been put on the agenda and under the feasibility analysis stage.

Several other initiatives are also ongoing in China, these include some led by MNR, including the Ecological Conservation Redlining initiative (ECR), virtually a mixture of protected areas, and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM), aiming to protect the areas of ecological values and significance. In addition, China has completed the national Redlist assessments for mammals and higher plants.

At the local levels, Sichuan Province will continuously strengthen the development of the ecological province, and promote the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development. Jiangxi Province will adhere to respecting, conforming to, and protecting nature, give priority to conservation, protection, and natural restoration, guard the natural ecological security boundary and increase the supply of high-quality ecological products, implement the integrated protection and restoration of mountains, rivers, forests, fields, lakes, and grasses, and explore and build different types and distinctive demonstration areas. Anhui Province will strengthen systematic governance, coordinate the integrated protection and restoration of mountains, rivers, forests, fields, lakes, and grasses, and vigorously promote the Yangtze River, Huaihe River, Jianghuai canal, and Xin'anjiang ecological corridor upgrading project and the construction of ecological barriers in Dabie Mountains in Western Anhui and mountainous areas in southern Anhui.

The Chinese government has invested significant funds to protect biodiversity in the YRB, such as giant panda conservation, natural forest protection, returning farmland to forests, grasslands, and wetlands, water and wetland conservation, water pollution prevention, and ecological protection compensation in the YRB.
At present, these initiatives are formulated and implemented in an often siloed way by different sectoral agencies, provinces, and cities, which lacks coherent planning and effective coordination. Insufficient capital investment and low efficiency of use are unable to cope with the needs of the Yangtze River biodiversity conservation. In particular, the landscape or river basin approach, addressing nature conservation in an integrated and systematic way and in a needed geographic scope that involves related sector agencies and stakeholders, has not been widely adopted. This has led to particularly threats to aquatic biodiversity.

3. The proposed alternative scenario, expected outcomes, and components of the project

In order to support the biodiversity conservation and environmental protection initiatives as described above, and respond to in the aforementioned barriers, the programme aims to Enhance and mainstream biodiversity conservation in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China, so that:
- coordination among sector agencies for biodiversity conservation in Yangtze is improved, in terms of coherent planning and implementation, concerted investments and actions, as well as joint policy making.
- protected area networks can effectively and sustainably protect nationally and globally important biodiversity in 50 million hectares habitats across the Yangtze River Basin
- species extinction and ecosystem collapse risks to globally important biodiversity are reduced, as per further red list assessments
- effective solutions to food and water provision, disaster reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation etc. are sustainably provided by the natural capital in the Yangtze River Basin for its 500 million residents.

In general, the programme will undertake three key focus to achieve expected change and transformation, taking advantage of the unprecedented partnership between the two EAs of the CPs, who have been among the most relevant and important sectoral agencies for biodiversity conservation in China, but have not collaborated under an internationally funded initiative:

1) Demonstrate integrated solutions in common geographies ? guided by the programme Two CPs will work in the same three provinces of the YREB and it is planned that the landscapes and municipalities they further identify to focus on will also be coordinated. In these common geographies, response and solutions would be explored and demonstrated, by addressing the protection of habitats through

protected areas management and addressing human impacts through biodiversity mainstreaming in a systematic and integrated way.

2) Achieve impact at basin and national levels through joint policy influencing ? the programme aims to undertake joint policy influencing with very clear policy targets. The two CPs and their EAs will both contribute to the policy influencing based on respective advantages set in a coordinated, complementary manner. This is expected to achieve greater impact than any of the CPs or EAs doing it on its own.

3) Undertake coordinated knowledge and knowledge management ? the programme will generate knowledge from both the biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming perspectives, therefore principally meeting the needs to a wide group of stakeholders. The coordinated information management will also improve the data sharing and exchange among sector agencies. The programme will also help with institutional strengthening and capacity building. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be conducted at both programme and CP levels.

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[1] Overview of Sichuan - Sichuan Provincial People's Government (sc.gov.cn)

[2] TU & TANG Composition of Mammal Species and Clustering Analysis of Their Geographical Distribution in National Natural Reserves of Jiangxi, Acta Agriculture Jiangxi 2015?27(9) : 117 ? 122

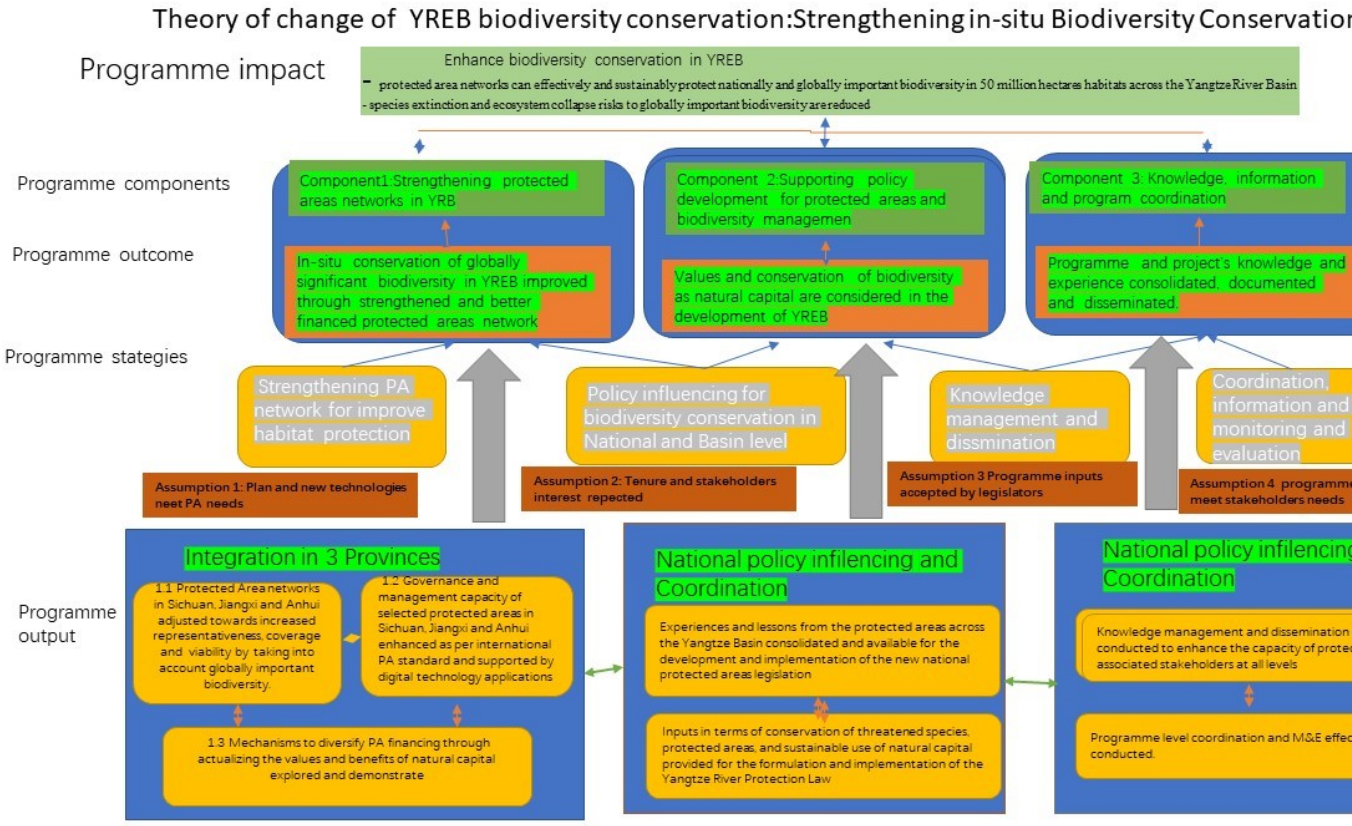

Figure 1 Theory of Change of Strengthening in-situ YREB Biodiversity Conservation

This programme adopts a Theory of Change (TOC) as shown below in Figure 1. By implementing strategies and approaches clustered under three components to protect globally important habitat, mainstream biodiversity and enhance knowledge, information and capacity base, the programme aims to improve the protection of 1.2 million ha of protected areas and reduce the negative impact from development and production sectors for 1.25 million ha of landscape.

The programme?s TOC also takes into account the distinct and respective mandates, roles and responsibilities of the Executing Agencies (EA) of the Child Projects (CP), which will each own certain parts of the TOC, yet support and complement each other on a few cross-cutting strategies, which are expected to lead to greater impacts based on consolidated and coordinated efforts.

The TOC also includes considerable potential for collaboration with the GEF7 ADB-implemented Ecological Compensation Mechanism project, as per early consultation and exchange between the two initiatives.

Objective: Safeguarding biodiversity through sustainable protected areas networks in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China
Outcomes and Outputs
Component 1: Protecting globally important habitats in the Yangtze River Basin **Outcome 1. In-situ conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin improved through strengthened and better financed protected areas network** Output 1.1 Protected Area networks in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui adjusted towards increased representativeness, coverage and viability by taking into account globally important biodiversity. Output 1.2 Governance and management capacity of selected protected areas in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui enhanced as per international PA standard and supported by digital technology applications, will provide demonstration for the Yangtze River Basin Output 1.3 Mechanisms to diversify PA financing through actualizing the values and benefits of natural capital explored and demonstrated, provide financing models and ecological product value realization mechanisms for YRB .
Component 2: Supporting policy development for protected areas and biodiversity management in Yangtze **Outcome 2. Values and conservation of biodiversity as natural capital are considered in the development of YREB** Output 2.1Summarize experiences and lessons learned from the assessment of protected areas in the Yangtze River Basin, and make recommendations for the development and implementation of updated national protected area regulations Output 2.2 systematic conservation plan for threatened species, protected areas coverage, and sustainable use of natural capital provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law
Component 3: Knowledge, information and program coordination **Outcome 3. Programme and project?s knowledge and experience consolidated, documented and disseminated** Output 3.1 Knowledge management and dissemination effectively conducted to enhance the capacity of protected areas associated stakeholders at all levels Output 3.2 Programme level coordination and M&E effectively conducted.

Indicator-wise Targets
●Plans for improving and optimizing the protection of 4 key biodiversity areas in pilot provinces in place, on the basis of the existing protected areas network optimization processes
●PA adjustments undertaken to enhance the protection of KBAs, with at least 1 PA upgraded to national level
●IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas used to improve the governance and management effectiveness of selected protected areas with a total area of over 1.2 million hectares, and 6 Pas certified
●At least 2 co-management / conflict management pilots established
●Application of infrared camera, audio collector and wireless transmission technology over 20 square kilometers, Form relevant technical standards based on the pilot, and put forward relevant policy suggestions for the formulation of the new protected area law
●More than 10 audio monitoring sites, demonstrating effective monitoring of the target species and human activities
●Remote sensing monitoring technology system and UAV monitoring and patrol standards formed, demonstrated in more than 8 protected areas
●AI for wildlife image recognition fully applied, and the big data platform has been fully operationalised, According to the pilot work, formulate and form technical standards for biodiversity monitoring in protected areas
●Natural capital value and ecological compensation mechanisms developed and piloted in 4 PAs, Put forward policy suggestions on the value realization mechanism of ecological products in national protected areas
●Management and financing plans developed and implemented by 8 PAs, Propose guidelines for the preparation of protected area financing plans for inclusion in national industry standards

This project is coordinated with the UNDP GEFID: 10701 at the design level. The two projects have different geographical focus, this project involves the Liangshan region in Sichuan that is not included in the GEFID10701 project. In addition, this project focuses on the monitoring and management of protected areas. The application of infrared cameras is mainly for wildlife monitoring and human disturbance monitoring in protected areas. This is a innovative piloting activity for NFGA on how to use the biodiversity monitoring platform for PA management. While the GEFID10701 project mainly

conducts wildlife monitoring and survey for the Wildlife Protection Department of the NFGA. Also, the focus of the work is different. This project mainly focuses on anthropogenic activity areas and concerns about the impact of anthropogenic activities on wildlife, while the GEFID 10701 project focuses on wildlife occurrence types and frequency.

1. Alignment with GEF focal area:

The project is aligned with the GEF focal area to address direct drivers to protect habitats and species, by focusing on improving financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the protected areas (BD Objective 2). The project will achieve effective protection of ecologically viable and climate-resilient representative ecosystems and adequate coverage of threatened species in the Yangtze basin, diversify funding and financing to protected areas and introduce international standards to improve the individual and institutional capacity of protected area managers and agencies. The diversified financing to protected areas will also include natural capital assessment and accounting, as an approach to evaluate and quantify the values and benefits of the natural capital of protected areas.

2. Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline and the GEFTF

This project is designed to fill the gaps of Chinese government funding and programs, promote cross-sectoral cooperation and interregional synergy, clarify the position of departmental responsibilities, promote coordinated planning, management, supervision, and law enforcement. According to the procedures and methods of KBA, the project will support the target provinces to effectively protect the KBAs which are not supported by the ongoing initiatives and funding. This project will promote the application of automated monitoring technologies to the monitoring and management of the PAs, and comprehensively introduce the international standard on management effectiveness and management concept, put forward the value realization mechanism for natural capital and ecological products, explore ways to improve ecological compensation, and presents policy suggestions for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law and the legislation of national protected areas, which are all innovative and pioneering. The project will closely work with the MEE project on common geographies and a few important subjects especially the policies, which ultimately improves the cooperation and coordination between the two sector authorities.

Without the inputs of this project, it is difficult to change the current status of biodiversity conservation in YREB. GEF investment of this project will focus on supporting landscape/KBA approach for conservation, PA development and management and supervision, improvement of laws and regulations, exploration of financing mechanisms demonstration of new solutions, and capacity building, which will fill the gaps of Chinese government initiatives, funding, and programs. The ecological civilization concept calls for ?mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, lakes, and grasslands are life community? and "green mountain and river are valuable". However, practical demonstration, solutions, and evidence are still absent in China for stakeholders at all levels to gain the needed hands-on and hands-off knowledge. The project?s approach is a real implementation of these and can therefore provide enormous incremental benefits.

Besides, the field activities of the project will focus on the three provinces along the Yangtze River Basin, i.e. Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui, from upstream to downstream, which are relatively less

developed with many rural communities and populations. Through project implementation, local communities may also indirectly benefit, in terms of job opportunities provided by protected areas and the realization of natural capital values and ecological products, and improved provision, regulating, and cultural and recreational services that biodiversity provides.

The project will contribute to a streamlined PA system in the YRB, by integrating systematic planning of protected area networks based on key biodiversity areas to ensure needed coverage of representative and viable biodiversity. The project will also introduce best practices and new technologies to the protected areas in order to improve governance and management effectiveness. The project will support the protected areas to explore diversified financial models based on natural capital and financing planning. All of these are expected to contribute to an improved protected network local and at the river basin level, which can better protect habitats of global importance in the YRB. Without the project, the PA system and networks could still be reformed, but are not based on systematic planning and information for landscape protection. At the site level, governance, management and financing models of protected areas may still be subject to the existing issues and barriers.

