Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program
Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme

GEF ID
10753

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

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

Project Title
Mainstreaming biodiversity in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt

Countries
China

Agency(ies)
IUCN

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Government of Peoples' Republic of China

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector
Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Biomes, Wetlands, Rivers, Temperate Forests, Lakes, Grasslands, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Extractive Industries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Fisheries, Species, Threatened Species, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Communications, Education, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Large corporations, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Targeted Research, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management

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

12/1/2021

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

280,734.00

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	3,119,266.00	49,100,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**3,119,266.00**	**49,100,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Safeguarding biodiversity in Yangtze River Economic Belt by integrating biodiversity considerations in the productive sectors and municipal development

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($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1: Coordination and policy development for ecological and environmental protection in Yangtze	Technical Assistance	1. Coordination mechanism, and new legislation for biodiversity mainstreaming in the Yangtze River Basin implemented	Output 1.1: An ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanism developed at the Yangtze basin level for ecological protection, sustainable land and water use, and waste and emission management etc.	GET	946,000.00	14,852,695.00
			Output 1.2: Needs and experience with reference to monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts summarized and provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Integration of biodiversity in development and economic sectors in Yangtze	Technical Assistance	2. Human impacts from development activities on important biodiversity mitigated in the Yangtze River Basin	Output 2.1 Biodiversity considerations integrated into development planning and policies of selected municipalities in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui	GET	1,517,143.00	23,819,930.00
			Output 2.2 Production practices of identified sectors demonstrated in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui to reduce their negative impacts and to be more biodiversity positive			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Knowledge, capacity and information management	Technical Assistance	3. Improved knowledge base, technical capacity and information exchange for integrated river basin management.	Output 3.1 Knowledge products and events delivered to disseminate experience and raise awareness and capacity.	GET	507,587.00	7,969,375.00
			Output 3.2 Information, monitoring and evaluation			
				Sub Total ($)	**2,970,730.00**	**46,642,000.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	148,536.00	2,458,000.00
Sub Total($)	**148,536.00**	**2,458,000.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**3,119,266.00**	**49,100,000.00**

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,543,673.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	24,256,327.00
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Sub-national governments	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	13,200,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**49,100,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Recipient Government: Investments have been mobilized through the Ministry of Ecology and Environment?s programs including ?Critical Battle for the Conservation and Restoration of the Yangtze River

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($)
IUCN	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,119,266	280,734	3,400,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**3,119,266.00**	**280,734.00**	**3,400,000.00**

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 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	1648525.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	1,648,525.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

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		2,500		
Male		1,500		
Total	0	4000	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

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

The project design has been made a few modifications on the outputs and relevant activities according to the GEF Secretariat's suggestions based on the proposal presented in the PIF, which will be elaborated hereinafter in this document

Biodiversity on our planet, has been declining at an alarming rate in past years, mainly due to human activities, such as land-use changes, pollution, and climate change. In a UN report published in 2019, scientists warned that one million species - out of an estimated total of eight million - are threatened with extinction, many within decades. Some researchers even consider we are in the middle of the sixth mass extinction event in Earth?s history. Earlier known mass extinctions wiped out between 60% and 95% of all species. It takes millions of years for ecosystems to recover from such an event. Human activities, such as land-use changes (deforestation, intensive mono-culture, urbanization), exploitation (such as hunting and over-fishing), pollution, and climate change are considered as the main causes of biodiversity loss.

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.

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

1. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems

a. Wetland habitat loss, fragmentation, and/or degradation

The YRB has various wetlands such as rivers, lakes, marshes, coastal mudflats, and ponds, which provide important breeding and wintering grounds for global migratory birds. However, the current limnic wetlands in the YRB have shrunk by 1.2 million hectares compared with the 1950s, especially the loss of lake wetlands in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River is critical, for example, the area of Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province has decreased by 43.6%, the area of Dongting Lake in Hunan Province has decreased by 39.1%, and the area of Hubei Province, which is

the "province of a thousand lakes", has decreased by 60%. Another study also showed that from 2000 to 2010, 742.1 km^2 of marsh wetlands and 220.7 km^2 of lake wetlands were lost in the YRB, and the area of natural wetlands in the YRB has been shrinking in the last decade.

b. Severe population decline and/or extinction of aquatic and riparian species in rivers and lakes

The YRB basin has more than 370 species of fish, the endangered fish species account for more than 25% of the total number of endangered fish species in China, and some (e.g., white sturgeon) have become functionally extinct, and the Yangtze River endemic freshwater mammal, the Yangtze river dolphin, has also become functionally extinct, while the Yangtze finless porpoise is now critically endangered. In addition, the YRB has 145 species of amphibians and accounts for more than 36% of the total number of threatened amphibians in China, and the flagship species, the Yangtze alligator, is now critically endangered. There are 154 species of rare and endangered plants in the YRB, accounting for 39.7% of the rare and endangered plant species in China; 126 species of plants are under national key protection, accounting for 42.86% of the total number of plants listed in the National Key Protection Plant List

c. The decline in water quality of rivers and lakes and degradation of their ecological functions

In the past four decades, the high discharge and low treatment rate of wastewater in the YRB have caused a continuous deterioration of water quality in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River system. According to monitoring reports, 21.1% of 1,261 important water function areas did not meet national water quality standards in 2018; the annual average values of pH, dissolved oxygen content (DO), permanganate index (COD_{Mn}), and ammonia nitrogen concentration in 25 state-controlled cross-sections of the Yangtze River main stream showed an increasing trend from 2006 to 2018. The overall water quality of lakes is poor. Among 61 major lakes in the YRB in 2018, the area of the water bodies with ?- ? level accounted for only 11.1%, ?-? accounted for 86.0%, and poor V accounted for 2.9%.

d. Serious land degradation problems such as soil erosion, soil sanding, and stony desertification

Land degradation is one of the important reasons for the decline of ecosystem function and quality; this do not directly cause significant loss of species' habitat, but does seriously affect ecosystem services and biodiversity. The YRB has been facing more serious ecological and environmental problems such as soil erosion and stony desertification. According to the estimation of the national forestry department, in 2010, soil erosion area in the YRB was 575,900 km^2, accounting for 32.3% of the total basin area; the sandy land area was 103,400 km^2, accounting for 5.8%; and stony desertification land area was 55,200 km^2, accounting for 3.1%. In order to halt land degradation in the YRB, the state has strengthened dynamic monitoring and increased management efforts. According to the Yangtze River Basin Soil and Water Conservation Bulletin (2018), as of 2016, soil erosion area in the YRB accounted for 19.4% of the national land area in the basin; The total area of stony desertification has been reduced, but the area is still large and there is still a risk of continued deterioration in some areas.

2. Threats
    1. The increasing scale of urbanization

In the past 40 years, the cities and towns in the YREB have been expanding, and the urbanization rate has increased from 14.81% in 1978 to 61.7% in 2019. Although urbanization has promoted economic and social development and the improvement of people's lives, it has also changed the land use in this region, resulting in a decline in the benefits and quality of ecosystem services, especially in the populations of some sensitive organisms. An assessment showed that a total of about 64,000 km^2 of ecosystems were converted in the YRB from 2000 to 2015, of which urban land increased by 67.5%, land use for transportation increased by 105.1%, and forest land increased by 2.1% mostly in the form

of plantations. In the process of land conversion, the area of ecosystems such as farmland, natural forests, grasslands, and swamps all decreased, especially the area of natural habitats for wildlife decreased by 3.2%.

2. Overuse of aquatic biological resources

The overall fishery resources of the Yangtze River are still in a continuous decline, and overfishing has directly led to the overall decline of all types of fishery resources, the decline of fish diversity, and the depletion or even extinction of some fishes. According to the China Fishery Statistical Yearbook, the catch production in the YRB was 430,000 tons in the early 1950s and declined to less than 100,000 tons in the early 21st century. At present, the main economic fishes of the Yangtze River are no longer in the fishing season. For example, the annual production of the fry of the four major fish species in the Yangtze River has declined from 3 billion in the 1970s to about 1 billion at present, and the amount of eggs has also declined significantly.

3. The large scale of illegal and excessive discharge of environmental pollutants into the water body

The extensive area and complex composition of water pollution in the YRB have been of great concern to the community. The total industrial waste and domestic wastewater discharges in the YRB increased from 30.55 billion tons to 77.74 billion tons from 2006 to 2017. The latest assessment shows that the total industrial wastewater discharge in the YREB grew with increase in GDP from 2002 to 2016, peaked in 2005, and then gradually decreased, while the residential domestic wastewater discharge showed a fluctuating upward trend. Industrial wastewater discharges from the Yangtze River flow from the downstream to the middle and upper reaches and spread from large cities to small and medium-sized cities, involving 230 kinds of toxic and hazardous substances, which have posed a serious threat to the safety of drinking water sources and aquatic biodiversity along the river.

4. Increasing scale and number of hydropower dam construction

There are 45,700 dams built on the main stream and tributaries of the Yangtze River, and the installed capacity of hydropower plants accounts for more than half of the country. The upper YRB is the densest area for hydropower development, with a total of 127 planned (or under construction) tertiary power plants in the main Yangtze tributaries, including the Jinsha, Yalong, and Jialing rivers, except for the section of the river where the national nature reserve for rare and endemic fish is located, where no hydropower projects have been built. According to a rough estimate by experts, the construction of hydroelectric projects such as sluice gates and hydropower stations contributes to 70% of the biodiversity crisis in the Yangtze River, while other factors such as overfishing contribute to 30%.

5. Wetland reclamation

The major wetland landscapes in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River are in a declining trend, especially the area of some major lakes is greatly reduced due to various reasons such as long-term reclamation. According to the data, from the 1950s to the 1960s, the large-scale reclamation in Poyang Lake reached its climax, and the accumulated reclamation area in the lake reached 146,700 hm^2, and the volume of the lake decreased by more than 8 billion m^3. But after the 1980s, this large-scale reclamation in the lake region has been basically controlled. Again, for instance, the area of Dongting Lake was 4,350 km^2 in 1949, but it was reduced to 2,619 km^2 in 1983; The area of Hong Lake was about 760 km^2 in the early 1950s, but it has been reduced to 350 km^2; there were 106 lakes of all sizes in the Jianghan Plain in the 1950s, with a total lake area of 8,300 km^2, but only 309 lakes remained in the early 1980s, and the total area of lakes in the plain has been reduced to 5,600 km^2.