The project will contribute to the new PA law development by introducing the needs and direct evidence on a variety of protected areas issues including governance, management, financing, capacity, etc. The Law on Natural Protected Areas is the basic law for the development of the national nature reserve system, which will provide legal support for the establishment of a natural protected area system with national parks as the main body in China, and is still in the process of being formulated, and this project will promote new concepts such as green list standards, KBA conservation practices, financing mechanisms, and ecological product realization mechanisms into the law The inputs will complement the inputs from the MEE child project to help ensure and strengthen the representativeness of balanced needs and interests of the major stakeholders of the legislation and lead to greater practicality and operability. The project will contribute to the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law, by developing needed follow-up initiatives on biodiversity conservation and exploring the financing mechanism to ensure sustainable conservation. Without the project, the new national PA law may not be enacted on time or enacted with considerable compromises due to diverse and conflicting interests, and lack of practical evidence from the field and on possible solutions. The already formulated Yangtze River Protection Law, though having biodiversity-related articles, may not be implemented effectively due to a lack of follow-up initiatives and enforcement.

The project will deliver a well-developed training program based on actual needs and put in place an online training platform with good tutorials also capturing project experience and knowledge. Monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management, project management, and coordination at the program level between the two child projects will also be undertaken. Without this project, the stakeholders of the protected areas may still lack access to systematic capacity building and training on a variety of PA topics. Monitoring and evaluation, following the project cycle management practices, and adaptive management may still be unfamiliar to the staff members and institutions involved in the project. The two projects may be established but implemented in a siloed approach and don?t generate coordinated impacts.

The design of this project also takes great consideration of the existing ECM, TWC and C-PAR projects. To avoid any overlap, this project is different in the following aspects from the above-mentioned projects: 1) different project objectives: the ECM project mainly addresses the national input problem of large scale conservation at the policy level, the TWC project mainly involves carrying

out wildlife monitoring and management problems in the Giant Panda National Park. For the Department of Wildlife Protection of the NFGA, the main objective for the TWC project is wildlife monitoring and management. The C-PAR project mainly targets the conservation area policy development challenges. However, this project mainly addresses the key technical issues of PA monitoring and management, management effectiveness assessment and biodiversity area design such as conservation financing, focusing on nature reserve management techniques; 2) Focus of the projects is different: This project focuses on the technical aspects of protected area system design, monitoring and management, capacity building, and protected area financing and community development, while the other projects focus on wildlife, ecological compensation policy and national protected area policy; 3) The projects are working with different authorities: the ECM project mainly involves National Development and Reform Commission, while the TWC project involves Wildlife Protection Department of the NFGA, and the C-PAR project involves Ministry of Ecology and Environment, where this project are work with PA department of the NFGA.

The table below present the baseline scenario and the project incremental reasoning per project component.

Business as usual scenario	**Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions with GEFTF**
Component 1: Protecting globally important habitats in the Yangtze River Basin	
In order to solve the problems of protected areas overlapping, villages and towns, farmland and plantation forest including in protected areas, the protected areas have carried out optimization and integration in China, but these activities are not focused on globally important biodiversity conservation and applying planning methodologies such as systems conservation planning. KBA is not included in the national protected area system integration planning	The GEFTF contributions will be used to adopt the KBA method to evaluate the existing protected area system, incorporates species, ecosystems and important areas of ecological services of global importance into the protected area system, and realizes the systematic protection of flagship species and representative ecosystems, which will have important biodiversity value. The Mamize provincial protected area was upgraded to a national protected area, seeking more national support for the construction and development of the protected area.
The management of the existing protected areas is mainly based on legal patrols and strict control of human access to the core areas and buffer zones, There is a lack of attention to the problems and threats faced by the key conservation species and ecosystems, the impact of the construction of protected areas on local communities, and conflicts between humans and animals, and there is a lack of effective solutions.	The GEFTF contributions will promote the IUCN GLPA standard for the assessment of the management effectiveness of protected areas, and at least 1.2 million hectares of protected areas have been promoted, and at least 6 protected areas have been added to the Green List of Protected Areas. Introduce the international protected area co-management model and conflict resolution model to the pilot protected area, and form at least two typical cases.

Although some surveys have been carried out using infrared cameras, there is no systematic monitoring of protected areas using new technologies such as video, audio and drones, high-resolution satellite data.	Pilot the automatic monitoring technology of infrared cameras and sound collectors based on the automatic transmission of wireless ad hoc networks, and develop standard methods for the monitoring and supervision of protected areas based on infrared cameras, sound collectors, unmanned aerial vehicles and satellite remote sensing, etc. Build an artificial intelligence analysis platform for these data, and build a demonstration of a big data platform for biodiversity in protected areas.
There are some sporadic studies on natural capital accounting and ecological products in protected areas, but these are mostly theoretical and have no guiding significance for the project KBA and demonstration protected areas.	The GEFTF contribution will be used to systematically propose KBAs and natural capital accounting methods for protected areas that serve ecological compensation policies, and make policy recommendations in demonstration KBAs and protected areas. Demonstration of ecological product value realization through certification and other methods
The prices of ecological products such as bamboo shoots, Chinese herbal medicines, and honey are low in the community. The protected area has a single source of funds and no financing plan. The financial support for conservation projects is not sustainable.	GEFTF funds will be used to carry out a demonstration of the preparation of financing plans in the demonstration protected areas. Based on the needs of modern management of protected areas, it will propose capital needs, comprehensively use natural capital accounting, ecological product value realization mechanisms and other policy tools to propose financing plans.
Component 2: Supporting policy development for protected areas and biodiversity management in Yangtze	
Lack of protected area management capacity, funding and management effectiveness analysis and case studies focused on the maintenance of globally significant biodiversity and natural capital values in protected areas	With reference to the green list standards of protected areas and the relevant standards of KBA selection, GEFTF funds will be used to conduct a comprehensive assessment and case analysis of the biodiversity conservation value, natural capital management effectiveness, capacity and funding status of protected areas in pilot provinces. This will include advising on amendments to national protected area legislation and nature reserve regulations
The Yangtze River Protection Law proposes that multiple departments should provide key support in accordance with their respective responsibilities for the protection of endangered species and the establishment of protected areas, but there is a lack of specific content and specific projects that have not been implemented.	The project will introduce the formulation of the KBA protection concept and the GLPA criteria to existing NFGA initiatives such as systematic protection and management effectiveness initiative, and promote the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law by compiling plans for endangered species, protected areas and sustainable natural capital utilization, combined with nationally key ecosystem protection plans.

The research on the realization mechanism of ecological product value is theoretical, and there is no case study in this area, especially no case of protection at the KBA landscape scale	GEFTF supports the analysis of the realization mechanism of different types of KBA ecological products at the scale of pilot KBA, and proposes ecological compensation, sustainable utilization of natural capital and realization mechanism of ecological product mechanism
Component 3: Knowledge, information and program coordination	
There is a lack of training and on-the-spot experience on new concepts related to biodiversity conservation and nature reserve management, especially for KBA conservation actions, systematic conservation planning, and sustainable use of natural capital. Knowledge of the application of new technologies for biodiversity monitoring, etc., lack of on-site visit experience and online training.	GEFTF supports the training of relevant personnel in pilot protected areas, communities and surrounding governments, focusing on training related concepts and digital monitoring and supervision technologies, conflict resolution and scientific research related to the pilot project of this project. At the same time, the network platform is used to establish an online training platform to promote the best practice results of the project across the country.

3. Global environmental benefits

The YRB is a critical global ecoregion that contains some of the earth?s richest biodiversity. As the world?s third longest river, the Yangtze River Basin supports half of China?s total wild animal and plant species. The Yangtze River Basin is the key habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including 1,100 aquatic species (400 fish species). The YRB is an important global ecological region with more than 14,000 species of higher plants and 1,650 species of higher animals, accounting for 40.7% and 42.5% of the total number of higher plants and animals existing in China, respectively. Many unique freshwater wild species on earth thrive in the Yangtze River. For example, the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the Yangtze River are the only habitat for many endangered species such as snow leopards, giant pandas, golden monkeys, Yangtze Finless Porpoise, Chinese sturgeons, Chinese alligator, and endemic fish, some of which are critically endangered and even "functionally extinct", such as the Yangtze River Dolphin and Chinese paddlefish. At least 17 wetlands of international importance in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River have become important habitats, stopovers and wintering grounds for endangered migratory birds in East Asia-Australasia Flyway, supporting about 1 million waterfowl each year, including eight globally threatened species. In addition, the diverse and complex ecosystem types of the YRB, especially forests and wetlands, provide globally critical ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration. Therefore, biodiversity conservation of the Yangtze Basin is of global significance not only for China but also for the international community.

This project will contribute to the improved protection of habitats of global importance in the YRB through improving the coverage, management, and financing of PA networks. Expected impact to ensure the sustainability of protected area networks will be achieved through activities in target provinces, KBAs, and PAs, as well as legislation development at the national level, specifically the new national PA legislation. The project will also contribute to improved knowledge and information base as well as the stakeholders? capacity in close coordination with the MEE project.

This project will safeguard unique and valuable biodiversity by adequately conserving its habitat and preserving corridors that would allow it to continue seasonal migrations and undertake range shifts as may be necessary if the climate continues to change. The KBA and river basin approach biodiversity conservation has the potential to be introduced to other river basins, especially for large rivers, through relevant Chinese authorities, as well as through IUCN?s thematic programs as knowledge products and demonstrations.

4. Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up

This project is to make the YREB an innovative demonstration area for the protection and restoration of ecosystems. Through the management needs and financial needs of endangered species and ecosystems, important protected areas, and target KBAs, this project puts forward the value realization mechanism for natural capital and ecological products, explores ways to improve ecological compensation, and presents policy suggestions for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law and the legislation of national protected areas, which are all innovative and pioneering.

This project will provide focused support for target provinces, which with experiences generated will benefit other provinces across the Yangtze River Basin. The project target areas include provinces from the upper and lower reaches of Yangtze mainstream, as well as the main tributary province, which can provide a good range of examples of different types of the natural, economic, and social contexts and solutions that could be learned by other provinces in terms of planning and undertaking the conservation at landscape/KBA levels, protected areas governance and management according to international standard and with new technologies as well as the innovative and diversified financing for KBAs and PAs. The value realization mechanisms for ecological products and natural capital promoted by the project can promote ecological compensation and PES, and the innovative certification and distribution models will provide a demonstration for rural revitalization and get widely used.

In terms of financial sustainability, the project?s expected outcomes, outputs, and the design of specific activities are closely in line with central and local governments? policies, strategic priorities, and action plans for biodiversity and nature reserves in the Yangtze River Basin in the next 5-10 years. The financial sustainability of the project can be achieved as the emphasis of the project is placed on improving the funding security of protected areas. The project will help PA and KBA financing through policy development. The project will support three target provinces on improved ecological compensation mechanisms and enhance the ability of protected areas on fundraising. Advancing methods such as payment for ecosystem services and for realizing the values of natural capital will also help ensure financial sustainability.

In terms of social and economic sustainability, the results of this project will benefit the protection of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystem services in the Yangtze River Basin, the sustainable development of tourism, and the improvement of various ecosystem services. Continuous monitoring and the participation of stakeholders in protected areas will promote the conservation of biodiversity and the effective management of protected areas. The improvement of ecosystem services supporting eco-tourism and high-tech industries will support China's society and economy, and sustainable and high-quality development.

The development of ecological civilization is an important part of the five-in-one overall layout of national economic construction, political construction, cultural construction, social construction, and ecological civilization. It is a long-term strategic policy to ensure China?s sustainable advancement. This project will support the sustainability and replicability of actions that are critical to the development of protected areas and biodiversity conservation in the YRB. The relevant policy, institutional, and technical results of this project will be incorporated into the policies, institutional mechanisms, work practices, and capacity building of the national and local governments and related stakeholders. Therefore, these results will still play an important role after the end of this project and will continue to be improved and optimized in practical applications to further exert greater influence. This project will support the development of protected areas networks based on KBAs, the improved management effectiveness based on international standards, to advance the integration, optimization, and management of existing protected areas, and will affect the top-level design of the protected area system through contributing to the new national PA legislation.

In terms of replication and scaling up, this project' promotion of the legislation and implementation of two national laws, the PA law and the Yangtze River Protection Law can be scaled to other large basins including the Yellow River and Pearl River in China, the project outcomes can be scaled up from three pilot provinces to 11 provinces from the entire YREB. As China is re-establishing its national PA system, The demonstration sites can provide a wide range of PA diversity and contribute good examples to river basin level PA network (such as the Yangtze River Basin wetland PA network) and national PA systems. IUCN?s Green List of Protected Areas can also help to share the experiences and lessons learned with other participating PAs in China and at the international level. Finally, the KBA/landscape approach for biodiversity conservation has the potential to be introduced to other river basins, especially for large rivers, through relevant Chinese authorities, as well as through IUCN?s thematic programs as knowledge products and demonstrations. The capacity building supported by this project will also be carefully managed to become a strategic resource accessible to domestic and international stakeholders over a long period.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The total project area comprises Heizhugou Nature Reserve, Mabiandafengding Nature Reserve, Mamize Nature Reserve, Jiulingshan Nature reserve, Taohongling Nature Reserve, Gujingyuan Nature Reserve, Yaoluoping Nature Reserve, and Tongling River Dolphin Nature Reserve is 193,211 ha.= All the nature reserves are located in the Key Biodiversity Areas in Yangtze River Economic Belt (Figure 2-4).

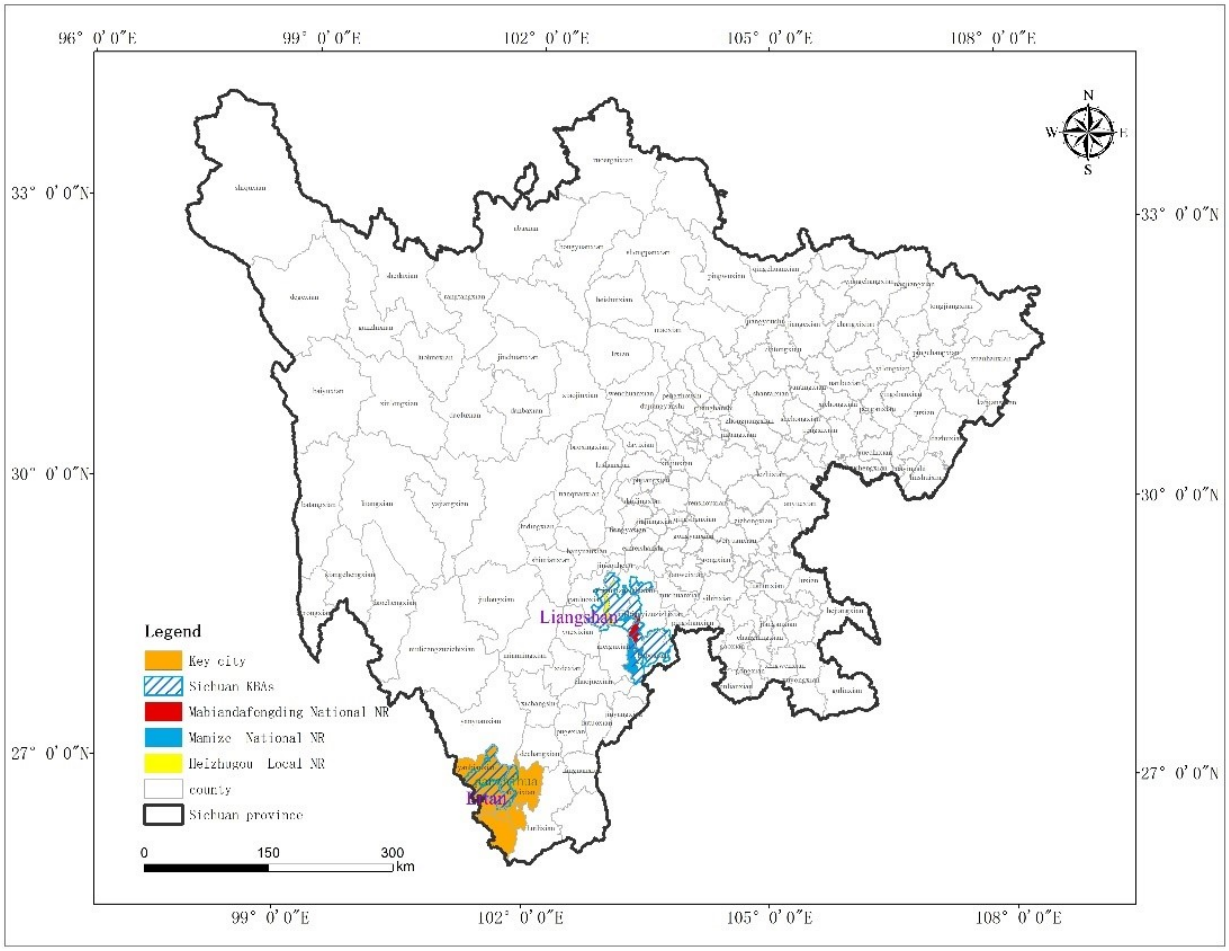

Figure 2: Mamize, Mabiandafengding and Heizhugou nature reserves located in Liangshan KBA of Sichuan Province and target pilot city (Panzhihua) in the *Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt* Project (MEE project).

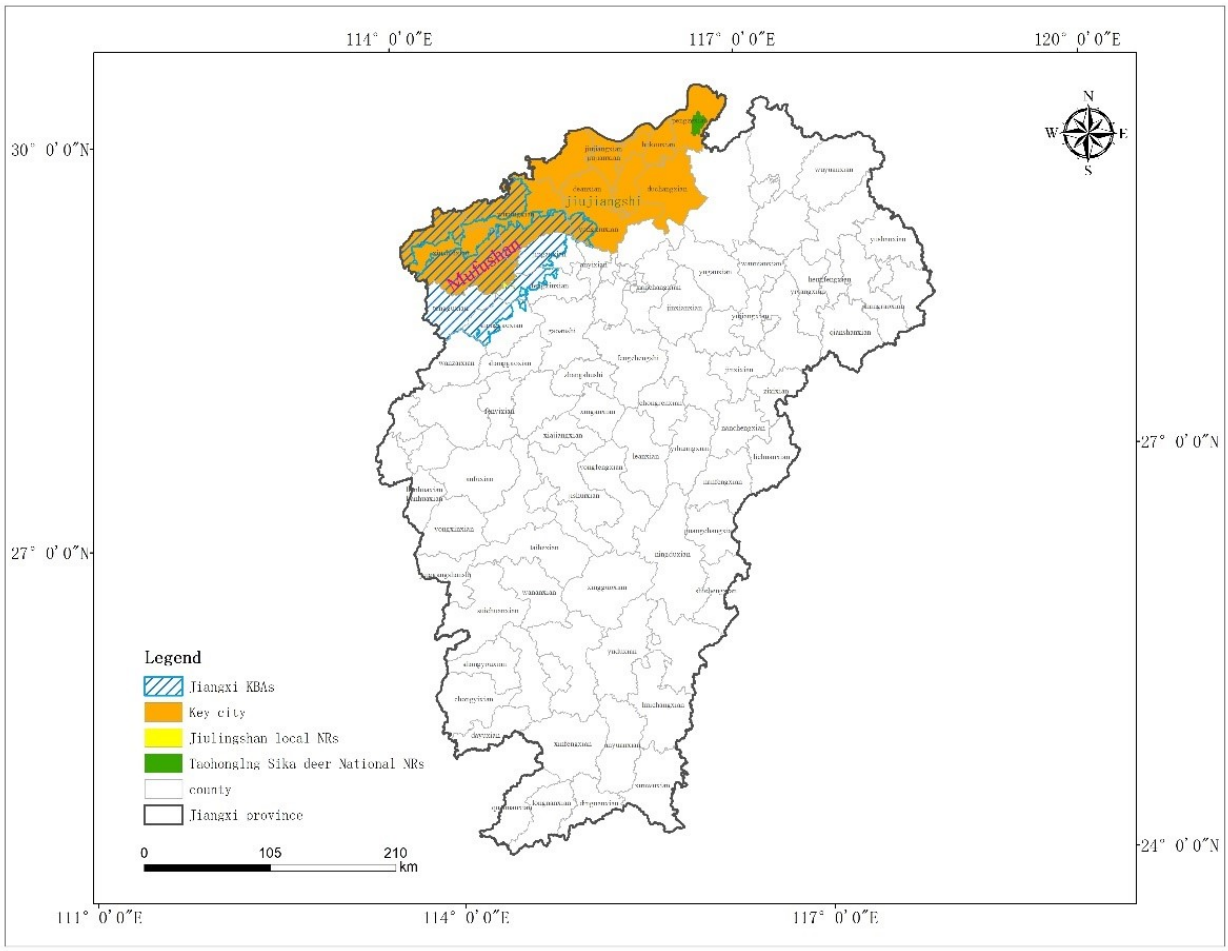

Figure 3: Jiulinshan and Taohongling Nature reserve in Mufushan KBAof Jiangxi Province and the target Jiujiang City in the MEE project

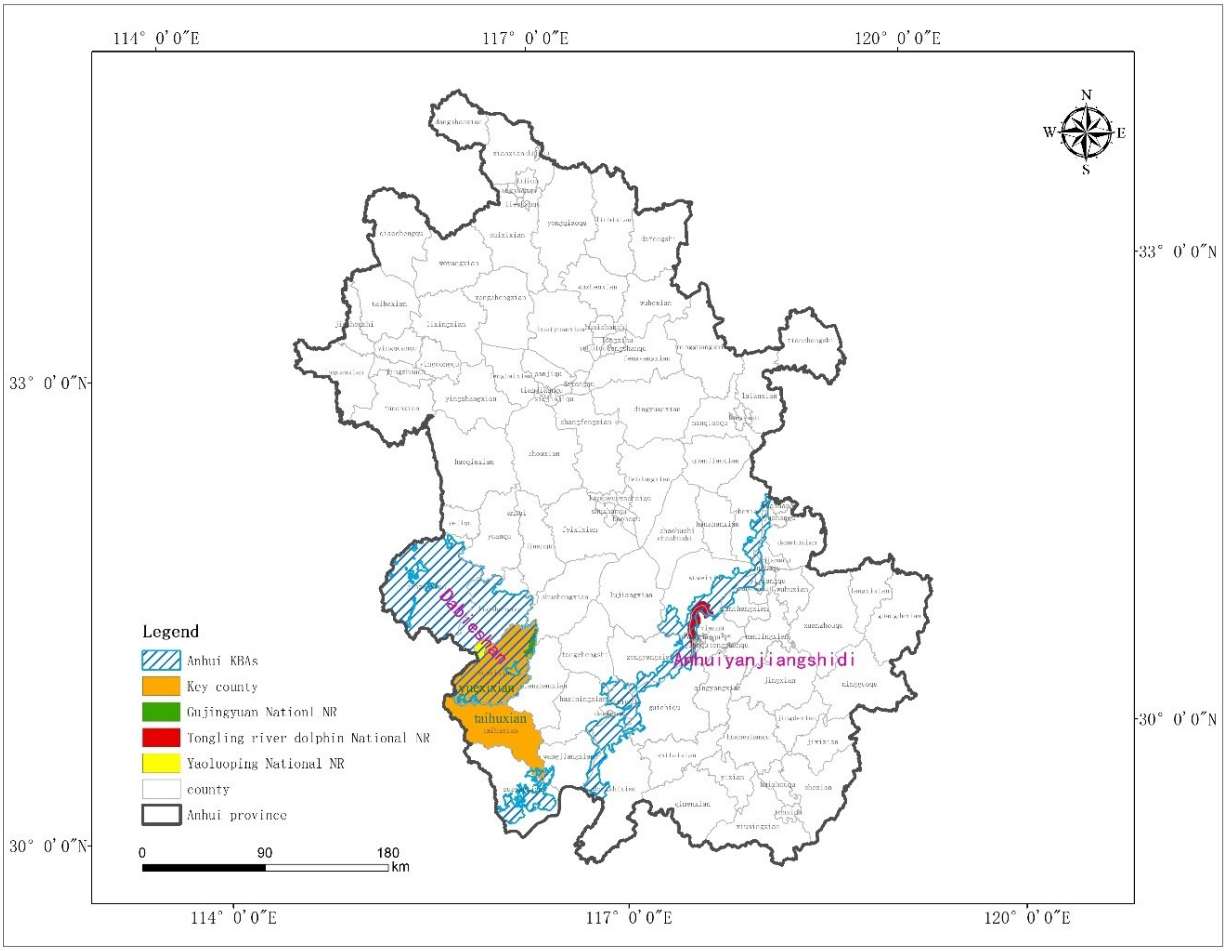

Figure 4: Gujianshan, Tongling River Dolphin and Yaoluoping Nature Reserve in Dabieshan and Wetland Along the River KBAs of Anhui Province and the target Taihu and Yuexi Countyin the MEE project

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This Child Project will contribute to the improved protection of habitats of global importance through improving the coverage, management and financing of PA networks in all 3 provinces. Expected impact to ensure the sustainability of protected area networks will be achieved through the joint efforts from both Child Projects on legislation development at national level, specifically the new national PA legislation. This Child Project will also contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming through the provision of needed inputs to the legislation processes of the Yangtze River Protection Law at basin level. The inputs will mainly be based on NFGA?s mandates and focused on ensuring that the conservation needs, experience and lessons regarding wildlife, protected areas, and values and sustainable use of natural capital in general are integrated in to the implementation of Yangtze Protection Law. Lastly, the Child Project will also contribute to improved knowledge and information base as well as the stakeholders? capacity in close coordination with another Child Project.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder engagement plan

Stakeholder	Purpose of Engagement	Resources	Responsible entity	Frequency /Timing
Government agencies (at different levels)				
National Forestry and Grassland Administration	Project execution and management, and application, dissemination and upscaling of results, mobilising co-financing, coordination with other ministries	Covered in all activities	CPMO	Daily
Other ministries and sector agencies	Application, dissemination and upscaling of results, mobilising co-financing	Covered in activity 3.2.1	CPMO	Semi-annual

Forestry and Grassland Bureaus in target provinces	Provincial project execution, use of related results, mobilising co-financing, coordination with other departments	Covered in activity 3.2.1	CPMO Provincial Project Office (PPO)	Quarterly
County Forestry and Grassland Bureaus and Protected Areas Management Bureaus	Participate in the guidance of target KBA and protected area work	Covered in activity1.1.2, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.6	PPO Local Project Team (LPT)	Semi-annual
Township governments	Community management around the PA	Covered in activity 1.2.2, 1.2.3	LPT	Quarterly or Semi-annual
Local nature conservation organization	Protect local biodiversity, engagement with communities and public	Covered in activity 1.2.2	LPT	Quarterly or Semi-annual
Local stakeholders				
Local communities	Pay attention to sustainable livelihood and nature protection Cooperate and participate in project activities	Covered in activity 1.2.2, 1.3.1	LPT	Per month
Ecotourism, Eco Product Development and Technology Corporation	Support the project activities from their respective strengths and networks	Covered in activity 1.3.1	CPMO PPO LPT	Semi-annual
Other GEF projects	Provide experiences of biodiversity management	Covered in all activities	CPMO	Per year
WWF, CI, ICF	Support project activities on PA management, financing and community and public engagement	Covered in activity 1.3.1	CPMO PPO LPT	Per year
Research & universities	Technical, data and knowledge management and dissemination support	Covered in all actvities	CPMO PPO LPT	As neeed

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The list of stakeholders was drawn from review and consultation with relevant government bodies, local communities, private sectors and other agencies. Their importance, impact, role, means of engagement are presented in the following tables.

During the project implementation stage, the national ministries, MEE and NFGA will serve as the key ministries in the steering committee, hold annual meetings every year to reflect on progress against overall PFD objectives and also ensure efforts are coordinated effectively, and receive project progress report materials every quarter. International agencies including INGOs provide financial support, project consultants and capacity building training to assist in project development. Scientific researchers support project development through project research and capacity building projects, and local communities and private enterprises participate in the development of ecological products and ecotourism activities in project implementation through franchising.

Stakeholders and their potential role in project implementation

Key Stakeholders	Importance/ Impact	The main role in this project
National government departments/agencies		
Ministry of Ecology and Environment	High/High	Provide guidance on national policies related to ecological environment and biodiversity, assist in communication and coordination among central departments regarding this project, review project documents and guide implementation of this project.
Ministry of Finance	High/High	The unified management department of GEF funds in China
Ministry of Natural Resources	High/High	The authorities of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, not directly involved in this project.
National Forestry and Grassland Administration	High/High	Participate in the guidance of relevant national policies and the lead department of the Programmes.
Yangtze River Basin Ecological Environment Supervision Administration	Medium/Medium	Participate in activities related to the project component 1 and its application, provide relevant technical advice, assist or participate in project training.
Joint Research Center for Yangtze River Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Medium / Low	Provide technical consultation related to this project, assist or participate in project training.

All-China Environmental Protection Federation	Medium / Low	Applied the "River Quality Intelligence Assessment System" to local rivers in Taihu County and participated in technical training activities on the application of the system in Taihu County.
Local Government System		
Government Secretariat	High/High	Lead and coordinate project implementation.
Propaganda Department	Low/High	Assist in the dissemination and promotion of project-related knowledge and information as appropriate.
Bureau of Ecology and Environment	High/High	Take the lead in guiding, organizing and coordinating project implementation on the ground.
Bureau of Natural Resources	Medium/Medium	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; coordinate the participation of mining enterprises in project pilot activities; assist or participate in project promotion and training; provide relevant information and data support.
Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Medium/Medium	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; guide enterprises in hydropower production, aquaculture and tea production to participate in project pilot activities; assist or participate in project promotion and training; provide relevant information and data support.
Water Resources Bureau	Medium/Medium	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; assist or participate in project training; provide relevant information and data support.
Forestry Bureau	Medium/Medium	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; assist or participate in project training; provide relevant information and data support.
Development and Reform Commission	Medium/High	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; provide relevant information and data support.
Industry and Information Technology Bureau	Low/Medium	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; coordinate the participation of mining, chemical and hydropower companies in project pilot activities.
Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau	Low / Low	Participate in the integration of biodiversity into relevant planning; provide relevant information and data support.
Transportation Bureau	Low / Low	Assist or participate in project training; provide relevant information and data support.
Education and Sports Bureau	Low / Low	Assist or participate in project training.

Culture, Radio, Film and Tourism Bureau	Low / Low	Assist or participate in project training and propaganda.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

In the past decades, women?s social status in China has been greatly improved. According to a survey conducted on the social status of Chinese women (aged 18-64) in 31 Chinese provinces (including the 11 provinces in the YRB) in July 2020[1], the proportion of women in employment accounts for 43.5 percent of all employees, women's participation in democratic political improvement has been enhanced. Education is one of the areas where Chinese women have made the most significant progress in the past decade, also thanks to technological improvement, more and more women are engaged in social affairs. Women's abilities and roles have been widely recognized by society, as 94.1% of the respondents agreed with the statement that "women are no less capable than men", and 94.8% agreed that "women play half the role in economic and social development". In general, women, ethnic minorities, and low-income people can actively express their views and interests in the project from the group interviews, and have opportunities to participate in the relevant activities of the project under the unified coordination of the local government, and obtain relevant labor remuneration. Further analysis and assessment have been addressed in the Annex 4. Gender engagement plan.