6. Expansion of invasive alien species

In recent years, invasive alien fish species have been increasing in the upper Yangtze River and Three Gorges reservoir area, with a total of 23 invasive fish species. Invasive fish species have a competitive advantage compared to indigenous fish in terms of the ecological niche and have caused serious damage in many water systems in the YRB. For example, invasive fish species in the Three Gorges reservoir area have seriously endangered the safety of fishery resources and their water ecosystems in the Yangtze River; the impact of biological invasion (e.g., ingestion of native fish eggs) on the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau has led to a significant reduction in the diversity and population size of

indigenous fishes (e.g., schizothoracine fishes); The invasive fish species *Hypostomus plecostomus* has been found in the natural water bodies of Sichuan and Chongqing in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River to consume a large number of eggs of local indigenous fish. In addition, invasive fish may interbreed with indigenous fish, leading to the degradation or even loss of indigenous fish germplasm resources in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, e.g., the invasion of Cyprinus carpio in Lake Xinyun of Yunnan Province led to the extinction of the purebred "big-headed carp" (*Cyprinus pellegrini*), a Class II national protected animal.

7. Frequent extreme weather events caused by climate change

According to meteorological data from 1960 to 2012, both extremely high and low temperatures in the lower YRB showed a significant increasing trend, with a decrease in the frequency of extreme precipitation after 2000, but the intensity did not weaken and precipitation became more unusual. Under the influence of climate change, the spring phenological period of plants in the lower YRB has advanced, and there is a delay in the spring phenological period in the middle YRB.

3. Root Causes:
    1. Fragmentation in the legislation on biodiversity management in the YRB

Until the National People's Congress promulgated the Law on the Protection of Yangtze River at the end of 2020, there is no unified national law on the management of Yangtze River resources and environment. Before 2020, the applicable laws and regulations on species conservation in the Yangtze River are scattered, mainly in the Environmental Protection Law, the Wildlife Protection Regulation, the Fisheries Law, the Implementing Regulations on the Protection of Aquatic Wildlife, the Implementing Rules of the Fisheries Law and the Regulations on Nature Reserves, and those applicable laws and regulations differ greatly in terms of protection scope, management system, protection system, and legal responsibilities, especially the power, functions, and boundaries of responsibilities for biodiversity management between central departments and local governments along the river are not clear. As a result, species protection in the Yangtze River has always been weak, the regulatory measures are difficult to be effectively implemented, and the effectiveness of protection is limited.

2. Lack of coordination among biodiversity policies and management authorities in the YRB

The water resources department has long focused on water resources, hydrology, and flood control of the Yangtze River; The agriculture and rural affairs department focuses on fish resources of the Yangtze River, The ecology and environment department focuses on water quality of the Yangtze River and a few endangered species (such as the Chinese river dolphin and finless porpoise), and the national forestry and grass department focuses on the construction and management of the Yangtze River wetland nature reserves and wetland parks. The policies issued by these government departments are limited to their management functions. Therefore, the policies related to biodiversity management in the YRB are not well-coordinated, which greatly affects the actual effect of biodiversity conservation. In terms of biodiversity management coordination, the YRB management has long been divided between national and local management, and each administrative region has its management pattern. This management pattern lacks inter-regional and inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation mechanisms, and also overlaps with each other, which ultimately leads to uncoordinated YRB biodiversity management. The local stakeholder survey of this project also showed that 64-95% of the respondents believed that the lack of biodiversity conservation policies and poor management system in the YRB was also one of the main root causes of local biodiversity problems.

3. Lack of effectively integrated ecological and environmental monitoring network system, data sharing mechanism, and unified biodiversity monitoring indicators and assessment methods in the YRB

Relevant departments of the State Council (e.g. environmental protection, water conservancy, natural resources, transportation, meteorology, etc.) have each established monitoring stations in the YRB related to the environment, resources, hydrology, meteorology, shipping, and natural disasters, but currently, these monitoring stations are relatively independent and lack coordinated layout for a comprehensive monitoring network system. The data sharing and systematic biodiversity monitoring mechanism are also not in place. The local stakeholder survey of this project also indicated that the lack

of network biodiversity monitoring, inadequate data sharing, and lack of unified monitoring indicators are the root causes of various local biodiversity problems.

4. Insufficient priority consideration of the value of the ecosystem in the national economic accounting system

Ecosystem services provide critical benefits for human well-being, but most of these services are difficult to put a monetary value on. Although China is currently exploring a green GDP accounting system, it is expected that this process has a long way to go. Therefore, the primary goal of local governments in decision-making is how to improve local productivity and economic development as well as the real income of urban and rural residents, and it is difficult for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation to receive high attention from relevant local government departments and to take necessary conservation measures and actions without the need for mandatory requirements.

4. Barriers

a. Insufficient understanding and implementation of the central government's decision to "work together for its protection and not for overdevelopment of the YRB" by some local government departments and institutions

In the context of China's political system and history and culture, the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in the YREB depends on the level of awareness and implementation of the central government's decisions. If local governments do not correctly address the relationship between ecological environment (including biodiversity) protection and economic development and explore new ways to promote ecological priority and green development, it will be difficult to implement many plans, programs, and actions for biodiversity protection, and important species habitats and endangered species in some areas will continue to be seriously threatened by urbanization, industrialization and agricultural intensification. The design team of this project found during the survey, communication, and visits that some local government departments, institutions, and industry still have the idea of separating and opposing ecological environment (including biodiversity) protection from economic development, and are still following the practice of compromising the environment for short-term economic development gains.

b. Limited personnel, insufficient knowledge skills, and inadequate knowledge and information management and sharing in local government departments and related institutions

Firstly, environmental protection departments and relevant resource management departments attach great importance to the conservation of biodiversity in the YREB, especially the conservation of fish and aquatic endangered animals in the Yangtze River. However, in the past five years, local ecological and environmental bureaus have focused on urban and rural pollution prevention and control issues, and their internal agencies do not have a dedicated biodiversity department, although some local ecological protection departments are responsible for biodiversity supervision, however their staff capacities and resources are not optimal. Secondly, the current knowledge and skills of relevant local government departments on biodiversity are poor; new technologies, methods, and best practices on biodiversity identification, monitoring, assessment, and restoration are poorly understood. And urban industry, local communities, and rural farmers have little idea about biodiversity conservation. Thirdly, biodiversity is not yet included in the national ecological and environmental monitoring system, only a few scientific research institutions and universities currently have part of the biodiversity survey data of the YRB, and these data are neither systematic nor complete, and the sharing and communication are very inadequate and difficult to access properly.

c. Early-stage of the coordinated biodiversity conservation actions between local government's environmental and economic development departments, public and private sectors, with partial conflicts of interest often occurring at the implementation level

The design team of this project found during individual interviews with some organizations that some projects such as mining, chemical parks, and large aquaculture have included ecological environmental protection measures for important habitats and their species in the Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report as required before the start of the project. However, due to lack of biodiversity, shortage of funds, or management personnel, the corresponding environmental protection measures were not taken per the Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report in practice. Only after major adverse ecological and biodiversity accidents occurred, discovered by the central and provincial ecological and environmental inspection teams or publicized by the media, did the owners of the

projects stopped production and implemented the relevant pollution prevention and control and environmental protection measures that had been planned.

d. The absence of mechanisms and pathways for corporates to participate in biodiversity mainstreaming results in no appropriate participation for them in local biodiversity mainstreaming matters

Industry in the YREB is the most important force in local economic development, and the environmental pollution and habitat destruction they generate are also the most important factors in the decline of ecological quality and biodiversity loss in the YRB. However, at present, domestic industries are rarely involved in biodiversity matters directly, and they do not know through what mechanisms and ways to participate in such activities, so their awareness and sense of responsibility for biodiversity conservation are generally not strong. During the survey of this project, local ecological and environmental departments and representatives from the business community hoped that this project could help the industry find entry points to participate in the local biodiversity mainstreaming process through demonstration activities. In particular, after the project design team introduced the ?IUCN Guidelines for Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance?, relevant representatives from Panzhihua and Jiujiang cities both expressed their willingness to cooperate with the IUCN China Office in selecting relevant industries in their localities to carry out pilot work on the application of this Guideline. This local survey showed that more than 60% of the respondents believed that the weak sense of responsibility for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation among industries in some industries was one of the main root causes of various local biodiversity problems (Appendix 4). However, representatives of the business sector emphasized that in recent years, they have renovated and upgraded wastewater facilities and equipment, strengthened wastewater treatment and internal supervision, and many factories and industrial parks have also installed automatic wastewater monitoring equipment to monitor wastewater discharged from the plants to meet standards. At the same time, toxic and hazardous solid wastes in factories are cleaned up and disposed of promptly. It is hoped that this project will give technical guidance and demonstration on how to link enterprise production practices with biodiversity conservation.

e. Insufficient awareness-raising of biodiversity conservation among enterprise workers and the general public compared to local government departments in the past decade

During the project design team's survey, representatives from the pilot cities and counties indicated that companies generally do not organize training for their employees on biodiversity conservation, nor do they carry out publicity in this area, so such conservation awareness among corporate workers is generally low. Industry and companies are one of the main forces of biodiversity, and without their full participation, it is difficult to effectively drive the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in the YREB forward. In order to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation among the general public, government departments of the environment and related resource conservation usually use local TV and radio, newspapers, and the internet to publicize typical people and events and best practices of biodiversity conservation. However, such activities are mainly focused on a few Chinese environmental holidays, such as National Bird Day and National Tree Planting Day. Some international environmental festivals, such as International Biodiversity Day and World Wetlands Day, are largely unknown to local government departments and the general public. Therefore, local government departments and some national environmental agencies suggest that they should make full use of the great opportunity of this project in local areas and adopt a participatory approach to strengthen biodiversity education for enterprise employees and the general public in conjunction with the local pilot activities. The pilot activities may also be carried out in cooperation with local education authorities and relevant schools to explore the content, ways, and means of biodiversity education for school students.

f. Insufficient financial resources of local governments constrain the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in the YREB.