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[1] See China women News,27-12-2021((cnwomen.com.cn,): The main data of the fourth Chinese women's social status survey

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes
Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes
4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

This project involves the development of ecological products in protected areas, and activities such as ecotourism and conflict management in protected areas require the participation of the private sector, as well as the activities of the value realization mechanism of ecological products, ecological compensation and protected area financing.

Commercial production of eco-tourism (homestays), agricultural products (tea, fruit planting, cattle and sheep grazing), and ecological product collection (honey, bamboo shoots, mushrooms) are mainly organized by a combination of farmers and private companies to promote the protection of natural resources within the protected area. The income of surrounding residents is increased. Under the background of industrial restructuring, ecological industries such as homestays, tea, honey and bamboo shoots have shown explosive growth, and biodiversity has been better protected. Eco-tech companies are contributing to the application of technologies that support PA management and eco-products. Particular attention must be paid to tourism and manufacturing in and around protected areas, as these also have significant impacts. China will increase the transfer payment of key ecological functional areas, important water source areas, and PAs, and encourage beneficiary areas, protected areas, and upstream and downstream of the basin to carry out horizontal ecological compensation through various forms such as financial compensation and industrial support. The private sector may also participate and benefit through this project engaging in the process.

For communications with wider society including the private sector, a broad public mechanism for communication and influencing focusing on raising awareness and support for biodiversity conservation will be developed using a range of outreach methods.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation measure(s)
1. Difficult in reaching consensus or synergy among different governmental agencies and provinces	Medium	Low	Low	In the design stage, organize discussions with relevant ministries and relevant provincial managers to reach consensus on project activities, In the project implementation stage, and reach consensus between provinces and ministries at the annual meeting under PSC for the project guidance meeting, and use their own resources to achieve the project target. The activities of this project are set up in accordance with the Yangtze River Protection Law, taking into account the responsibilities of various ministries and commissions, and using the comprehensive law enforcement mechanism and management mechanism of the Yangtze River to promote the participation of various ministries and commissions and the coordination of this project.

2 Climate change may add uncertainty to the project	Medium	Medium	Medium	Climate change leads to the degradation of fragile ecosystems, the general migration of species to lower temperatures and higher altitudes, habitat fragmentation, and the shrinking or even disappearance of suitable habitats, which threaten the survival of species. Suitable habitat for giant pandas will be reduced and habitat will be more fragmented under climate change in 2100, and some suitable areas in the eastern, northeastern and southern parts of the current suitable range will no longer be suitable. In Poyang Lake, climate change will lead to the change of water level and runoff of wetland, causing the adjustment of the spatial and temporal pattern of ecosystem structure and function. It will also lead to the degradation of wetland function, the habitat, feeding and breeding process of migratory birds and other plant and animal populations and communities. Due to climate change, sika deer?s habitat fragmentation will be serious, and the suitable habitat will be only one-tenth of the original one. The project has followed the GE F STAP guidance on climate risk screening and identi?ed the risks of climate change and related measures, and undertake during the implementation management approach for 1) integrating climate change and its associated impacts to the KBA and PA related activities including policy development, 2) timely assessment/ adjustment of conservation boundaries to accommodate change; 3) adjusting priorities based on feedback. The project will also demonstrate an improved resilience within the target KBAs.
The ability to involve provinces to effectively coordinate with each other	Low	Low	Low	The project will be managed through a participatory process, aligned with provincial priorities, to ensure effective coordination among all parties. The project considered coordination with model provinces/territories and through meetings with selected KBA stakeholders, key objectives, outcomes and outputs will be agreed upon, increasing the incentives for provincial participation.

Delays in launching and implementation of the project due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Low	Low	Low	As the COVID-19 situation in China has been under control since mid-2020 (with only a few new imported cases and few or non-domestic cases per day), the project's ability to implement is not expected to be significantly affected by current COVID-19 As the situation continues, production capacity will gradually increase as all industries recover. At the same time, the project will assess and monitor the impact of possible future outbreaks of COVID-19 on stakeholders, especially the community, and use new technologies in project management to carry out biodiversity monitoring and reduce human-wildlife contact, through video Meetings, etc. for project management and capacity building.

low participation of indigenous people in project activities	Low	Low	Low	Since the project is mainly implemented by the local government, it is unlikely to have a direct negative impact on the indigenous peoples. Indigenous people's participation will be enhanced and ensured through: 1) during the design phase, targeting the needs of local communities, and 2) during project implementation, Indigenous peoples participation will be monitored and documented, especially in PA and local level decision-making In the process, it reflects the requirements of the local people. 3) Experiences and lessons learned from the project and input for the legislation of the PA and YR Laws should include the needs of local communities and Indigenous peoples. 4) Indigenous peoples will be given priority in the staff recruitment process. Three aspects of the project were specifically designed to increase local communities' participation in the project: 1) GLPA will be introduced as the management strategy for local communities? participation, and protected area management decisions and management activities were historically made with prior informed consent of the local communities, going forward FPIC will be applied in the context of management decisions of PAs; 2) the project will explore the participatory approach in developing the co-management plan and ecological product value realization mechanism to promote direct participation of local communities in the project, FPIC will also be incorporated into the approach for improved and effective participation of local communities including indigenous peoples. In addition, the ecological product value enhancement will benefit local communities economically, reduce local residents' dependence on protected area resources, and promote the participation of communities around protected areas in project activities sustainably; and, 3) Joint consultation will be adopted in project implementation to reduce the negative impacts of conservation on local communities, and increase local communities participation in protected area-related projects.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme consists of 2 child projects. IUCN is the common implementing agency (IA) of them. Among the two child projects, this project titled "Strengthening the In-situ Protection of Biodiversity in the Yangtze River Economic Zone" is executed by the International Cooperation Center of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (ICC-NFGA). Another child project titled ?Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt" is executed by the Foreign Environment Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (FECO-MEE).

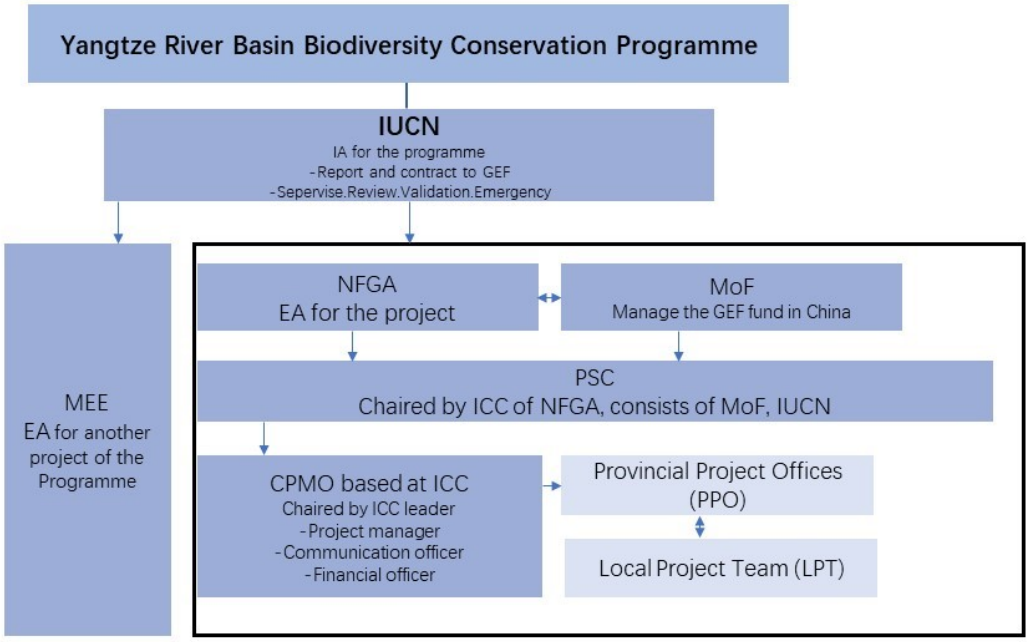

Figure 5 Chart of Project coordination and management

Considering the needs to put in place a well-developed and functioning coordination system between the two ICC-NFGA and FECO-MEE and their CPs to ensure activities are complementary in design and implementation, a Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) will be established and comprise representatives from the Ministry of Finance, NFGA, MEE, IUCN, and other relevant ministries and local governments. PCC is a program level coordination mechanism responsible for assuring the progress, overseeing the coordination, and providing policy guidance.

Regarding the coordination with other GEF projects on biodiversity and in the YRB, a Technical Advisory and Coordination Committee (TACC) will be established, which would include primarily the IAs of those project, including IUCN and ADB , as well as representatives from EAs etc to avoid redundancy and establish synergies and cooperation(see Fig 5).

The implementation of this project will comply with the relevant laws and regulations of China. The use of co-financing for this project will comply with the relevant regulations of the Ministry of Finance and the Local finance bureaus.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

In the past five years, China?s central and local governments at all levels have attached great importance to and supported the protection of biodiversity and the construction of protected areas in the Ya gtze River Basin. The "Opinions on Establishing and Improving the Mechanism for Realizing the Value of Ecological Products" and the "Opinions on Further Strengthening the Protection of Biodiversity" give specific policies on biodiversity protection, protected area development, ecological compensation and ecological product development.

The major protection and restoration projects for important ecosystems take the Yangtze River Economic Belt as an important area and give specific protection and restoration opinions. The objectives, results and output of these projects reflect China?s political will and national strategy for biodiversity conservation, protected area development, ecological compensation and ecological product development, and are related to the Yangtze River Economic Belt?s mid- and long-term plans for development, protection and ecological restoration, and short-term plans. Yangtze River Protection Law The selected pilot areas of this project are important areas of biodiversity, and the development of related technologies for digital monitoring and management of biodiversity, the protection	On December 26, 2020, National People's Congress enacted the Yangtze River Protection Law. This law has come into effect on March 1, 2021. The Yangtze River Protection Law takes "resources protection" and "ecological environment restoration" as the core content, and provides detailed regulations on the responsible entities of various types of ecological environmental protection and restoration, and the content of protection and restoration. The project directly addresses and contributes to the following articles of the Yangtze River Protection Law l Article 39 of the Yangtze River Protection Law stipulates that the state shall coordinate the construction of the natural reserve system in the Yangtze River Basin. The State Council and the Yangtze River Basin Provincial People's Government shall establish national parks in the complete distribution areas of important typical ecosystems in the Yangtze River Basin, sensitive areas of ecological environment, natural concentrated distribution areas of precious wild animals and plants, important habitats through nature reserves, natural parks and other nature reserves. l Article 42 stipulates that the relevant ministries of the State Council and local people's governments at or above the county level in the Yangtze River Basin shall formulate plans for the protection of precious and endangered aquatic wild animals and plants in the Yangtze River Basin. l Article 59 stipulates that relevant authorities of the State Council shall undertake restorations for wild animals and plants that have been drastically declining or are critically endangered in the Yangtze River Basin, for severely damaged habitats, for natural concentrated distribution areas, and for fragmented typical ecosystems. This project designed a special component for Yangtze River Protection Law implementation. Activity 2.2 Inputs in terms of conservation of threatened species, protected areas, and sustainable use of natural capital provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law

Yangtze River Economic Belt	In January 2016 and April 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted two symposiums on the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, clearly emphasizing, ?At present and for a long period of time in the future, the restoration of the Yangtze River?s ecological environment must be placed in an overwhelming position?.We must work together to protect and avoid large-scale development, and we must strive to build the Yangtze River Economic Belt into a golden economic belt with more beautiful ecology, smoother traffic, more coordinated economy, more unified market, and more scientific mechanism, and explore an ecological priority" This project focus on the protection of KBA in YREB, in activity 1.1
Ecological civilization	Ecological civilization is an important part of the five-in-one overall layout of national economic construction, political construction, cultural construction, social construction, and ecological civilization construction. The fundamental method of biodiversity protection in protected areas is the cornerstone of ecological civilization construction. YREB project will provide a model for PA and KBA management.
Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and Cartagena Protocol	China is one of the earliest parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and Cartagena Protocol. The China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was compiled. The NBSAP clearly pointed out that there are 10 priority areas for biodiversity conservation, including the southern section of Hengduan Mountain, the northern section of Minshan-Hengduan Mountain, Wuling Mountain, Daba Mountain, Huangshan-Huaiyu Mountain, Dabie Mountain, Both Dongting Lake District and Poyang Lake District are located in the Yangtze River Basin. Many of the work carried out by this project in the key KBAs are located in priority areas of the NBSAP..

local government?s Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the 2035 Long-Term Goals	l Improving the quality and stability of the ecosystem, improving the ecological security barrier, focusing on ecological protection red lines and national nature reserves, l Implementing major projects for the protection and restoration of important ecosystems, and accelerating the construction of ecological barriers such as the key ecological zone of the Yangtze River l strengthening the ecological protection and management of major rivers such as the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers and important lakes and wetlands l Establishing a protected areas system, scientifically delineating the protection scope and functional zoning of PAs, accelerating the integration and optimization of various protected areas, and building protected areas with national parks as the main body, nature reserves as the foundation, and various natural parks as supplements. l Implementing major biodiversity protection projects, building a biodiversity protection network, strengthening the protection and restoration of national key protection and rare and endangered wild animals and plants and their habitats. l Improving the ecological protection compensation mechanism, increasing the transfer payment for key ecological function areas, important water system source areas, and nature reserves, and encouraging the beneficiaries, protected areas, and upstream and downstream river basins to carry out horizontal ecological compensation through various forms such as financial compensation and industrial support. l Improving market-oriented diversified ecological compensation, and encouraging all types of social capital to participate in ecological protection and restoration. l Promoting the establishment of a basin-wide ecological compensation mechanism in important river basins such as the Yangtze River and the Yellow River. l Establishing a mechanism for realizing the value of ecological products, and carrying out pilot projects in the Yangtze River Basin and the Three Rivers Source National Park. The selected pilot areas of this project are KBA, and the development of related technologies for digital monitoring and management of biodiversity, the protection of wild animals and plants in the Yangtze River Basin and the planning of protected areas, and ecological compensation and ecological product value realization mechanism policy exploration and capacity building activities are a part of implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law

Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves (revised in 2017)	The regulations are being revised and possibly will be replaced by the new PA legislation, but many activities of this project are consistent with the legislative goals of the ?Regulations?. The PAs in the pilot provinces will be optimized based on the KBA principle, protected area management techniques and financing measures will be devised. At the same time, the project?s summary of the experience and lessons in the development and management of existing PAs in the Yangtze River Basin and the application of new technologies will provide valauble reference for the new national protected area legislation. This project will directly contribute to the following targets of the "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" (first draft): l Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas. l Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems. l Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. l Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict. l Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health. l Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth. The selected pilot areas of this project are PA on in 4 KBAs., and the development of related technologies for digital monitoring and management of biodiversity, the protection of wild animals and plants in the Yangtze River Basin and the planning of protected areas, and ecological compensation and ecological product value realization mechanism policy exploration and capacity building activities will provide some input for the update of Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

management will ensure the project learning effectively contributes to project implementation and influences policy development and program level learning. Towards this aim, a communication and knowledge management strategy has been discussed at the program level. The strategy will involve interactive process-oriented engagement with three key groups of target audiences, undertaken by both child projects:

? The project stakeholders and the network of project partners and others that will be closely involved with the project, including the protected areas, enterprises and communities.

? Policy makers and practitioners at river basin and national level who will benefit from sharing knowledge from the project and program.

? Wider society including the private sector with a focus on raising awareness and support for biodiversity conservation.

The child projects will work to strengthen linkages between them and these groups and within and between levels, through developing platforms for knowledge sharing, dialogue and influencing. Respective messaging, approaches and tools will be implemented by respective child projects given their focuses and organizational strengths and focuses.

A range of communication tools will be employed by the project to present project experiences and knowledge including through web sites, e-tools, case studies, exchanges in target provinces and the national level, participation in national and international events. They will include most relevant to the three target groups, for example:

For project stakeholders and the network of partners ? will focus on:

? the presentation of learnings in workshops and meetings

? documenting knowledge and experience in project documentation

? learning groups coordinated by the project

? training platform, tutorials and case studies.

Policy makers and practitioners ? those who make, influence, and implement policy and initiatives. Policy influencing is highly contingent on and subject to the nature of the policy process. Therefore, the communications and knowledge management work for this group will be to build a close collaborative relationship, developing on existing relationships and access to policy circles. Activities will aim to develop shared learnings and promote recognition of potentials for improvements. The approach will necessarily be adaptive to conditions and opportunities, and will advocate for developing the ?enabling environment?. Workshops will be held for dialogue with the wider policy / stakeholder community, where appropriate through policy recommendation formats. Overall the main outputs will be in the form of: i) presentations and case studies, ii) policy recommendations .

Wider society including the private sector and civil society - a broad public mechanism for communication and influencing will be developed using a range of outreach methods. Methods will include: i) public meetings and seminars, ii) press news releases and newspaper / print media articles, iii) radio interviews, discussions, and programming (public, commercial and community), and iv) short videos, documentary film making and broadcast through public and media channels.

Knowledge management will receive direct support from activities under Component 3 and similar to communications, other components will also have activities having communication and knowledge management nature. Implementing them in an integrated manner can bridge the policy makers, media,

researchers, private sector, NGOs, and the public through a comprehensive platform including consultation, awareness raising, brand building, and environmental education, etc.

The project will ensure that information and knowledge generated and accumulated from various components will be codi?ed and documented for capacity building and upscaling efforts. It will make them available in a user-friendly format to relevant target audience groups. The monitoring data from using new technologies will provide the key information not only for the project, but also for policy making, knowledge management and communications. They will be used with strict adherence to the relevant laws and regulations.

The project will learn from other ongoing GEF and non-GEF PA and Yangtze related initiatives implemented by IUCN worldwide, such as the Restoration Initiative, the World Bank/GEF Sahel and West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative, the UNEP/GEF project ?Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale? and other GEF programmatic approaches, including the PRC-GEF Land Degradation Partnership. These information and knowledge will be collected and documented for programme reference.

The project will also undertake coordinated and aggregated reporting as needed for the program level, and embed information in the program coordination mechanism.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The main purpose of monitoring and evaluation of this project is to check, supervise, and guide its various activities to be implemented in accordance with its work plan (including project communication and knowledge management in Section 4.10) and quality requirements, and ultimately ensure its outputs and expected outcomes that can be achieved within its implementation cycle. The outputs set in the results framework of this project (Section 2) are monitored and evaluated semi-annually, the expected outcomes are monitored and evaluated once a year, and independent evaluations will be carried out in the middle and final stages of project implementation.

The project monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the principles, requirements and standards described in the "Project Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and Related Guidelines" of the updated version of GEF and IUCN. IUCN will fully cooperate and communicate with the stakeholders of this project, ICC-NFGA and other project partners, to ensure that the specific technical requirements of GEF and IUCN on project monitoring and evaluation are met in a timely and high standard.

Following table presents the summary of the monitoring and evaluation, responsibility, timing and estimated budget.

Summary of the major monitoring and evaluation activities with budget

M&E activity	Responsible	Budget (USD)		Schedule
		GEF funding	In-kind	

1. Project monitoring and evaluation, and reporting (project activities implementation progress, results in the delivery, gender participation, procurement, communication and knowledge management etc.)	CPMO	Integrated to staff costs	20,000	M&E on daily basis, reporting as per requirement
2. Project risks and environmental and social safeguard issues monitoring	CPMO	Integrated to staff costs	20,000	Daily
3. Annual supervision	CPMO IUCN	Integrated to staff costs and agency fees	20,000	Last month of each project year
3. Mid-term independent evaluation of the project	CPMO	30,000	40,000	3rd project year
4. End-of-project independent evaluation	CPMO	50,000	70,000	Last project year
5. Program level progress tracking and reporting	CPMO	Integrated to staff costs and meetings	50,000	Last quarter of each project year
Total		**80, 000**	**220, 000**	

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The field activities of this project will focus on the three provinces along the Yangtze River Basin, i.e. Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui, from upstream to downstream, which are relatively less developed with many rural communities and populations. Identified as key sectors under this project, eco-tourism (homestays), agriculture (tea, fruit planting), eco-product, and technology-related companies have seen explosive growth and are expecting an even better future as the biodiversity has been better conserved. Through project implementation, local communities including women and low-income groups may also benefit in terms of job opportunities provided by protected areas and the realization of natural capital values and ecological products, and improved provision, regulating, and cultural and recreational services that biodiversity provides. This project will promote the development of eco-tourism in the Yangtze River Basin and the development of new high-tech industries. More people, especially women, youth, and poor people in local rural, and remote areas will have access to employment opportunities, thereby increasing their income from biodiversity conservation.

The project will help PA and KBA financing through policy development by supporting three target provinces on improved ecological compensation mechanisms and enhancing the ability of protected areas on fundraising. Advancing methods such as payment for ecosystem services and for realizing the values of natural capital will also help ensure financial sustainability. These activities will actualize the values of

ecosystem services and goods that are valuable to the public (such as quantified carbon sinks, preventing destructive floods and regulating water supply, and protecting biodiversity) and generate monetary benefits (such as non-timber forest products, carbon credits, etc.). The project will provide capacity building for the public and private sectors, enabling protected areas to mobilize new investment.

In addition, the results of this project will also help to continuously improve the ecosystem service functions of the Yangtze River Basin in terms of supply, support, regulation, and culture in a larger area and for a longer time. The improvement of these service functions will support China's society and economy, and sustainable and high-quality development.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project aims to improve in-situ conservation of important biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin through strengthened protected area networks, financing and policies. Within this larger belt, the project will focus on three provinces (Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui) and within these on 4 KBAs. The concrete on-the-ground activities will target a number of PAs which have been / will be selected for pilot interventions.

Environmental impacts are expected to be highly positive. However, outputs 1.1. and 1.2 have the potential to cause social impacts, if not carefully managed. 152. Actual on-the-ground interventions will be implemented under Output 1.2 in the 8 target PAs already selected (specified in Table 2 of the Prodoc) aiming at enhancing their governance and management effectiveness. In addition to these 8 target PAs additional 8 -10 PAs will be added (including Sichuan Giant Panda National Park, Aden, Jiangxi Sanqing Mountain, Poyang Lake, Anhui Shengjin Lake) for the application of the Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas (GLPCA) out of which at

least 6 are expected to achieve certification by the end of the project. As the project will implement at least part of the recommendations resulting from the governance and management effectiveness assessments, direct impacts on use and access rights of peoples and their livelihoods from enhanced biodiversity protection are expected that might imply economic displacement - hence triggering Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions.

Further, but less direct impacts are expected from Output 1.1 that involves analysing the PA networks in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui and proposing adjustments towards increased representativeness, coverage and viability by taking into account globally important biodiversity. The analysis will be used to develop plans for optimized protection of key biodiversity areas (KBAs), which might include expansion and establishment of protected areas or other protection and restoration programs and initiatives. It is important to note that the project only proposes plans for improving and optimizing the protection, but will not implement specific management measures under this output. Therefore, while the expansion of PAs can lead to future decisions about access restrictions, the actual implementation of such is not part of the project?s scope. The project might still be considered as contributing to potential impacts from access restrictions, but not as directly causing such impacts. It follows that possible adverse social impacts should nevertheless be identified and guidance for avoiding impacts should be integrated into the KBA protection plans. Another activity triggering the standard is the support to the Sichuan Mamize Nature Reserve to upgrade to nation on scientific investigation, master-planning and management. Indirect, long-term impacts might results from the project?s upstream activity of introducing the concept of KBAs to the planning and management of PAs, for the formulation and implementation of national legislations and policies.

To conform with the requirements of the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions a Process Framework is needed that establishes the procedure for analysing potential displacement impacts in all sites selected for interventions, including the sites that will be supported on the Green List process. The Process Framework should be tailored to the process established for the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard (GLPCA). This is to recognize that this process already involves strategies for mitigating social risks by promoting good governance which is guided by a set of criteria and indicators. Criterion 3.3, for example, requires that the designation of management process demonstrates that social and economic benefits of the area are recognized, promoted and are being maintained, or, where such maintenance is incompatible with the maintenance of the area?s natural values, any restrictions are designed and implemented in consultation with, and preferably following the free, prior and informed consent of right-holders.

The Process Framework will also guide the identification and management of social impacts for the those sites that will not be supported on the application of GLPCA, but only on the creation or extension of PAs or where the management plans will be adjusted and include enhanced restrictions on the use of natural resources. The Process Framework should build on the mitigation measures planned under activity 1.2.3 (Pilot conflict management for protected areas and KBAs). It should also take into consideration - as risk minimizing factor - that under activity 1.2.2 (Demonstrate co-management of protected areas and KBAs) the project develops and demonstrate the effectiveness of co-management models including co-management with communities, co-management with the forest chief system and the river chief system, to improve the ability of stakeholders to participate in conservation.

The project also triggers the Indigenous People Standard due to the presence indigenous people or ethnic minorities that meet the characteristics of the IUCN ESMS Indigenous People Standard. Among them are the Yi people which is one of the oldest ethnic groups in China, and who are mainly distributed in Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces and in the northwest of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. They have their own spoken and written language and other unique cultural features. Their beliefs involves the notions of nature worship, totem worship, ancestor worship and animism. They identify themselves as indigenous and are also recognized as such by the government. Yi communities live around the Heizhugou, Meigu Dafengding, and Mamize Nature Reserves of KBA in Liangshan, and enter the reserve to collect firewood, bamboo shoots, Chinese herbal medicine, and for grazing.

There might also be a presence of other ethnic minorities in some of the other sites to be selected for the Green Listing process. This could include Tujia people who mainly live in the Xiangxi Tujia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Hunan Province and the Enshi Tujia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Hubei Province, but are also distributed in Sichuan province. They generally use their own spoken language and the Han Chinese script. Yao people are living, among other sites, in Jiangxi province. Similar to Tujia people also the Yao people generally use their own spoken language and the Han Chinese script. The Bai people, while mainly inhabiting the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, also live in small groups in Sichuan. They also generally use their own spoken language and the Han Chinese script. The Bouyei people ? while the majority of them inhabiting south Guizhou Province and the rest living scattered in Sichuan province, among other provinces. Besides their own spoken and written language, the Bouyei people also use the Han Chinese script. The Miao people which mainly lives in Guizhou Province, but also live in compact communities in Sichuan province, among others. They have their own spoken and written language.

While only the 8 target PAs are known at this stage (project planning), the final sites for the Green List process will only be selected based on the analytical steps implemented during the project. As a consequence, it is not possible to establish a full Indigenous Peoples Plan during project preparation, hence an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will need to be developed. The IPPF will ensure that indigenous and ethnic minority people can equally benefit from the project, that any negative impacts that might affect them are either reduced or mitigated and that they are involved in the impact assessment and development of mitigation measures. The IPPF also establishes the requirements for FPIC for all project activities affecting IP (positively or negatively).

Additional social risks might be caused by activities 1.2.4 to 1.2.7 which involve the establishment of infrared cameras monitoring systems with automatic real-time data transmission, technical specifications for the application of remote sensing technology and UAV in vegetation and wildlife monitoring and PA patrol and monitoring, and demonstrating the application of AI technology and big data platform test (e.g. processing patrol monitoring data set, infrared camera data set and the high-precision UAV image data sets etc). While these activities are expected to significantly support environmental protection of the KBAs, they are likely to involve further social risks as these systems not only capture data on wildlife but also on human interference and as such are expected to contribute to enhanced enforcement of PA regulations. This not only increases the probability of impacts from access restrictions, but might further lead to risks related to law enforcement practices in case such practices might implicate human rights violations. These issues need to be further assessed through a dedicated detailed law enforcement risk assessment.

While potential negative social impacts have been identified by the the ESMS screening, none of these impacts are considered of high magnitude, large scale and/or large spatial extent. None of them are considered irreversible. As described above, project design already provides for a certain level of avoidance and mitigation, mainly through the use of the GLPCA standard. The remaining impacts are expected to be appropriately addressed through the Process Framework, the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework and by measures proposed by the law enforcement risk assessment. In order to ensure that these three different risk issues are addressed in a coordinated way, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) needs to be prepared that will incorporate the three safeguard tools (IPPF, Process Framework and guidance for a law enforcement risk assessment) as dedicated chapters.