Representatives of pilot cities and counties indicated that local government financial resources mainly depend on the development level, scale, and efficiency of local pillar industries, and the governments of less developed cities and counties along the river have limited financial resources to carry out ecological environmental protection, and these limited funds are mainly used for the prevention and control of environmental pollution. For the protection of biodiversity, the application for national and provincial government funds for environmental protection and resource protection is mainly limited, and most cities and counties along the river have difficulty obtaining such funds. However, in the past five years, under the central government's requirement that all local departments practice ecological

civilization vigorously, local ecological and environmental protection departments and resource management departments have also raised funds through various channels (e.g. green credit, ecological and environmental protection fund, PPP model, etc.) to carry out projects such as restoration of important fish populations in local rivers and lakes, ecological and environmental improvement of mines, biodiversity background survey, and creation of ecological civilization cities and counties. In addition, to comply with the national regulations on the "10-year ban on fishing in the Yangtze River", the state and local governments are now providing a certain amount of financial resources to subsidize local fishermen who cannot continue to fish in the Yangtze River and arranging suitable jobs for them. Some fishermen have changed from being fishermen in the Yangtze River in the past to being protectors and patrollers of fish resources in the Yangtze River now. However, representatives from local pilot cities and counties also expressed that if local financial resources are not sufficiently invested or poorly sustained for ecological environment and biodiversity conservation, it may adversely affect the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in the YREB, for example, fishermen who have stopped fishing in the Yangtze River may return to illegal fishing in the Yangtze River. Insufficient financial resources will also affect the daily operation of local nature reserves for rare and endangered aquatic animals and wetlands. In addition, local governments will need to allocate some of their financial resources to maintain the significant gains made in China's war against poverty over the past five years and to ensure that the poor people in the YREB are properly employed so that this population does not return to the old occupations of ecological destruction and over-exploitation of the Yangtze's biological resources in the past.

2. Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects:

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 27 projects in the focal area of biodiversity have been approved and implemented in China, their focusing areas are mainly nature reserves, agricultural biodiversity, 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 these GEF projects, the following projects can make a direct contribution to this child project.

China's Protected Area Reform (C-PAR) for Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity: Started in Feb 2019 and executed by the MEE, it is the national coordination project of the six child projects under the GEF-financed China?s Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) Program, which aims to transform China?s national protected area system through systematic legal and institutional reform and innovation for conservation of globally significant biodiversity. The project includes three components: **Component 1** - National Park System Establishment; **Component 2** - Provincial level National Park System Strengthening; **Component 3** - Program Coordination and Knowledge Management. Some results (for example, the national park legal framework and unified management responsibility in new protected area management agencies) from the project will contribute to the need for analysis and experience summary regarding the monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts in our child project.

A New Green Line: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Objectives and Practices into China Water Resources Management Policy and Planning Practice Practice:
Started in March 2016 and close to being completed, is executed by the Ministry of Water Resources. It aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation objectives and practices into China?s water resources management planning, which consists of three components: **Component I:** "Changing the framework" - Institutional and planning framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into water resources management at national, provincial, and local levels. resources management at national, provincial, and local levels; **Component II:** "Enhancing Implementation" - Demonstrate on-the-ground activities for mainstreaming biodiversity in pilot rivers in Chongqing and Yunnan Provinces; **Component III:** "Improving Information" - Creation of improved information systems and capability to use these systems for the creation of improved information systems and capabilities to use these systems to better inform and continuously improve water management practices supporting enhanced conservation of river biodiversity. Through the project, aquatic biodiversity conservation has been integrated into a comprehensive water plan, water conservation plan, and dam construction plan at the national level and key river restoration schemes in Yangtze River. The principles, methods, and technical indicators for determining the ecological flow of rivers in China have played a guiding role in the operation of the cascade hydropower stations in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River (Jinsha River) and the Three Gorges Reservoir.This project will specifically contribute to baseline information that can be drawn upon for this child project's discussions on monitoring and coordination mechanisms for sustainable water resource use in the Yangtze River.
Payment for Watershed Services in the Chishui River Basin for the Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity:
Executed by MEE and finalized in September 2019. Its objective is to operationalize a replicable Payment for Watershed Services (PWS) scheme in the Chishui River Basin to stimulate land and natural resource use systems that conserve biodiversity and sustain ecosystem processes. It is composed of two components: **Component 1** will address the weak adequacy of the enabling framework and institutional capacity for PWS implementation and upscaling within Guizhou province; **Component 2** aims to address the barrier concerning the relative absence of successful working PWS models that secure ecosystem services and biodiversity in China. It has delivered an established eco-compensation agreement between the downstream water users and upstream communities, and 6 policies, regulations, or plans for eco-compensation/PWS as a tool to protect the watershed. These reports and documents formed by the project will provide useful baseline inputs for the supervision and management of the ecological environment and biodiversity in transboundary waters in the Yangtze River basin.

At the national action level, at this stage, medium- and long-term plans, action plans, and programs closely related to biodiversity have made policy arrangements and deployments in the areas of biodiversity conservation, restoration, monitoring, survey, and basic research in the YREB, with a wide range of areas and clear strategic tasks. In January 2015, the Chinese State Council approved the Implementation of ?the Programme for Biodiversity Conservation (2015-2020)?. In accordance with China?s central government's guideline of "working together for the protection of the Yangtze River and not for its over-development", the State Council and its ministries and commissions in charge of environment and resource protection have taken many actions in the past five years. These actions, mostly in the form of medium- and long-term plans, planning, and programs have played an important

role in eliminating or mitigating threat factors related to biodiversity in the YRB, and the most obvious result is that some key rare and endangered species and their habitats in the YRB are being restored.

However, from the perspective of China's biodiversity mainstreaming practice and the implementation of previous GEF projects in biodiversity, it is very important and necessary to further strengthen the capacity building level of government departments and institutions involved in biodiversity management, conservation, and sustainable use. In summary, the planned activities during the design phase of this project to address the much-needed capacity development to advance biodiversity mainstreaming in the YREB would be a cost-effective option that would allow the results of this project to have a broader and sustained impact.

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

Objective:

This project aims to comprehensively promote the conservation and restoration of the ecosystems, species, and habitats of the key global and national areas in the YRB through intensive biodiversity mainstreaming process in the YREB. The objective of the project is to safeguard biodiversity in YREB by mainstreaming biodiversity in the productive sectors and municipal development policies and to support the objective of the overall Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme: enhancement and mainstreaming of biodiversity in the development of the YREB.

The strategy to achieve it can be broken down into three components as follows. The three components of this project aim to bridge the gaps of biodiversity conservation and effective management in the YREB, to mainstream biodiversity in all level development policies and planning, to guide businesses to engage in biodiversity conservation practices, and to promote institutional capacities for conservation and restoration of the globally and nationally significant species and their degraded habitats throughout the YRB.

Outcomes and Outputs

Component 1: Coordination and policy development for ecological and environmental protection in the Yangtze

In the past five years, the strong political will of the central government on biodiversity conservation in the YRB has been supported by local governments, relevant organizations, and the public in the YREB, and has achieved the promotion of formulation and implementation of the policy framework for biodiversity conservation, restoration, and management at the central level. In particular, the Yangtze River Protection Law will be the cornerstone for the biodiversity-related policy frameworks implementation in the YRB. And it requires supervision, coordination, and related capacity building to achieve sound and positive impacts. This component aims to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the YRB from the central to the local level in a coordinated manner across sectors and industries and to mobilize stakeholders to protect the globally significant biodiversity in the YRB. Component 1 will improve the management effectiveness of the ecological environment in the YRB, coordinate water and land resource development, and enhance capacity building for nature conservation and its monitoring and enforcement through a cross-sectoral, cross-regional, and cross-industry participatory approach.

Outcome 1: Coordination mechanism, and new legislation for biodiversity mainstreaming in the Yangtze River Basin implemented

Although the framework strategy and major tasks for biodiversity conservation in the YRB over the next 10 years have been clearly defined at the central level, it still requires specific operational mechanisms and more detailed supporting policies and management regulations to be effectively implemented at the local level. The project will adopt an integrated watershed ecosystem management approach to achieve cross-sectoral conservation of biodiversity in the YRB. It will also support the implementation of the central ecological and environmental conservation policy and the Yangtze River Protection Law, and also support the development of local policies and actions.

Output 1.1 An ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanism developed at the Yangtze basin level for ecological protection, sustainable land and water use, and waste and emission management etc.

Activity 1.1.1: Develop technical guidelines for water ecology and biodiversity assessment in the Yangtze River basin.

Activity 1.1.2: Develop a Coordination mechanism Framework for shared water bodies and biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin.

Activity 1.1.3: Develop indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity monitoring in the Yangtze River Basin.

Activity 1.1.4: Organize a forum on ecological, environmental and biodiversity monitoring and coordination mechanisms in the Yangtze River Basin.

The project will promote the integrated management of biodiversity in the YRB in a coordinated manner across sectors, regions, and industries through four activities: developing an assessment guideline, establishing a coordination mechanism for transboundary water pollution management, developing monitoring indicators and assessment methods, and holding a workshop on the supervision and coordination mechanisms.

The project will focus on supporting the development of the technical tools for the implementation of ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanisms in the YRB (e.g., the assessment guidelines and monitoring indicators and assessment methods below), which will provide technical support for enforcement authorities to conduct supervision and establish coordination mechanisms. The project will also organize a forum for an in-depth discussion of the above-mentioned institutional issues. The tangible results of output 1.1 are a) Technical guidelines for water ecology and biodiversity assessment in the Yangtze River Basin; b) The coordination mechanism framework for shared water bodies and biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin; c) Monitoring indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin; d) Collection of papers from the forum on ecological, environmental and biodiversity monitoring and coordination mechanisms in the Yangtze River Basin.

Output 1.2 Needs and experience with reference to the monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts summarized and provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law

Activity 1.2.1: Develop policy recommendations for nature conservation monitoring in the Yangtze River Basin.