We are in the process of developing the necessary tools that were triggered at the ESMS screening stage. We have hired a consultant to carry out the work and are now working to finalise the documents. We intend to have them ready at the time of CEO approval so that they can then be applied at the inception of the project.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 6. ESMS Screening Report_NFGA GEF 7_Yangtzee_ 16aug2022	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
1. In-situ conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin improved through strengthened and better financed protected areas networks Indicators: - 1.14 million ha habitats of globally important biodiversity are better protected					
1.1 Protected Area networks in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui adjusted towards increased representativeness, coverage and viability by taking into account globally important biodiversity.	# plans for improving and optimizing the protection of key biodiversity areas	The ongoing PA integration and optimization processes focus mainly on addressing the overlaps, do not give priority to the protection of species and ecosystem	Plans for improving and optimizing the protection of 4 key biodiversity areas in target provinces in place, on the basis of the existing protected areas network optimization processes	Assessment report of the KBAs in 3 provinces; Official plans issued by provincial or local government; Project implementation review report	Assumption: Provincial government support PA assessment and adjustment based on KBA criteria Risk: KBAs are not consistent with the spatial planning and zoning policies. Stakeholders don't have the needed capacity on KBAs
	# protected areas adjustments, including upgrading	1 PA covering at lease 38,000 hectares still at provincial level	PA adjustments undertaken to enhance the protection of KBAs, with at least 1 PA upgraded to national level	Official documentation regarding PA upgrading or designations Project implementation review report	
1.2 Governance and management capacity of selected protected areas in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui enhanced as per international PA standard and supported by digital technology applications	# PAs using IUCN Green List to improve the governance and management effectiveness	International PA standards are not used in the protected areas governance and management in the target PAs	IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas used to improve the governance and management effectiveness of selected protected areas with a total area of over 1.2 million hectares, and 6 PAs certified	Action plans of PAs to implement the GLPCA Application dossiers of GLPCA certification Project implementation review report	Assumption: PAs are willing to use GLPCA to improve their governance and management Risk: GLPCA is not consistent with th the Chinese contexts

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
	# stakeholder collaboration mechanisms to address conflicts	Co-management and/or conflict management systems between PA and local stakeholders not systematically undertaken	At least 2 co-management / conflict management pilots established	Co-management agreements Records of conflicts resolved Project implementation review report	Assumption: Stakeholders are willing to address the challenges in a collaborative manner Risk: stakeholder arrangements fail to be just.
	# new technology pilots to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PA management	Infrared cameras are used for investigation and monitoring in several protected areas, but data transfer and management have not been carried out? no audio based monitoring system	Application of infrared camera /audio collector sand wireless transmission technology over 20 square kilometers in demo PA	Infrared camera audio collector and ad hoc network system deployed Data collected Project implementation review report	Assumption: PAs are willing to use new technologies to improve their management Risk: PAs staff don't have the needed capacity to implement the new technologies in the long term
		Remote sensing monitoring and UAV have not been systematically applied	Remote sensing monitoring technology system and UAV monitoring and patrol standards formed, demonstrated in more than 8 protected areas,	Procurement plan UAV investigation and monitoring specifications Data collected from UAV and remote sensing Project implementation review report	
		There is no AI application for wildlife images, and there is no big data management platform in the target PAs	AI for wildlife image recognition fully applied, and the big data platform has been fully operated	AI identification system/algorithm Project implementation review report	

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
1.3 Mechanisms to diversify PA financing through actualizing the values and benefits of natural capital explored and demonstrate	# PAs having natural capital realization mechanisms	There is only a sporadic understanding of the value of natural capital and the realization mechanism for KBAs and PAs	Natural capital value and ecological compensation mechanisms developed and piloted in 4 PAs	Reports of natural capital and the realization mechanism of ecological products Countermeasures of ecological compensation Project implementation review report	Assumption:Funding gaps are still in existence for protected areas. Risk: PAs are not able to receive funding from other sources than government
	# PA management and financing plans	Few PAs have management plans and almost none has financing plan	Management and financing plans developed and implemented by 8 PAs	PA management and financing plans Project implementation review report	
2. Values and conservation of biodiversity as natural capital are considered in the development of YREB **Indicator: Yangtze River protection legislation in place**					
2.1 Experiences and lessons from the protected areas across the Yangtze Basin consolidated and available for the development and implementation of the new national protected areas legislation	# topics included in the policy recommendation	Lack of research and practices on systematic conservation Lack of KBA system planning, and lack of direct evidence on best practices and problems	Experiences and issues in capacity, funding and management effectiveness of protected areas in target provinces summarized in the recommendations for the new PA legislation	Policy suggestions for the protected area law Project implementation review report	Assumption: Project input accepted by the legislator and governments Risk: The input on PA and biodiversity Is not relevant for Yangtze River Protection Law. The timeline of the new national PA law is not consistent with the project schedules
	# case studies developed from target Pas # policies proposed	Best practices and lessons learned from protected area management not systematically summarized	Case studies from protected area developed and policies proposed	Case studies document Project implementation review report Policy suggestions for the protected area law	

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
2.2 Inputs in terms of conservation of threatened species, protected areas, and sustainable use of natural capital provided for the formulation and implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law	# initiatives proposed	There is no systematic species and ecosystem protection planning, and there is no protected areas planning.	Biodiversity initiatives proposed to the implementation processes of the Yangtze River Protection Law based on project?s experience and results	Official documents on proposed biodiversity initiatives on KBAs, PA planning and financing Project implementation review report	
	# KBAs having ecological products value realization mechanisms # Policies proposed	There is no systematic value realization mechanism of ecological products of KBAs	Value realization mechanism for ecological products from target KBAs piloted and policies propose d to the implementation of the Law	Assessment reports and plans for target KBAs Official documents on realizing ecological products in KBAs Project implementation review and policies report	
3. Programme and project's knowledge and experience consolidated, documented and disseminated. Indicator: - knowledge products and events developed and delivered					
3.1 Knowledge management and dissemination effectively conducted to enhance the capacity of protected areas associated stakeholders at all levels	# training and workshops	PA staff and stakeholder lack of access and opportunities to good PA knowledge	PA staff and stakeholders trained	Training needs reports Training materials Training records Project implementation review report	Assumption: PA staff experiences meet the projects needs Risk: The training does not meet PA staff and stakeholders needs.
	An online training platform	Lack of multimedia training materials for new technologies	Multimedia tutorials based on project knowledge and experiences, and training platform in place	Multimedia course on PAs Online training platform Project implementation review report	
3.2 Programme level coordination and M&E effectively conducted.	Coordination meetings undertaken	None	Coordination at program and project levels and with other GEF projects in Yangtze well undertaken	Meeting plans and records Project implementation review report	Assumptions: Project team has needed GEF project management expertise. Risks: Insufficient knowledge,

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
	M&E conducted	None	Project progress monitored and evaluated	Mid-term and final evaluation reports Annual inspection reports Project implementation review report	competence and experience of project management staff

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Sec Review

Sections in CEO Endorsement	GEF Sec Comments	Agency (IUCN) response
Part I ? Project Information Focal area elements 1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?	January 26, 2022 HF: 1.) Project duration shows as 12 months in Portal. Please correct. 2.) BD 2-7 on 'biodiversity mainstreaming' is selected in Table A of the Portal entry as the focal area element, whereas the child project title, objective and indicators are all focused on PA effectiveness/management/coverage. Please revise to 1-1 on terrestrial PAs.	1) This is now revised in the CEO Endorsement Request (CER) on the 1st page of the Part 1 table. 2) This now revised as per your advice in Table A of the CER

Project description summary 2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?	November 2, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. October 28, 2022 HF: Expected Implementation Start date has already past ? please amend to a future date January 26, 2022 HF: 1.) Project objective in CER in Portal is focused on "integrating biodiversity considerations in the productive sectors and municipal development" which is identical to the Project Objective for the other MEE child project. I assume this to be incorrect given the objective/scope of the NFGA child project is focused on PAs in the YRB. If so, please revise/correct.	November 2, 2022 IUCN This is now revised in the CER as per your advice
3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?	NA	

Co-financing 4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please upload and submit a co-financing letter from IUCN. 2.) Co-financing amount from NFGA is different from the co-financing letter and the Table C. Please correct. 3.) Please further elaborate on the investment mobilized under Table C. 4.) Given the work at the local/provincial level, co-financing at those levels would be expected. Can we expect to see further co-financing from sub-national government or other actors?	1) The co-financing letter from IUCN is now uploaded as Annex 15 2) The co-financing amount from NFGA is now corrected to reflect the co-financing amount in the co-financing letter in Table A, B, C of the CER and Annex 8. 3) This is now elaborated in the relevant section 4) The co-financing from the target provinces are included in the co-financing provided by NFGA and also referred to in the co-financing letter from NFGA and reflected in the Table of the CER

GEF Resource Availability 5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?	January 25, 2022 HF; Yes	
Project Preparation Grant 6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?	November 7, 2022 HF: Comment on PPG: Although a greater level of detail was provided, some of the listed activities are ineligible, including: fianc? charges (?); Global Corporate Costs (looks like overhead); GEF Grant to implementing partner (who?s this partner? What is the purpose of the grant?); Regional Corporate Costs (looks like overhead but at regional level); Seed funding (totally incomprehensible). Please review the list of eligible items in Tables 1 and 2 ? pages 10 and 11 of the GEF Guidelines (accessible here: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF_C.59_Inf.03_Guidelines%20on%20the%20Project%20and%20Program%20Cycle%20Policy.pdf). October 28, 2022 HF: Please provide additional/sufficient details in the PPG report on expenditure categories as it is requested. Please list the eligible activities/expenditures (i.e. meetings, consultants, etc.) per the content included in Guidelines and provide the figures in each column (budgeted amount ? amount spent ? amount committed). January 25, 2022 HF; Yes	November 8, 2022, IUCN This is now revised to reflect accurate amounts. The agency fee which had been erroneously added has now been removed November 2, 2022 IUCN This is now revised in the CER in the relevant Annex

Core indicators 7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?	November 7, 2022 HF: Given the continuing issues and impending cancellation deadline, please redact the target for Core Indicator 6 and all associated reference and documentation (including ExAct) regarding GHG emission reductions. If, during the course of the project, the GHG emission reduction can be accurately measured and reported we encourage The Agency to do so. October 28, 2022 HF: 1.) Please include the core indicators in the results framework (annex A). Core Indicators targets need to be aligned with Results Framework (Annex A). GEF Core Indicators should be explicitly mentioned in the Results Framework in Annex A. 3.) Currently the project emits more than 190 Mt of CO2. The first reason, which concerns the order of magnitude of the estimate, is that the agency has used in the ?Description? tab calendar years instead of periods in the project duration input, based on the understanding that the project implementation starts in 2022 and capitalization in 2027. This has resulted in the total project duration being estimated at 4049 years (2022+2027). This in turn results in a very high estimate of emissions due to the long duration considered. o *Instead, the agency should compute 5 years as the implementation period and 15 years as the capitalization period, for a total of 20 years.* ***Please revise.*** ? The second reason, which concerns the direction and value of the estimate, is that the numbers computed in the ?Management? tab are inversed. The current computing indicates that the area is not subject to fire occurrence without project and would be subject to fire occurrence with the project, which would imply that the project is likely to result in the apparition of this new hazard. In terms of frequency, the sheet then indicates that the frequency of fire is of once every 10 years without the project and once every 2 years with the project, which translates into an increase by a factor of 5 of the frequency of fire instead of a decrease as indicated in the description. Finally, the sheet indicates that the share of forest subject to burning is reduced by half (from 1% to 0.5%) with the project. o *In order to fit with the description made by the agency, the value for fire occurrence without project should first be changed to "yes".* ***Please correct.*** o *Then, depending on what is meant by reduction of impact by 10%, the agency should adjust the values for frequency of occurrence and impact (% burning) accordingly (see below for clarification on this point).* ***Please adjust.*** ? The third issue, in connection with the value of the estimate, relates to the description itself. Fire occurrence is the hazard, that the forest area is exposed to every 10 years. When it occurs, 1% of the forest area burns, which leads to an impact in terms of emissions of GHG. This impact can be reduced either by reducing the frequency of occurrence of this hazard, or by reducing the share of forest subject to burning as a result of this project. o *In order to make sure that the right numbers are computed, the agency should first clarify what would be reduced by 10%.* ? *If it refers to the share of the forest subject to burning, than the periodicity should be computed as unchanged with and without the project (once every 10 years) and instead the ?impact? cell value should be adjusted to 0.9% with the project (to reflect a decrease of 10%). It seems that this is what was meant in the description but it is unclear.* ***Please clarify.***	November 8, 2022, IUCN As advised, due to the impending cancellation deadline, we have redacted the target for Core Indicator 6 November 2, 2022 IUCN 1) The Core Indicators have been added to the results framework in the ProDoc and CER. 3) This is now revised in the Results Framework, CER, Annex 9 and Annex 17

Part II ? Project Justification 1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please further elaborate this in the CER. Currently it does not adequately describe the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers (in the Project Justification section), and how they are going to be addressed-more of this is contained in ProDoc but needs to be more complete in CER. 2.) As this is a child project of a program, please provide a brief introduction of a program and how this project is contributing to the program.	1) This is now further elaborated in the CER. 2) This is now revised. This is now revised in the related section of the CER. The programme objectives is to enhance and mainstream biodiversity conservation in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China. The programme is divided into 2 child projects, one is Protecting globally important habitats in the Yangtze River Basin, the other is Mainstreaming biodiversity in the Yangtze River Economic Belt. According to the TOC, this

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) The baseline scenario in the ProDoc and the baseline scenario in the CER are very different, but unfortunately neither adequately describe the baseline scenario that is relevant to the scope of this Child Project. Please revise to fully explain the relevant baseline-both the baseline scenario and baseline projects (which are not yet included) for this child project.	1) . This is now revised in the related section of the CER and p36 of the ProDoc., Baseline scenarios for project provinces, KBAs and protected areas have been added in CER.

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) The alternative scenario and description of project outcomes, components and how the project plans to achieve them remains under developed in the CER document. Please revise to fully describe the proposed alternative scenario and outcomes/components of project making clear how this project investment will achieve them. In this, please also include the project TOC in the CER, both narrative and graphic format. 2.) How will this project, particularly Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 have National Park System-level impacts- in addition to the benefits from working on management effectiveness and financing in the target PAs? The GEF-7 BD Strategy is seeking to support system-wide approaches to protected area financing rather than a park-by-park approach. Please address and revise CER/ProDoc. 3.) Activities 1.2.4 through 1.2.7 are all focused on applications, capacities, software and information management systems for use of digital technology for wildlife and PA monitoring. It seems that nearly identical activities are included in GEFID: 10701 Transformational Wildlife Management through UNDP with NFGA. Currently it is unclear how the digital monitoring technology activities in this project and that project relate to each other, will be coordinated and are differentiated. Please coordinate with relevant GEF and executing agencies to clarify and avoid redundancy or overlapping support for these activities, revise and resubmit. 4.) Output 2.2: The ProDoc and results framework seem to reflect that this Output is informational in nature, basic assessment work without a concrete policy reform or result. Please revise this output and related activities to clearly demonstrate the action-oriented policy work that will be undertaken in pursuit of this output. GEF resources are not intended to fund basic assessment activities. Further please see previous comments regarding redundancy between various Outputs on PAs with the MEE Child Project 10753. 5.) Component 3 please remove any activities/budget focused on project management or coordination given they fall under PMC (see PMC definition) and shouldn?t come out of budget for components, but rather should be captured under PMC. Please revise Component and budget accordingly.	1) This is now revised in the CER including the TOC in narrative format 2) This is now revised in the CER and p46 - p48 of ProDoc. Output 1.2 Governance and management capacity of selected protected areas in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui enhanced as per international PA standard and supported by digital technology applications, will provide demonstration for the Yangtze River Basin Output 1.3 Mechanisms to diversify PA financing through actualizing the values and benefits of natural capital explored and demonstrated, provide

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?	January 25, 2022 HF Yes	

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please revise this section to clearly state a well-developed incremental reasoning that justifies the use of GEF funds to achieve critical GEBs above and beyond what would otherwise be achieved for the Global Environment/globally significant biodiversity. Both the ProDoc and CER incremental reasoning sections include how the project "will fill the gaps of Chinese government initiatives, funding and programs". This is not strong incremental reasoning/GEF additionality for this investment nor the intended use of GEF resources. 2.) Throughout the CER "the new national PA legislation" is referred to-please provide further information about this legislation, its relevance and how, specifically, this project will contribute, while referencing coordination and differentiation from ongoing GEF investments in National Park system reform through CPAR and others.	1) This is now elaborated on section 5 of the CER and p59-61 of the ProDoc. The relevant content has been revised to emphasize the complementarity and facilitation of the different components in terms of incremental reasoning, fill the gaps of Chinese government initiatives, funding and programs 2?. The Law on Natural Protected Areas is the basic law of the construction of the national nature reserve system, which will provide legal support for the establishment of a natural protected area system with national

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project?s expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes	
7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes	
Project Map and Coordinates Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes, although detail of maps are difficult to read in portal. If there are higher resolution insets that can be added that would be helpful.	
Child Project If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please further describe how this project contributes to overall program impact.	This is now revised in the CER under section 7-1c

Stakeholders Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement. 2.) Other GEF Agencies with related investments in the YRB should be included in the stakeholder engagement plan. Please revise to include. 3.) Please revise/correct the Table in the CER (and ProDoc) that depicts "Stakeholders and their potential role in project implementation" given that several of the "Local Agency and Local Enterprise" stakeholders are included that don't seem to have a clear or relevant role in the project (hydropower, titanium industry, wetland monitoring center etc)-and are maybe mistakenly included in this CP.	1? The requested summary is now provided in section 7-2 of the CER. 2?This is now revised in the CER and the ProDoc. Reference to other GEF agencies with related investments in the YRB is now included in the stakeholder engagement plan. (section 7-2 of CER, and p74 of the ProDoc) 3?This is now revised in the CER and ProDoc. in section 7-2 and p73 respectively.

Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please include a complete gender Analysis that addresses the required elements in the questions in the section above and in GEF's gender guidance and is customized to the specific needs for gender equality and women's empowerment in the project's target sectors and geographies. Please summarize results in the CER document and the project's approach to gender. The gender action plan provided contains male to female ratio and percentage participation targets. This is only a partial view of what is needed.	This is now revised and the updated version of Annex 4 is uploaded along with changes made to the CER section 7-3.
Private Sector Engagement If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?	January 25, 2022 HF: Please more fully develop and describe the project's approach to private sector engagement and what engagement has take place to date.	This is now revised in the CER in section 7-4.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?	January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please review the risk table and ensure that the proposed "mitigation measures" include measures the project will take to mitigate the potential risk identified. As an example, the first risk is difficulty in reaching consensus, therefore the risk mitigation measure should presumably address how the project will proactively support consensus building and conflict prevention/mitigation. Please revise the table/section. 2.) FPIC should be included as an additional risk mitigation measure for the risk of 'low participation' of indigenous people in project activities. 3.) The risk of low inter-ministerial/inter-agency cooperation and potential for conflict (and commensurate explicit risk mitigation measures) seem to be missing from this risk table. Please revise. 4.) Please integrate main risks and mitigation measures/summary from the safeguards review in a table here.	1~4) The risk table has been modified and this section has been revised under section 7-5 of the CER
Coordination Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?	January 25, 2022 HF: Very good to see plans for the "TACC" included in the institutional arrangement and coordination. Please include a graphic that depicts the institutional arrangement for this project, and the program as a whole, including all relevant institutions and committees.	This is now revised in CER & ProDoc fig 4.1

Consistency with National Priorities Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?	January 25, 2022 HF: Please describe how the project relates to, contributes to, works toward each of the national priorities presented in the table.	This is now revised in the CER under section 7-7.
Knowledge Management Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes	
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?		

Monitoring and Evaluation Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes	
Benefits Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes, though suggest considering and describing potential ecosystem service benefits to accrue from conservation investment.	

Annexes Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?	November 7, 2022 HF: Budget: Although in the Review Sheet says that all comments were addressed, the budget included in Portal remains the same as in the previous submission. Please revise the budget submission and address i. ii. iii. below (including the need to get a final figure in the M&E Budget table). October 28, 2022 HF: Budget table: i. Account Assistant is charged to project components. Per guidelines, project?s staff should be charged to the GEF and co-financing portions allocated to PMC. Please review/revise. ii. Please explain if ?Vehicle and related? cover vehicle purchase or rent/lease? And justification therein. iii. Please include M&E budget as applicable in the M&E column, whose totals have to match the totals in M&E budget ? please also include totals in M&E budget table. January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please upload the ESMS/Annex 6 for review and please include a table that summarizes the review and outcome of main safeguards triggered by the project and proposed mitigation measures. 2.) Project budget: Please note previous comment regarding potentially overlapping digital technology activities and revise budget accordingly. Further, please note GEF funds should not be used for the procurement of this hardware but rather could support institutionalization of technology capacity, use and systems or the soft-side of technology application with PAs, and 'citizen science' with communities and south-south engagement etc. Please revise budget and activities accordingly. 3.) Please provide clear justification for vehicle procurement for GEFSEC review and consideration.	November 8, 2022, IUCN The updated corrected budget is uploaded in the relevant Annex in the CER and also in Annex 8. i) The project assistant reference was erroneous and has now been removed and only staff included in the ProDoc are mentioned ; ii) The vehicle budget line that was erroneousl y included has now been redacted; iii) the M&E budget is reflected in the relevant column and the totals included in Annex 8, CER M&E section and CER Budget Annex. November 2, 2022

Project Results Framework	October 13, 2022 HF: Comments cleared. January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please revise per comments on Components and resubmit for review. 2.) All the Indicators in the project results framework seem to be outputs (# of plans, reports, PAs etc). How will outcomes and impacts of this project and the program overall be measured? And please integrate the GEF Core Indicators into the project results framework to make clear the relationship between these levels/sets of indicators.	1) This is now revised as per comments 2) This is now revised in the results framework in the ProDoc and the relevant Annexure of the CER
GEF Secretariat comments	October 13, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. January 25, 2022 HF: Yes, a climate risk analysis has been submitted but it lacks a description of how the project will take into account risks as identified given the scope of the activities. Please update analysis accordingly and include relevant points in the risk table.	The revised climate risk analysis is provided in Annex 14
Council comments	October 13, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please respond to the GEF Council comments and include in Portal submission.	The Council comment will be addressed in the MEE CER.
STAP comments	October 21, 2022 HF: All comments cleared. January 25, 2022 HF: 1.) Please respond to STAP's review of this program overall and in particular comments on this Child Project and include in Portal submission.	The STAP comments have been responded and uploaded as Annex 18
Convention Secretariat comments	NA	

Other Agencies comments	NA	
CSOs comments	NA	
Status of PPG utilization	January 25, 2022 HF: Yes, please note that the remaining PPG should be utilized in the first year of the project implementation	Noted
Project maps and coordinates	January 25, 2022 HF: OK	
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)	NA	
Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)	NA	

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)	NA	
GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)	November 2, 2022 HF: Yes. January 25, 2022 HF: No, not at this time. Please address the comments in the review sheet and resubmit.	Revised

STAP Comments

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Part I: Project Information	**Response**
GEF ID	10710
Project Title	Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme
Date of Screening	November 24, 2020
STAP member screener	Rosie Cooney
STAP secretariat screener	Virginia Gorsevski

STAP Overall Assessment and Rating	**Minor** STAP welcomes this project from IUCN to support conservation along the Yangtze River Basin in China. This is large and important program (with several child projects) that encompasses an area of significant biodiversity as well as providing ecosystem services to millions of people living in the Yangtze River Basin (see Zheng, L., Liu, H., Huang, Y. et al. Assessment and analysis of ecosystem services value along the Yangtze River under the background of the Yangtze River protection strategy. J. Geogr. Sci. 30, 553?568 (2020). The project provides a very good visual representation of the theory of change, showing interconnections among actions and outcomes, as well as underlying assumptions. Given stated intentions to scale up this programme to other river basins, it would be useful to include this as a parallel to the existing TOC to indicate the connection between this program, each of the child projects, and larger efforts in the country. Climate change is mentioned as a risk (medium); however, information provided here is quite general, with the stated intention to follow the STAP guidance document during PPG phase to develop adaptive mitigation measures. While the program has the potential to yield significant benefits given the importance of the Yangtze Basin and the geographical scope of the program and child projects, many implementation details are left to be determined (for the child projects). Because of

	this lack of specifics, the project seems to be mainly focused on coordination. Several interesting concepts are mentioned (i.e. PES, financial models, digital technology, etc.) but not elaborated. Similarly, there is discussion of data collection and sharing but no mention of what type of data and for what purpose. Overall, STAP is pleased to see such a large and ambitious program, noting that much of the detail is left to be worked out during the PPG phase and for each of the child projects.	
Part I: Project Information **B. Indicative Project Description Summary**	**What STAP looks for**	**Response**
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	The program objective is ?Enhanced and mainstreamed biodiversity conservation in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China.? The objective is general and relates overall to the main problems facing the Yangtze River Basin, of which there are many.
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project?s objectives?	Yes, in a general sense (i.e. in situ conservation and mainstreaming through strengthening PA networks, spatial planning, etc.)

Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention. Do the planned outcomes encompass important adaptation benefits?	Specific outputs are not specified for each of the outcomes. It appears that these will result from actions in each of the child projects. Adaptation is not a key focus of this project. It is assumed that increasing the natural capital along the basin will enhance adaptation capabilities.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	Yes, if successful.
Outputs	A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?	Without a prior information about the child project activities, it is difficult to ascertain whether or not they will result in the overall stated outcome. However, assuming PAs are enhanced, biodiversity is mainstreamed, etc. then yes.
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project?s logic, i.e. a theory of change.	

1. Project description. Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)	Is the problem statement well-defined?	Yes. The problems are clear. The project could benefit from undertaking a more rigorous review of existing studies, including scientific journal articles, about the Yangtze River Basin.	
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	The project does a good job separating out the challenges ? identified as habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and threats including infrastructure and urban development, pollution, invasive species, climate change, and over-utilization of resources such as over fishing and finally, the root causes (lack of information, legislation, etc.)	
	For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?	N/A	

2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	A lot of information is given about baseline conditions in China in terms of existing laws, etc. Also a good understanding of other, ongoing and related projects. Good information on species living in and around the river basin. Interestingly, one of the expected outcomes is improved management of PAs; however, there is no mention of the METT, including baseline scores (if they exist)	METT has been uploaded as Annex 16.In the current situation analysis section, management effectiveness scores are included and specific countermeasures are proposed to improve management effectiveness
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project?s benefits?	Only in terms of total area (ha) targeted by the project.	
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Not really.	From the baseline analysis, the main threats and obstacles were extracted, and the main solutions to address the challenges are further proposed, and the threats and obstacles section was completely rewritten and significantly strengthened in the ProDoc.
	For multiple focal area projects:		
	are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators;	N/A	
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non- GEF interventions described; and	N/A	

	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	N/A	
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	A TOC diagram with explanation is provided on p. 29. Essentially, in situ conservation through strengthened PAs, etc. plus biodiversity mainstreaming (policies, coordination), plus KM form the basis of the outcome, which is to enhance biodiversity along the Yangtze River. Numerous assumptions are included ? some of which are better integrated into the project design than others (i.e. willingness of industries to participate vs. land tenure issues).	
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	Yes, though many details for specific activities within the child projects are TBD.	Specific activities are now elaborated in the PPG phase
	What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project?s objectives?	See above.	
	Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Yes.	

	Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	Unclear.	This project focuses on demonstration of actions in protected areas, the project will have an adaptive management approach that will enable it to adapt and respond proactively to changing threats and conditions, mainly through management plans, etc., to develop relevant plans, identify management capacity building needs, issues and demonstration strategies.
5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	Yes.	
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	N/A	
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)	Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?	Yes.	
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	$6.5 M in GEF grants + large co-financing ($51 m). 1,159,801 ha PA created or under improved management + 1,250,000 area of landscape (non PA) under improved management.	

	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	See above.	
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	There is a dedicated component for knowledge management, including M&E. There is much discussion of how this program will generate knowledge and data, but few details provided at this stage.	
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project?s resilience to climate change?	The project will use the STAP guidance on CRS as well as ?demonstrate an improved resilience within the target sites.?	

7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up	Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?	There are elements scattered throughout the project which have the potential to be innovative (i.e. PES, use of IBAT, landscape or river basin approach, financial models, digital technology, etc.) but none are well developed or explained in any detail. Rather, this project is mainly focused on serving as a ?cross-sectoral coordination mechanism,? (p. 37) which is standard for nearly all GEF projects.	The innovative aspects of this project are as follows: 1) Integrate KBA into the design, monitoring, conservation and management effectiveness assessment of protected areas in China to achieve effective protection of endangered species and ecosystems, and to address the problems of governance, limited monitoring, habitat fragmentation and inadequate supervision of PAs in China. Develop and demonstrate a management model for China's Yangtze River conservancies based on the KBA approach. 2) Promote the Green List standard in pilot PAs and provinces, and promote the concept of Green List based on the combination of the status of conservation objects, problems and management plans and innovative conservation techniques in demonstration protected areas, so as to promote the transformation of the management mindset of Chinese protected areas from caretaking to scientific management, and to demonstrate the formation of a comprehensive, fair, scientific and effective protected area management model. 3) Demonstrate innovative intelligent monitoring and supervision model: It will integrate information sources such as satellite remote sensing, drones, infrared cameras, and sound collectors to demonstrate effective monitoring of major protected species and human interference in

	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Standard language.	
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Fundamental transformational change will be necessary to ensure that economic growth and development along the Yangtze River will not further erode biodiversity and ecosystem services.	
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		Maps are plentiful throughout the document and land cover maps are provided for three provinces, which is helpful. However, the maps do not indicate where the projects are (either by coordinates or overlaying shapefiles), nor do they provide information on the underlying data for the land cover map (not necessary but would be helpful and is good practice).	

2. Stakeholders. Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: Indigenous people and local	Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?	Most of the stakeholders are government and their role is ?suggestion provider? which is somewhat unclear in terms of level of involvement.	China's nature reserves are managed by government and the government departments are also the main investors in the management of nature reserves, with the NFGA providing funds for the installment of relevant protection facilities, local governments providing daily management costs and staff salaries, and the ecological and environmental departments providing supervision. The MEE department is responsible for law-making and law enforcement inspections.

communities; Civil society organizations; Private sector entities. If none of the above, please explain why. In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.			
	What are the stakeholders? roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?	See above.	

3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes/no/ tbd. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision- making; and/or economic benefits or services.	Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	The project is vague on gender issues, stating that ?the programme will make certain that women are not disadvantaged by the programme activities and will benefit from programme activities.? (p. 53)	

Will the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no /tbd			
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	See above.	
5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design	Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project?s control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project? For climate risk, and climate resilience measures: ? How will the project?s objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately? ? Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? ? Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with? ? What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	Overall, the risks appear comprehensive and include a rating. Climate change is mentioned as an underlying threat and also a risk to the project. PPG phase will carry out explicit climate risk analysis to ensure hazard identification, assessment of sensitivity to climate change and its impacts, risk classification and development of risk.	This is now addressed in the Annex 14

6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives	Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?	Yes, the project has a good understanding of existing, related ongoing projects. This project is very closely related to the GEF-6 UNDP Protected Area System Reform.	
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	Yes	
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	No. However, the programme will ?learn from other ongoing GEF and non-GEF PA and Yangtze related initiatives implemented by IUCN worldwide, such as the Restoration Initiative, the World Bank/GEF Sahel and West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative, the UNEP/GEF project ?Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale? and other GEF programmatic approaches,	

		including the PRC-GEF Land Degradation Partnership.?	
	How have these lessons informed the project?s formulation?	N/A	

	Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?	The main issue is that there are 3 other very closely related GEF projects underway (these are: GEF-7 Demonstrating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin (ECM) ? being formulated by ADB and NDRC; GEF-7 Transformational wildlife conservation management in China (TWC), being formulated by UNDP and NFGA; and GEF-6 China?s Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR), being implemented by UNDP as the lead IA, CI and Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of MEE	The design of this project also takes great consideration of the existing ECM, TWC and C-PAR projects. To avoid any overlap, this project is different in the following aspects from the above-mentioned projects: 1) different project objectives: the ECM project mainly addresses the national input problem of large scale conservation at the policy level, the TWC project mainly involves carrying out wildlife monitoring and management problems in the Giant Panda National Park. For the Department of Wildlife Protection of the NFGA, the main objective for the TWC project is wildlife monitoring and management. The C-PAR project mainly targets the conservation area policy development challenges. However, this project mainly addresses the key technical issues of PA monitoring and management, management effectiveness assessment and biodiversity area design such as conservation financing, focusing on nature reserve management techniques; 2) Focus of the projects is different: This project focuses on the technical aspects of protected area system design, monitoring and management, capacity building, and protected area financing and community development, while the other projects focus on wildlife, ecological compensation policy and national protected area policy; 3) The projects are working with different authorities: the ECM project mainly involves National Development and Reform Commission, while the TWC project involves

8. Knowledge management. Outline the ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project, and how it will contribute to the project?s overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?	There is a dedicated KM component. No indicators are specified.	
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	Standard.	

Notes

STAP advisory response	**Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed**
1. Concur	STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. The proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
	* In cases where the STAP acknowledges the project has merit on scientific and technical grounds, the STAP will recognize this in the screen by stating that ***?STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design.?***
2. Minor issues to be considered during project design	STAP has identified specific scientific /technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the project proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. The proponent may wish to:
	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;
	(ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.
	The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.

3. Major issues to be considered during project design	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical methodological issues, barriers, or omissions in the project concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. The proponent is strongly encouraged to:
	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised; (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required. The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **USD 137,615**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Till October 31, 2022***	***Amount Committed***
International Consultants	40,000	30,000	10,000
Travel	4,500	,887	1,613
Local consultants	80,000	62,606	17,394
Contractual Services-Companies	10,000	0	10,000

Training, materials and meetings	2,115	1,666	449
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000	268.96	731
Total	**137,615**	**97,428**	**40,187**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

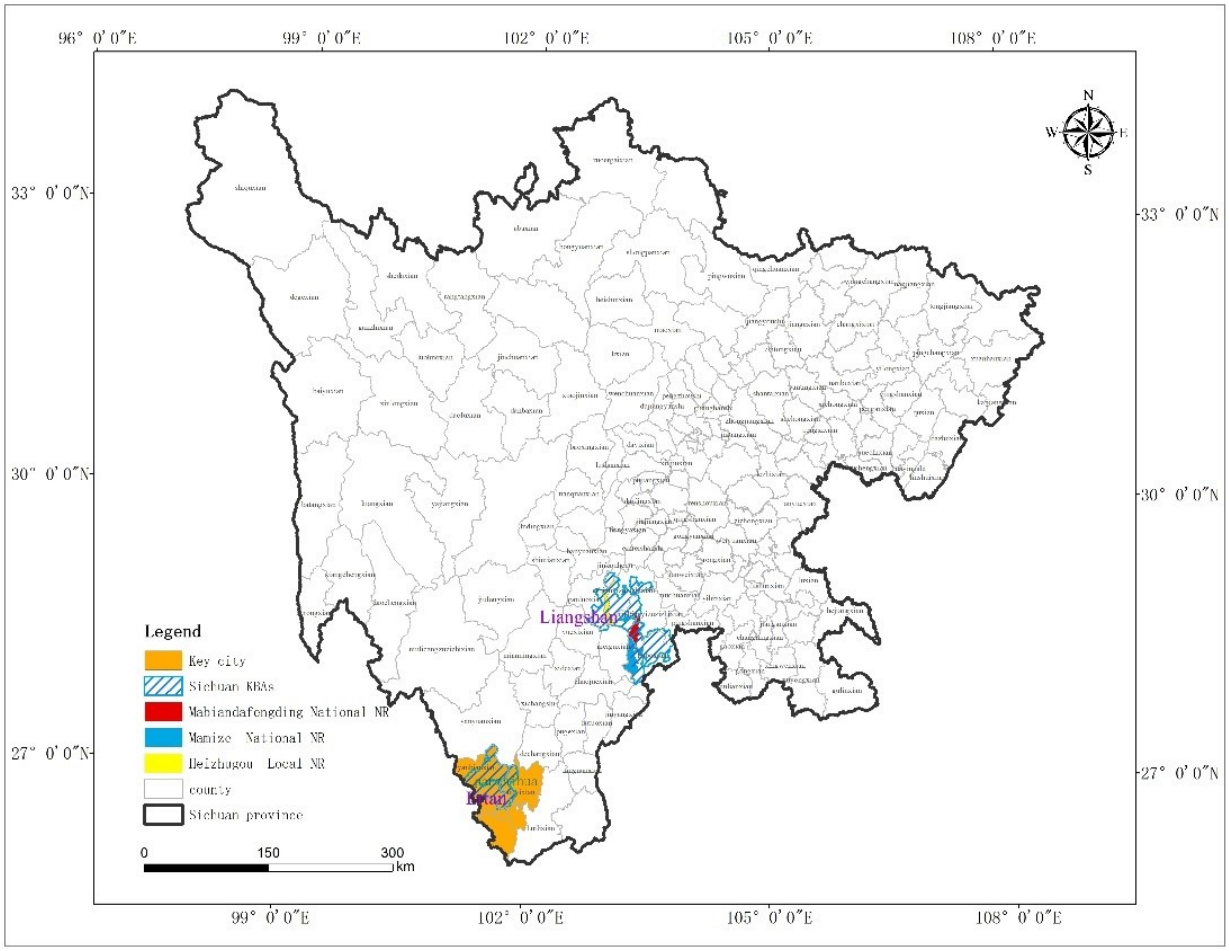

Figure 1: Mamize, Mabiandafengding and Heizhugou nature reserves located in Liangshan KBA of Sichuan Province and target pilot city (Panzhihua) in the *Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt* Project (MEE project).

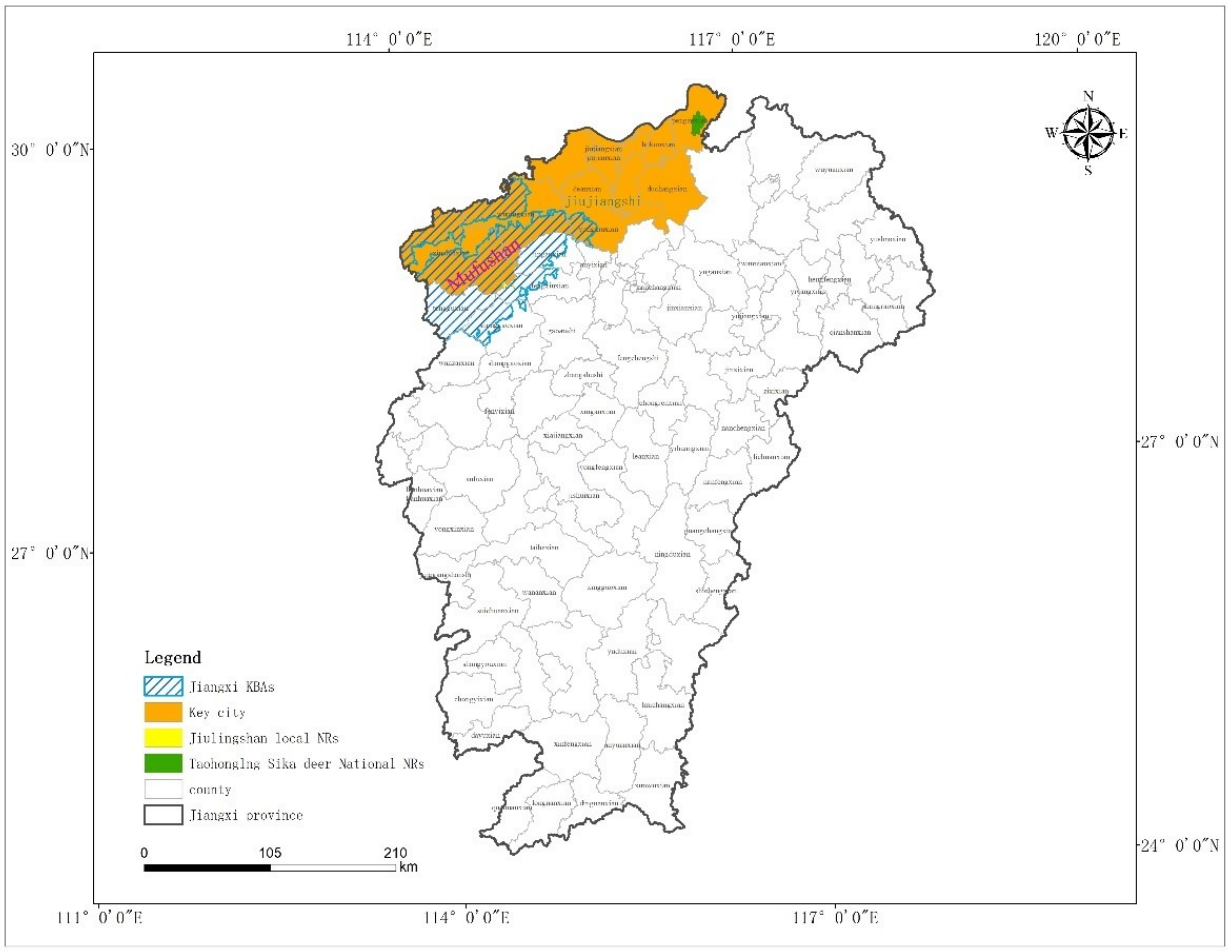

Figure 2: Jiulinshan and Taohongling Nature reserve in Mufushan KBAof Jiangxi Province and the target Jiujiang City in the MEE project

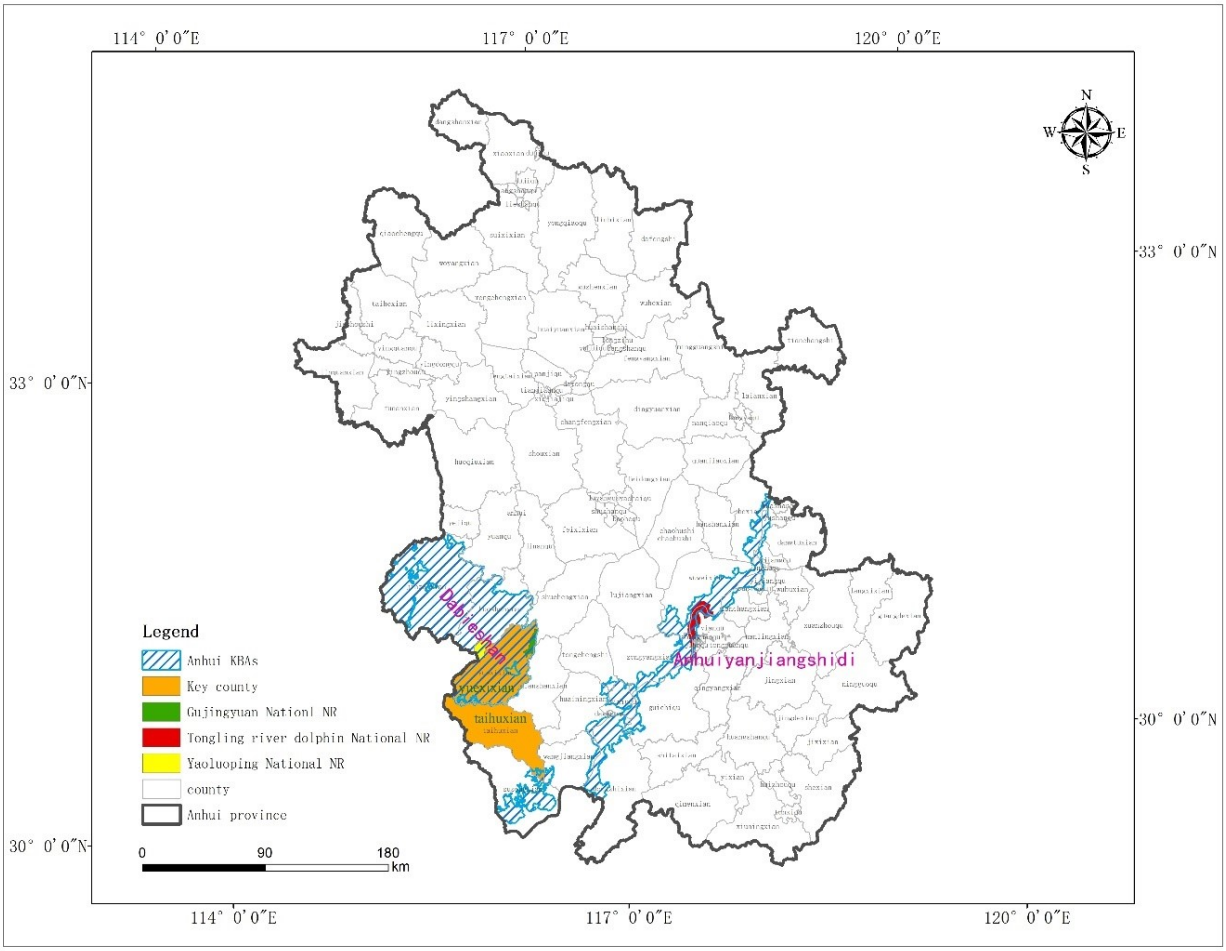

Figure 3: Gujianshan, Tongling River Dolphin and Yaoluoping Nature Reserve in Dabieshan and Wetland Along the River KBAs of Anhui Province and the target Taihu and Yuexi Countyin the MEE project

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (USD
		Component 1 Strengthening			Component 2		Component 3					
		Output 1.1	Output 1.2	Output 1.3	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 3.1	Output 3.2				
communications and publication costs	This will include procurement of equipmenets and tools for Conflict of Human and Wildlife, production of ecological products, and other knowledge products etc.	-	*40,000*	*20,000*	*12,269*	*16,000*	*55,000*	-	143,269			
Consultants	Consultans will be hired to KBA based assessment and biodiversity monitoring, GLPA training and application,PA management and financial plan, YUB conservation planing, project M & E etc. (for detail see detail budget sheet attached).	*55,000*	*290,000*	*85,000*	*60,000*	*100,000*	*20,000*	*20,000*	630,000			
Equipment and related	Equipment for biodiversity monitoring in NR	-	-	-	*15,000*	-	-	-	15,000			
Monitoring and Evaluation		-	-	-	-	-	-			80,000		
Professional/ Contractual Services	Development of document for Provincial NR upgrading, biodiversity monitoring and YUB Conservation planning development, video and material compiling etc.	*50,000*	*610,000*	*100,000*	*70,000*	*70,000*	*66,000*	-	966,000			
Staff Cost	Cost of one Project manager, communication and finance officer to be hired for the porject implementation.	*33,972*	*186,665*	*15,000*	*60,000*	*79,639*	*29,724*	*40,000*	445,000			
Training, workshops, and conference	Includes activities such as NR evaluation, capacity development,skill development training management and faniancial panning workshop etc. (for detail see activitywise budget sheet attached).	*50,000*	*249,000*	*25,000*	*15,000*	*10,000*	*100,000*	*60,000*	509,000			
Travel, Allowance and DSA	Travel and daily allowance required for project implementation. It includes travel cost of project staff, officials from the project implementing and executing agencies and all the hired consultants etc.	*30,000*	*137,731*	*51,500*	*61,000*	*37,000*	*20,000*	*20,000*	357,231		15,000	
Office running costs (communication, rent, stationeries etc,	rent, stationeries etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			117,252	
Translation and interpretation services		-	-	-	-	-	-	-			25,000	
Total		218,972	1,513,396	296,500	293,269	312,639	290,724	220,000	3,145,500	80,000	157,252	3

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement

with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).