Activity 1.2.2: Develop policy recommendations for human environmental impact supervision in the

Component 2: Integration of biodiversity in development and economic sectors in the Yangtze

All activities under Component 2 will be implemented in four pilot cities and counties to mainstream biodiversity in the policies, plans, and programs of the urban development and production government departments, and replicate and scale up the experiences in YRB. The implementation of Component 2 will be carried out through a combination of policy mainstreaming and implementations. The "policy mainstreaming? approach involves the integration of biodiversity into the relevant development plans of municipal governments, or the joint development and implementation of local BCSAP by key biodiversity stakeholders (e.g., government departments, key research institutions, industry associations, NGOs, minority groups, women groups, and low-income groups, etc.). The "implementation" approach is to demonstrate the biodiversity-friendly practices in selected enterprises, to promote the participation of enterprises in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the YRB. Both of these will directly support the achievement of Outcome 2 and contribute to the overall objective.

Outcome 2: Human impacts from development activities on important biodiversity mitigated in the Yangtze River Basin

Water environment pollution and rapid urbanization have seriously threatened the survival of species of global conservation value and their population restoration in the YRB. Local socio-economic development in the YRB is closely linked to the extent of local water environment pollution and the scale and rate of urbanization, and the threats to local biodiversity from water environment pollution and urbanization can only be eliminated and reduced if the biodiversity is mainstreamed in the policy and planning of local government development and economic. Outcome 2 will support the ongoing implementation of relevant policies and plans by national and local governments. It will also support national BCSAP priority action 4 - "Integrate biodiversity into sectoral and regional planning" and priority action 6 - "Reducing the impact of environmental pollution on biodiversity implemented at the local level" and related action targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The following two outputs will support the achievement of outcome 2 during the implementation of this project.

Output 2.1 Biodiversity considerations integrated into development planning and policies of selected municipalities in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui

Activity 2.1.1: Develop and implement an ecological environmental protection and improvement program for the Anning river basin in Panzhihua City.

Activity 2.1.2: Develop and implement the Jiujiang City Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2030).

Activity 2.1.3: Develop a biodiversity conservation mechanism under the Taihu County Environmental Protection Working Committee.

Output 2.1 will reduce the negative impacts of water environment pollution and urbanization development on important biodiversity in the YRB by reshaping or changing the development and economic policies of local governments. This project will focus on supporting the development and implementation of the Ecological Environment Protection and Improvement Program in the Anning River Basin of Panzhihua City, the development and implementation of the BCSAP of Jiujiang City, and the establishment of the biodiversity conservation mechanism in Taihu County. The project will also support the scaling-up and replicating the above-mentioned biodiversity mainstreaming approaches, experiences, and good practices in other cities and counties through workshops, training sessions, knowledge product dissemination, and publicity activities under Outcome 3. The deliverables are a) Ecological Environment Protection and Improvement Program in the Anning River Basin of Panzhihua City and its implementation assessment rule; b) Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2030) of Jiujiang City and its implementation assessment rule; c) Document of Taihu County Biodiversity Conservation Mechanism.

Output 2.2 Production practices of identified sectors demonstrated in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui to reduce their negative impacts and to be more biodiversity positive

Activity 2.2.1: Carry out planning and practice of biodiversity-friendly tea industry development in Yuexi County.

Activity 2.2.2: Organize thematic training workshops on business and biodiversity

Based on the approved framework document and stakeholder consultations, the agricultural industry has been selected as the target industry for output 2.2. The project will conduct different pilot activities to support the realization of the output 2.2. This project will support the upscaling and replication of the

Component 3: Knowledge, capacity, and information management

Knowledge, capacity, and information management are important components of overall project management, and they complement each other. The objective of Component 3 is to directly enhance the level of capacity of stakeholders at the central and local levels in terms of biodiversity conservation in YRB through effective management of the knowledge, capacity, and information generated by this project. In addition to other management strategies (e.g. risk management strategies), the project will focus on supporting the development and implementation of three activities: First, the development of an annual implementation plan for the project (including a financial budget) based on the project's five-year work plan, using an adaptive management approach to enhance strategic alignment between the project and another sub-project under the Program, and the coordination between the project activities at the central and local levels; Second, organize project inception meetings, seminars, training sessions, exchange sessions, and product promotion and publicity activities, etc., to enhance the impact of the project's results and expand the scope of promotion and replication of these results; Third, develop and implement the project's monitoring and evaluation plan to track and evaluate in a timely manner the progress of implementation of the activities and disbursement of funds, while identifying key issues, shortcomings, risks and challenges in project implementation, and developing and implementing adaptive management strategies.

Outcome 3: Improved knowledge base, technical capacity, and information exchange for integrated river basin management.

To support the achievement of outcome 3, the project will strengthen the institutional capacity of local governments along the Yangtze River in terms of policy implementation, promote the sharing of information and data and its effective transformation into systematic knowledge products, and guide stakeholders from all regions, industries and levels to actively participate in government-led biodiversity affairs, and to raise the awareness and skills of the general public, especially corporate workers, farmers, women, and marginalized people, in biodiversity conservation.

Output 3.1: Knowledge products and events delivered to disseminate experience and raise awareness and capacity.

At Central level:

Activity3.1.1 An enterprise eco-environmental information disclosure platform

Activity3.1.2 Knowledge products developed and disseminated

The project focuses on supporting relevant knowledge product launches, key events, and related communication activities at central and local levels. Output 3.1 will deliver the specific tangible results a) Training materials for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law; and, b) Enterprise eco-environmental and biodiversity information disclosure platform in place.

Output 3.2 Information, monitoring, and evaluation

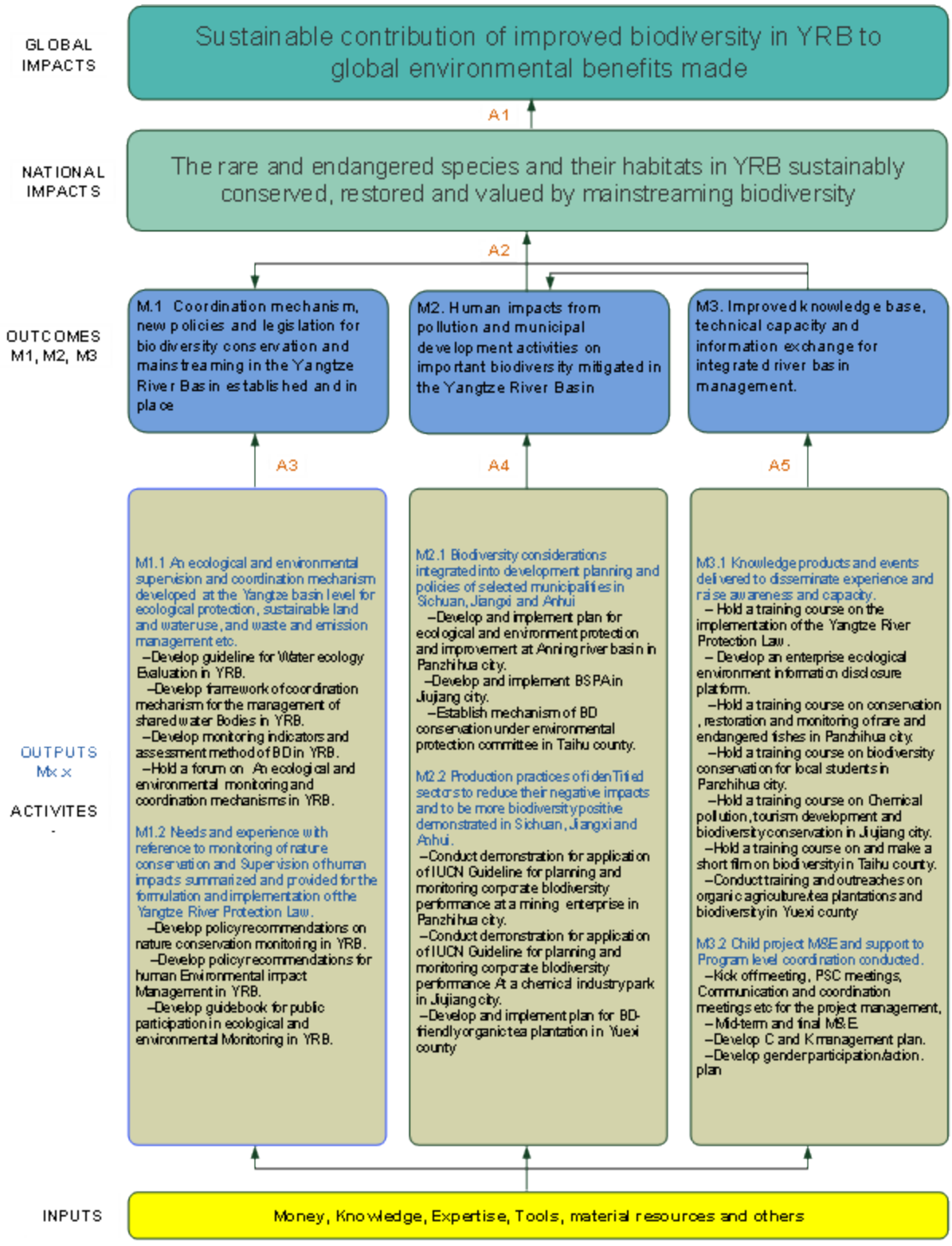
The outputs set out in the project's results framework will be monitored and evaluated semi-annually, the outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually, and independent M & E will be conducted once at the mid-term and once at the end of project implementation.

The short-term impacts of the project include (1) the risk of endangered species and fragmentation and degradation of key wetland ecosystems in the YREB will be mitigated; (2) the quality of the water environment and water ecological functions in the YREB will be improved; (3) appropriate entry points, approaches and best practices for productive enterprises in the YREB, especially mine development and chemical enterprises will be provided for biodiversity mainstreaming; (4) capacity

building will be conducted for various stakeholders in the YREB regarding awareness, knowledge, skills, information, and management of biodiversity conservation.

And then, in the mid-term and long-term, in the YRB, especially in the 11 provinces and cities of the YREB, the biodiversity mainstreaming will be promoted from the current intermediate level to the advanced level through fundamental changes in economic development patterns, enterprise production practices, institutional mechanisms, and technological innovation, thus ensuring the sustainable conservation and restoration of.

To achieve those, the project will adopt the theory of change (TOC, as shown in the figure below) to achieve its expected outcomes and outputs through the implementation of specific interventions at the national and local levels, including establishing and improving the key policies, institutional mechanisms, and technical tools for biodiversity conservation in the YRB, guiding and encouraging enterprises to carry out nature-friendly production practices, promoting the capacity building of local institutions and personnel for biodiversity conservation. At the same time, by actively scaling up and replicating the achievements and successful practices of the project to have a positive impact on biodiversity in the whole YRB and other river basins across China, and contribute to global conservation efforts.



A1: Political will to create ecological Civilization firmed; A2: National strategy for stepping up conservation and stopping overdevelopment in YRB fully implemented; A3: Project inputs accepted by administrative leaders and legislators; A4: Willingness and accountability In place; A5: full and inclusive participation by stakeholders, in particular, by women, ethnic minorities, workers and farmers, poor people.

Indicator-wise Targets
•1 set of Monitoring Indicators and Assessment Methods developed for relevant central and local government departments and monitoring agencies
•At least 100-150 participants from government, academia, enterprises, NGOs and other domestic and foreign institutions
•3 policy recommendations developed sent to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, National Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Ministry of Water Resources
•Jiujiang City Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan developed
•Taihu County Biodiversity Conservation Mechanism established
•Environment improvement actions in 30 large and medium-sized rivers and 6 large and medium-sized lakes
•2,200 hectares of biodiversity friendly tea plantations
•The plan for the development of biodiversity-friendly tea plantations in Yuexi developed
•1 platform for information of the pilot enterprises of this project established
•Up to 6 seminars/ workshops
•At least 1 technical guideline developed for relevant central and local government departments and institutions
•1 guidebook for public participation in ecological and environmental monitoring in YRB
•1 Coordination Mechanism Framework developed for relevant departments of local governments and regulatory agencies in the YRB
•1 Anning River Ecological Environmental Protection and Control Program developed
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1. Alignment with GEF focal area:

a. Overall, the project is aligned with ?Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Priority Sectors? under the BD focal area and GEF-7 strategy, the first one of 9 entry points, to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and maintain the ecosystem goods and services. Project interventions are oriented toward financial, fiscal, and development policies, as well as planning and decision-making taking into account biodiversity and ecosystem values, in the context of the different tools and approaches used by Parties to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as economic sectors affecting significant biodiversity adopting sustainable supply chains and/or clean production processes, thus minimizing their impacts on biodiversity. As per the project design:7 activities/outputs (1.1.1-1.1.4 and 1.2.1-1.2.3) under Component 1 will support and contribute to the policy and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives for biodiversity-positive land and resource use that remains productive but that does not degrade biodiversity. The technical guideline for water ecology evaluation will influence land and water sectors in the YRB to consider biodiversity as a whole; The framework of coordination and mechanisms for the management of shared water bodies in the YRB will incentivize all the sectors and local authorities/agencies related to water resources to effectively manage the biodiversity of transboundary waters; the monitoring indicators for biodiversity will fill the gaps in biodiversity management of all the sectors; the Forum achievements and policy recommendations will catalyze and facilitate the further development and improvement of the policy and regulatory frameworks on biodiversity in the YRB.

b. 3 activities/outputs (2.1.1-2.1.3) under Component 2 are aligned with Spatial and land-use planning to ensure that land and resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity. The ecological environmental protection and control initiative developed in Anning river in Panzhihua City, incorporated into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan of Anning River Basin, will strongly support and enhance the consideration of biodiversity in local spatial development; The Jiujiang City Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will put pressure on local Spatial and land-use planning to consider and coordinate local biodiversity; The Biodiversity conservation mechanism of the Taihu county will safeguard the consideration of all development sectors into biodiversity through routine work arrangement.

c. 3 activities/outputs (2.2.1-2.2.3) and 4 local training (2.2.4-2.2.7) under Component 2 are aligned with improving and changing production practices to be more biodiversity-positive with a focus on sectors that have significant biodiversity impacts (extractive industries (mining) through technical capacity building.

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

Within the past five years, the Chinese government has increased its efforts to protect, restore and manage the ecological environment and biodiversity of the YRB. Based on the strategic objectives and key tasks of these policies and law, the central and local governments have taken a series of action measures in favor of biodiversity, and the current trend of continued deterioration of conservation value in the YRB has been curbed to some extent. But without the support of this GEF program, under China's existing biodiversity policies and actions, the changes in the YRB's globally environmentally beneficial ecosystems, unique species, and their habitats will face great uncertainty, and it cannot be ruled out that the biodiversity status of the Yangtze River will improve locally but continue to deteriorate in most areas, or only improve in the short term for 2-3 years, but not continue. If this GEF project can design targeted intervention strategies based on baseline scenarios that are closely related to its objectives and expected outcomes, then the shortcomings of biodiversity conservation and its mainstreaming in the YRB in terms of institutional mechanisms, policy and legal enforcement, corporate production practices, conservation and development coordination, and capacity building will be greatly improved, thus ensuring that the global environmental benefits of the YRB to be realized in a timely and full manner.

	Baseline scenario	Incremental reasoning

1	Institutional mechanisms for the management in the YRB is not based on an ecosystem approach, but is managed by multiple departments according to their scattered functions and responsibilities	Support to fully discuss the ecological supervision and coordination mechanism of the YRB by holding a forum on the ecological supervision and coordination mechanism of the YRB to explore the comprehensive solutions for the conservation of wetlands, birds and aquatic animals in the YRB at policy level
2	Supervision and inspection of the ecological and environmental status in the YRB is mainly based on "problem lists" through an after-the-fact approach and not proactive. There is an urgent need for technical support for early warning monitoring and notification, unified criteria to judge the water ecological status of different regions and water bodies	Support the ecological and environmental inspection work in different regions and water bodies in the YRB through the development and pilot demonstration of the "Technical Guidelines for Water Ecological Function Assessment in the YRB", and after further improvement and extensive consultation, it will very likely a national or industry standard and be widely used in the ecological and environmental supervision and inspection in China, thus improving the scope of conservation of aquatic biodiversity with global value
3	There is not yet a framework for a coordination mechanism regarding transboundary water pollution management at the policy level.	Support the development of a framework for a domestic coordination mechanism for transboundary water pollution management to ensure comprehensive and effective biodiversity protection within all transboundary river segments of the YRB.
4	The current Chinese ecological and environmental monitoring network system does not involve biodiversity, but is studying the feasibility of how to use the existing system to carry out biodiversity monitoring	Support the process of integrating biodiversity into the construction of the national ecological and environmental monitoring network system, facilitate the country to have a comprehensive grasp of the trends of rare and endangered species of global conservation significance in important rivers and lakes across the country.

5	The country has accumulated relevant experience and effective practices in nature conservation monitoring and supervision. However, these experiences and effective practices now need to be summarized systematically to provide lessons for nature conservation monitoring and supervision	Support the development of policy recommendations for nature conservation monitoring, and human environmental impact supervision in the YRB by systematically summarizing the experience in the YRB. Support the development of a guidebook for public participation in ecological and environmental supervision in the YRB
6	BCSAP is seldom issued and implemented in administrative regions below the provincial level.	Support the development and implementation of the BCSAP in Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province, and the development of an evaluation rule for the effectiveness of its implementation
7	There is currently no precedent in China for integrating biodiversity into integrated urban watershed development plans.	Support the development and implementation of the "Anning River Ecological Protection and Improvement Program" and its integration into the overall plan for the comprehensive development of the Anning River Basin in Panzhihua, as well as the development of an evaluation rule for the effectiveness of its implementation
8	Taihu County, Anhui Province, has established an cross-department Environmental Protection Working Committee, however, the working mechanism of this coordinating body regarding biodiversity conservation has not been established, and the task of conservation is not clear	Provide technical assistance in establishing a biodiversity conservation working mechanism under the existing Environmental Protection Committee, while upscaling this potentially effective practice to enhance the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts at county level.

9	Yuexi County has superior natural geographic conditions for growing tea trees, and wish to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides but lack of capacity to formulate an organic development planning, conduct organic conversion practices of existing traditional tea gardens and certification of organic tea	Support the selection of organic agriculture and biodiversity experts to guide relevant local technicians in activities such as biodiversity-friendly organic tea development planning, organic conversion practices and organic product certification, while increasing the income of locals in Yuexi County
10	The current knowledge and skills of relevant local government departments on biodiversity are weak and neither systematic nor in-depth; new concepts, technologies, methods and best practices on biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution management, organic agriculture, etc. are poorly understood and have not been applied in actual conservation work	Support the forum for the environmental supervision and coordination mechanism in YREB, the workshop on new protected area legislation, the training course on the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law, the exchange of implementation experience and products promotion meeting, as well as the development of an ecological and environmental information disclosure platform for industry, and a serie of training at central and local level.

3. Global environmental benefits

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-Astralasia, 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. Thus, biodiversity conservation in the YRB is not only important for China, but will also contribute to global environmental benefits.

In the pilot cities and counties, the project is expected to directly mitigate the adverse impacts of 3.1 million hectares of productive landscapes and urban areas on biodiversity, directly improve the quality of water environment and ecological functions of 460,000 hectares of rivers and lakes, and directly mitigate the threats of local production and related illegal activities on endemic, rare and endangered species in the YRB. These lands and waters restored in terms of environmental quality and ecological functions will not only provide shelter for endemic species of Yangtze River such as giant panda, Chinese alligator and Yangtze finless porpoise, but also bring benefits to global biodiversity. For example, Poyang Lake wetlands in Jiangxi province will become breeding and wintering grounds for globally endangered migratory birds.

In meeting the national obligations of the CBD, this project will contribute directly to the 2050 long-term target and the 2030 action target of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (first draft) and, in particular, to the relevant 2030 action target set out in that Framework (first draft).

By improving the ecological and environmental monitoring and coordination mechanisms of 11 provinces and cities in the YREB, this project will comprehensively reduce the long-term pressure and threats from environmental pollution and ecological damage to biodiversity in the YRB, and integrate biodiversity into production sector practices and urban government planning, which will strongly support the achievement of global biodiversity conservation goals.

4. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

In the YRB, especially in the 11 provinces and cities of the YREB, biodiversity mainstreaming will be promoted by this project from the current intermediate level to the advanced level through fundamental changes in economic development patterns, enterprise production practices, innovation in institutional mechanisms and conservation technology. The outputs and outcomes achieved in the pilot cities and counties supported by this project will be more sustainable through replication and scaling up at the regional, national and even international level. In the field of eco-environmental protection, Chinese governments at all levels often promote the sustainability of these innovations by forming policy frameworks or institutions based on a number of innovations from domestic and international projects through a process of summarization, discussion and further optimization.

In terms of financial sustainability, the outcomes, outputs, and activities of this project are designed in close alignment with the central and local governments' strategic priorities and action plans for ecological environment (including biodiversity) conservation in the YRB for the next 5-10 years. During the implementation of this project, the MEE and local BEEs will give priority to ensuring that their financial funds allocated to this project are fully secured in terms of co-funds; for example, the central financial support for the 2021 Yangtze River Biodiversity Conservation Projects in the YREB amounts to approximately USD 56 million. In the past 10 years, China's financial investment in the field of ecology and environment has been increasing. According to statistics, China's financial investment in environmental increased from USD 118 billion in 2011 to USD 147 billion in 2017, with an average annual growth rate of 4.2%, of which investment in ecological protection, which is closely related to biodiversity conservation, increased from USD 1.17 billion in 2011 to RMB 2.57 billion in 2017, with an average annual growth rate of 20.2%. Therefore, even after the end of the project, there will still be annual central and local government financial funds to support more upscaling of the key results of this project in the YRB and other basins in China, especially the YREB ecological environmental protection supervision and coordination policy and the ways and means for enterprises to participate in biodiversity are more likely to receive continuous support from central and local financial sources, as the two areas of work are closely related to the national strategic goal and priority task of achieving a fundamental improvement in water quality and biodiversity in the Yangtze River by 2035. In addition, the green finance measures and related tools being implemented by the central government, as well as other related mechanisms (e.g., Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, ecological compensation mechanisms, central government support through transfer payments for ecological environmental protection projects where local financial resources are relatively tight) may also provide opportunities for the sustainability of the results of this project.

In terms of socioeconomic sustainability, the results of this project will be beneficial to the recovery of the fishery resources in the Yangtze River, the sustainable development of tourism, and the enhancement of various ecosystem service functions. The ecological monitoring and coordination mechanisms and biodiversity-friendly production practices in the YRB will contribute to the sustainable improvement of water quality in the Yangtze River, the sustainable recovery of economically important fish and rare and endangered species populations, and more sustainable water and land resource use practices. In turn, these sustainable improvements will contribute to the development of ecotourism and new high-tech industries in the YRB, and provide employment opportunities for more people, especially women, youth, and the poor people in rural and remote areas, thereby increasing their income from biodiversity conservation. In addition, the results of this project will contribute to the sustainable improvement of ecosystem services in the YRB in terms of provisioning, support, regulation, and culture over a wider region and longer period, and the improvement of these services will support sustainable and high-quality socio-economic development in China.

Ecological civilization has been adopted as a long-term political and strategic guideline to ensure the coordination of China's economic development and environmental protection. This will support the sustainability and replicability of all concrete actions that contribute to the conservation of the ecological environment (including biodiversity) in the YRB. The relevant policy, institutional and technical outcomes of this project will be integrated into the policies, institutional mechanisms, working practices, and capacity building of national and local governments and relevant stakeholders on ecological and environmental management, therefore will continue to play an important role after the project ends, and will continue to be improved and optimized in practical application, further exerting greater influence and demonstrating the strong guiding role and leveraging power of the GEF program for biodiversity conservation of global significance in the YRB. The capacity building supported by this project will be carefully managed to become a strategic resource accessible to domestic and international stakeholders over a long period.

The replicable results of this project focus on successful practices and experiences that are conducive to biodiversity conservation at the local level. Given that the overall administrative frameworks of local governments in China are largely similar, and that governmental functions are largely set up in the same way, the experience of developing and implementing a BCSAP in Jiujiang city supported by this project may provide a replicable and useful practice for the full development and implementation of such an action plan in 107 prefecture-level cities in the YREB. The effective practice of "IUCN Guidelines for Planning and Monitoring Industry Biodiversity Performance" supported by this project, which was first applied to the mining, processing industry, and chemical parks, will have a greater potential to be applied to other mining and processing industry in the YRB with the advocacy and coordination of the MEE and the MNR and the support of local governments. The organic tea practices and experiences of this project will have broad prospects for upscaling and replication nationwide. During the scaling-up of the project outputs, the project team will work closely with the local authorities, relevant agencies, and key leaders to collect, store, review and share innovative knowledge, experience and effective practices on the promotion and replication of the project outputs through work meetings, local interviews, on-site visit, recording and reporting systems, and the internet.

The scaling-up of some key outputs delivered by the project will be carried out in the following approaches. In particular, during the scaling-up of the project outputs, the project team will work closely with the local authorities?relevant agencies and key leaders to collect, store, review and share innovative knowledge, experience and effective practices on the promotion and replication of the project outputs through communications, work meetings, local interviews, on-site visit, recording and reporting systems, and the internet.

Key outputs	**Who organize/coordinate scaling-up**	**How to conduct scaling-up**	**Sites/ authorities/ agencies related to the scaling-up**

1. Technical guidelines for water ecology evaluation in the Yangtze River Basin	The department of technical standard within the MEE and the technical support agencies in the YRB.	Further discussion and consultation for the technical guidelines in wider areas in the YRB beyond the pilot sites of the project and its official issue in governmental document.	The cities and counties in the YRB and ecological assessment institutions.
2. Framework of coordination mechanisms for the management of shared water bodies in the Yangtze River Basin	The MEE and local EEBs in the YRB.	Based on the coordination framework formed by this project, the Local EEBs in the YRB will formulate its specific implementation measures/rules in terms of transboundary water bodies and local biodiversity conservation.	The cities and counties in the YRB and local EEBs, fishery authorities and water conservation authorities.
3. Monitoring indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin	Under coordination and organization of MEE, The Central Station Eco-environmental Monitoring and provincial environmental monitoring stations in the Yangtze River Basin.	Integration of the monitoring indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity in the YRB into local routine environmental work in the YRB.	The provincial environmental monitoring stations in the Yangtze River Basin and research institutes/universities.
4. Ecological environmental protection and control initiative developed in Anning river in Panzhihua City	Local governments/development sectors in the YRB.	Based on local needs, situations and conditions, the Panzhihua model will be extended in other watershed development in the YRB through experience learning, visits and communications.	The local sectors concerning the industry, fishery, land and water use, agriculture, tourism and environment protection in the YRB.
5. Jiujiang City Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	City governments within the Jiangxi province.	The development process of the Jiujiang City BASP will be replicated in the other cities within the Jiangxi province through official decision-making document, including external technical assistance, and experience and knowledge sharing.	All stakeholders during development of the City-level BASP.

6. Planning and practices of biodiversity-friendly tea industry development in Yuexi County	Local agricultural bureaus in the YRB, in collaboration with the local EEBs.	In consideration of local landscapes, climate conditions, agricultural production systems and farmer?s willingness in other areas of the YRB, the development of biodiversity-friendly tea may be integrated into local agricultural and environmental plans. Also, local agricultural production cooperatives organize and promote the cultivation of organic tea on the basis of principle of voluntariness and market.	Some mountainous cities and counties in the YRB, Local agricultural bureaus, townships and villages, agricultural production cooperatives, leading farmers in local affairs.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The total project area comprises Taihu County and Yuexi County of Anhui Province, Jiujiang City of Jiangxi Province, and the Pangzhihua City of Sichuan Province is 30,952 km2. All the cities and counties are located in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and most of them are located along the mainstream of the Yangtze River. The pilot cities and counties either are located within the target Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) or are located downstream or upstream of the target KBAs (Figure 1-3).

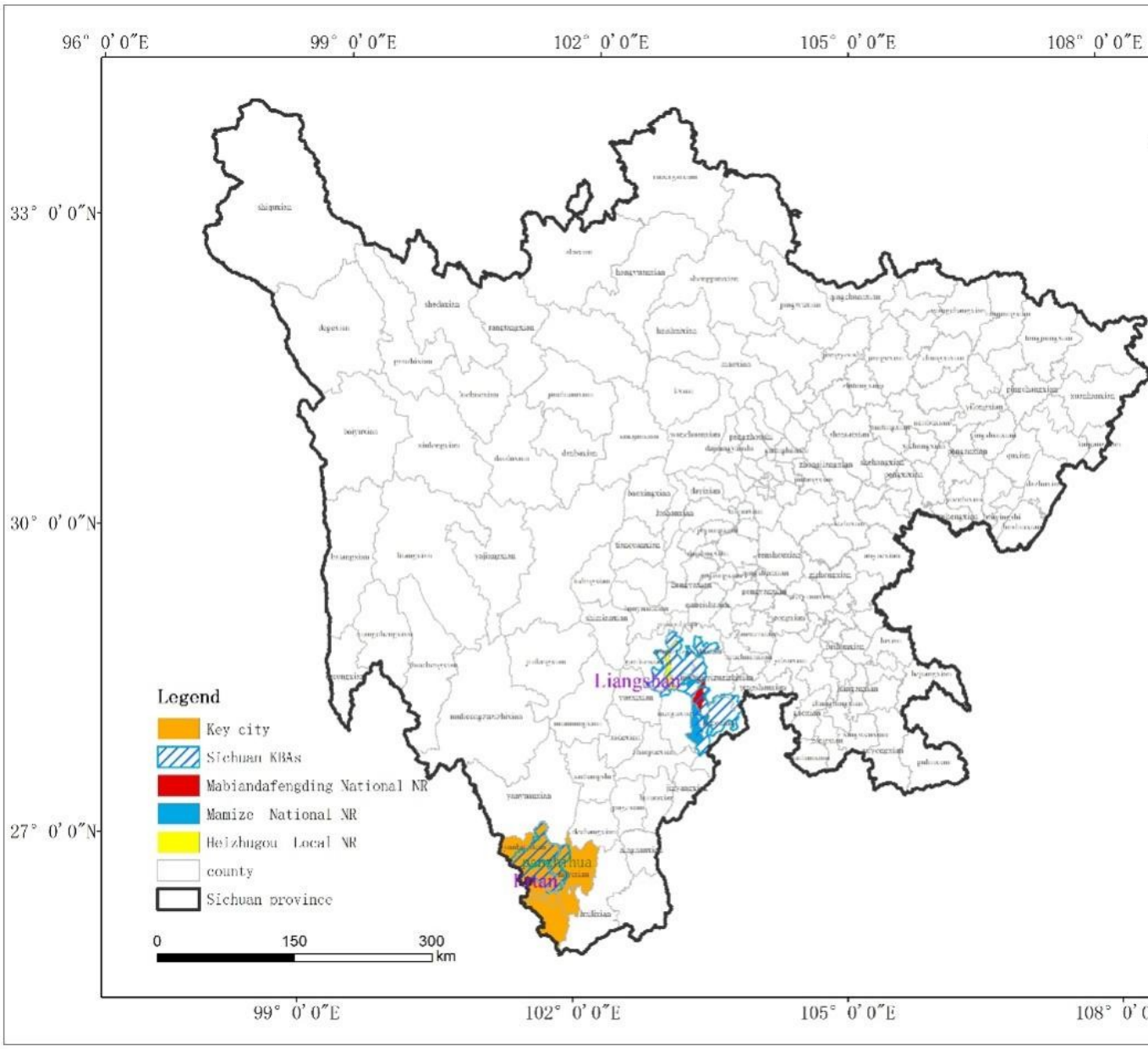

Figure 1: Pilot city (Panzhihua) of Sichuan Province and target Liangshan KBA in the *Strengthening in-situ Biodiversity Conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt* Project (NFGA project).

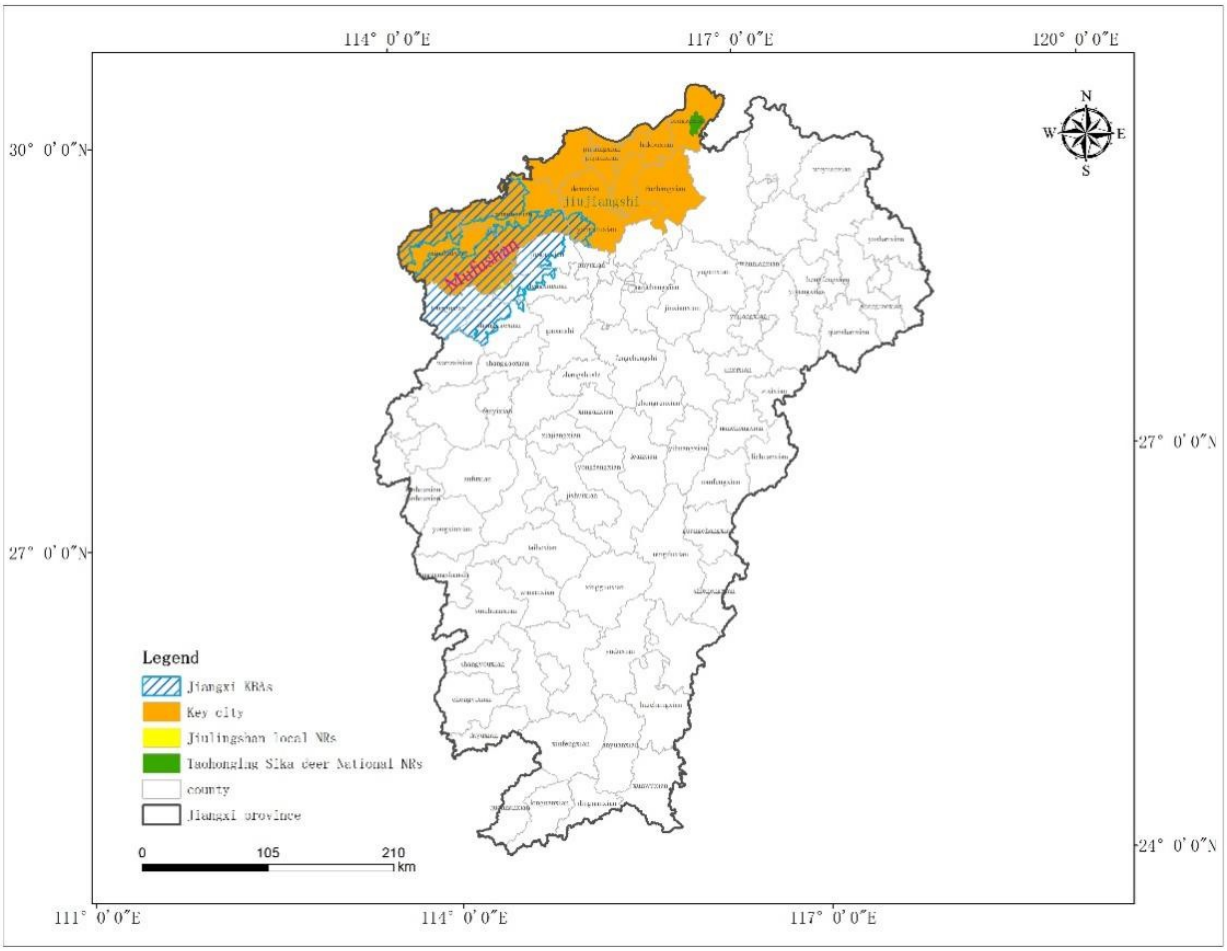

Figure 2: Pilot City (Jiujiang) of Jiangxi Province and the target Mufushan KBA in the NFGA project

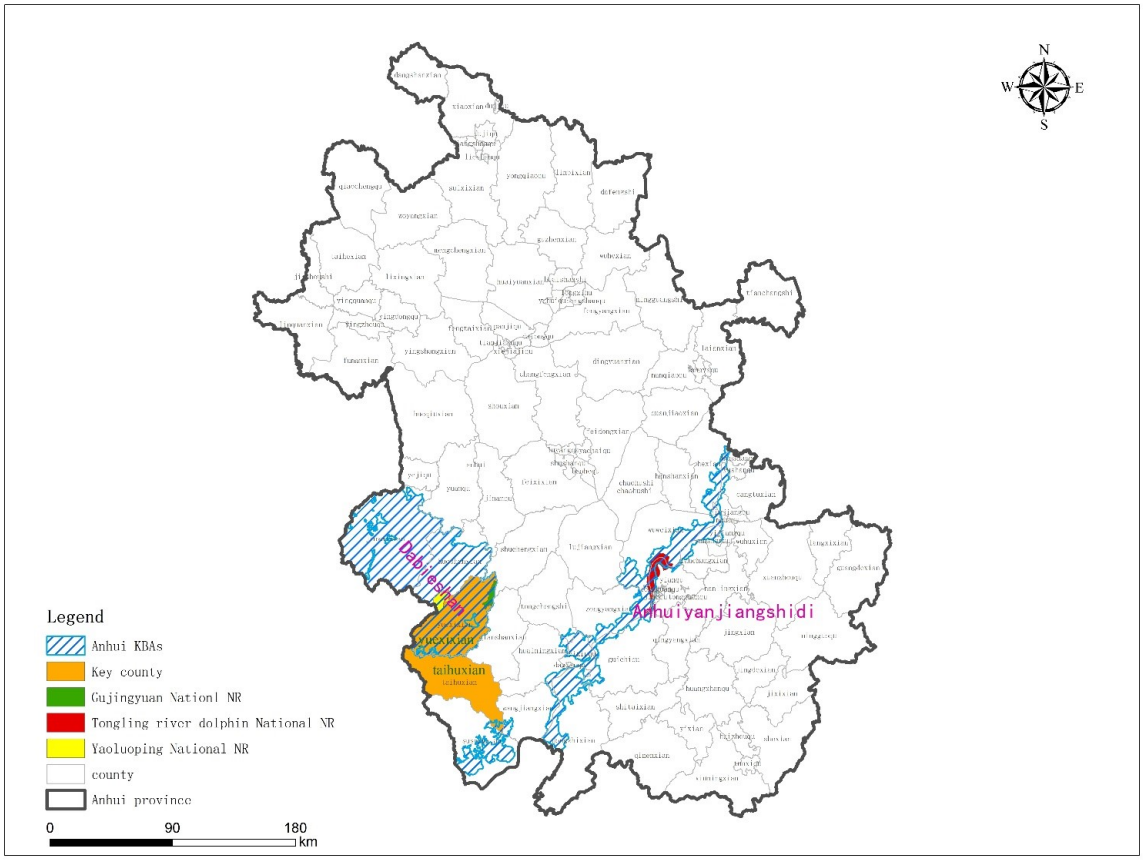

Figure 3: Pilot Counties (Taihu and Yuexi) of Anhui Province and the target Dabie and Wetland Along the Yangtze River KBA in the NFGA project

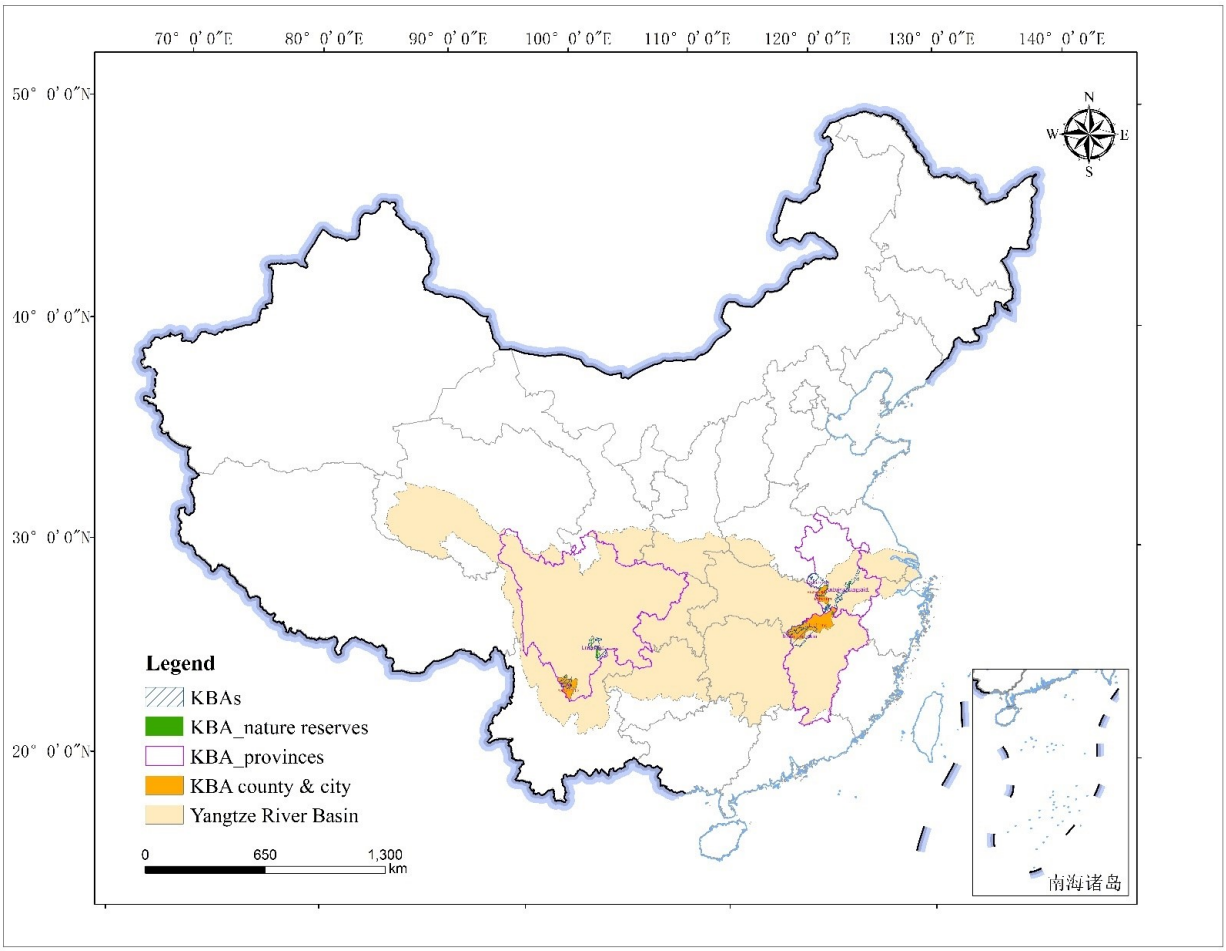

Figure 4: Protected areas, target KBAs, counties and cities in Sichuan, Anhui and Jiangxi Provinces and YRB

1c. Child Project?

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

The Programme aim to achieve the objective of enhanced and mainstreamed biodiversity conservation in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China by improving the in-situ conservation of biodiversity and mitigating human impacts to it. To contribute to the achievement of the Programme's objective in a complementary manner in relation to the NFGA Child Project, this Child Project will largely focus on the mitigation of human impacts from municipal development and production, and the integration of biodiversity to the coordination mechanisms, policies and legislation, and ultimately on the biodiversity mainstreaming.

The first component is mainly about mainstreaming biodiversity to the governance processes of the Yangtze. It plans to establish the needed coordination mechanism, new policies and legislation for biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in the Yangtze River Basin, taking advantage of the newly formulated Yangtze River Protection Law. The focus will be on developing an ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanism developed at the Yangtze basin level, and supporting the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law in terms of strengthening the monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts. The second component is designed to mitigate the human impacts to biodiversity from two perspective. Firstly, it will integrate biodiversity considerations into development planning and policies of selected municipalities in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui, and secondly it will reduce the negative impacts of selected production sectors and support them to be more biodiversity positive especially in Anhui. The third component will focus on the management of knowledge generated from project activities at national and local levels and enable capacity development and information exchange.

This Child Project will cross-support and complement to the NFGA Child Project in several ways. The geographies of both projects are common or biophysically connected, while the focuses of them are different yet complementary given the strengths and mandates of the two executing agencies. It is therefore anticipated that the on the ground impacts could be aggregated and even amplified. On policies and legislation, the two projects, each having clear policy target, will be able to address two main policy and legislation processes at the river basin level (largely national level, given the size and significance of the Yangtze River Basin), which could be difficult for other stand-alone projects. The coordination and knowledge management and exchange at the Programme level and between the two projects will help ensure the cross-supporting and complementary roles of the two Child Projects will achieve the expected objective of the Programme.

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: No

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Table 6-2 Stakeholder Engagement plan

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
National government departments/agencies					
Ministry of Ecology and Environment	MEE is the executive agency and co-financing partner for this project and thus its engagement will ensure that the project have is aligned with the priority national biodiversity policies and programs during its design and implement.	-Leadership, organization and inter-ministerial coordination, and resource mobilization as well. -Make decisions for the important issues, events and risks involved in the project implementation. -Provide authoritative advices in terms of detailed explanation of national biodiversity policies and programs.	-Listen to and make comments/inputs on regular reporting by the PSC under the MEE on the project. -Attend important meetings/events (e.g. kick-off meeting, PSC meetings, workshops and training at central level) -Release relevant notices/orders to improve/speed up the process of the project implementation. -Communicate /exchange different viewpoints and ideas on the project implementation directly using telephone and/or face-to-face conversation.	The director of the CPMO based at the FECO which is the public environmental institution and under the MEE.	The whole project cycle
National Forestry and Grassland Administration	It is the executing agency for another child project of the Yangtze Program and its engagement will ensure an effective and maximum contribution to the goal of the whole Program and the achievement of their expect outcomes.	-Coordinate the implementation process (e.g. action overlap, key events, information sharing and disclosing, emergency management and adaptation, etc.) for the two child projects of the Program.	-The Program management coordination and the Technical Advisory and Coordination Committee (TACC) will be established in NFGA -Exchange information, discuss the issues and potential solutions, and share experience as well during the Program implementation by means of regular working meetings, dialogues and other effective vehicles .	The project manager of the PMO based at the NFGA	The whole project cycle

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Ministry of Finance	GEF focal point in China, one of the PSC members of this project and keep the project on track of relevant GEF policies and guidelines.	-Support and review the project application. -Participate in reviewing the work plans and the important agendas of the project. -Provide consultation about relevant GEF?s polices and requirements in its program/project application and implementation.	-Attend important meetings (kick-off meeting, PSC meetings, mid-and final M&E meeting, and project closure meeting) -Provide comments for the relevant plans, key actions, documents and reports of the project	Standing GEF-China Office	The whole project cycle
IUCN China Office	The implementing agency of this project.	-Monitoring and review this project implementation. -Recruit relevant specialists with assistance of CMPO. - Work with all the stakeholders to deal with emergencies during project implementation -Maintains liaison with GEF.	-Attend important meetings/training/outreach. -Visit pilot sites and the local partners of the project. - Make specific technical requirements for the project documents, reports and Promotional materials. -Collect and share the information related to the project implementation.	IUCN-China?s Office based at Beijing	The whole project cycle

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
FECO	The actual executing body of the project, designated by the MEE for its long history of implementing and managing the GEF projects in China.	-Organize and manage the project implementation -Directly participate in relevant activities of the project at central level -Maintains communication with MEE and Local partners of the project.	-Conduct regular management (work plans making, holding meetings/ outreach/training, recruitments, procurement, site visits, information record etc.) - Mobilize the FECO resource to implement the development of the enterprise eco-environmental information disclosure platform, and the workshops, training, promotional events at the central level. -Report to and communicate with the MEE by work meetings, telephone and face to face visit, etc.	The director of the CPMO based at FECO	The whole project cycle
Yangtze River Basin Ecological Environment Supervision Administration	Its engagement will facilitate the smooth the implementation of the project activity 1.1.1 for its rich information/data, expert resources, experiences and social networks in the field of the Yangtze River Basin Ecological Environment Supervision.	-Develop technical guidelines for water ecological assessment in the Yangtze River Basin and its demonstration application. -The relevant experts from the agency will assist or participate in project workshops and training activities.	As key partner of the project, directly implement the activity 1.1.1, and also participate in the activity 1.1.2.	The project manager of the CPMO.	Quarter 4 of yr1- Q4 of yr3

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Joint Research Center for Yangtze River Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Environment	Its engagement will facilitate development of relevant training materials in scientific way for its diversity of experts in the field of environment and biodiversity.	-Provide relevant technical advice for this project training activity. -Develop training materials and give a presentation in terms of relevant training topics. -Some technical information and issues will be consulted.	-Recruit relevant qualified experts based on the TOR by CPMO -Attend relevant work meetings of the project and comment the training outlines -Exchange ideas by telephone, email, wechat and/or face to face visit in terms of the project training.	The project manager of the CPMO.	Quarter 4 of yr1- Q4 of yr2
All-China Environmental Protection Federation	It is the biggest NGOs in the environmental and biodiversity and Its engagement will ensure the application of modern information technology in local monitoring and awareness-raising of biodiversity for its ?River Quality Intelligent System".	-Provide technical assistance in the application of the "River Quality Intelligent System" to assess the water quality and biodiversity in local river or lake in Taihu county. -Participated in technical training activities on the application of the system in Taihu county.	-Teach and demonstrate local stakeholders and general public in Taihu county to how to use the "River Quality Intelligent System.	The project manager of the CPMO.	Quarter 2 of yr2
Local government departments/institutions/businesses					
Panzhihua City, Sichuan Province					

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Sichuan Province Foreign Cooperation Center	It will manage the implementation of the project pilot activities at Panzhihua City as a bridge body between Bureaus of Ecology and Environment in Panzhihua City and Sichuan Province.	-Conduct a daily management of local implementation of the project. - Maintain communication and coordination with the Department of Ecology and Environment of Sichuan Province. -Receive and execute the requirements from CPMO in terms of the project implementation.	-Attend the relevant work meetings held by CPMO. -Manage the local site activities in line with the technical requirements by CPMO and in cooperation with the Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City. -Send qualified persons to assist and guide Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City to implement local activities.	The director of the LPMO.	The whole project cycle
Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City	It is a most key stakeholder in the project document design and a responsible partner of its implementation. Its engagement will ensure successful implementation of all the pilot activities.	-Organize and coordinate its local implementation. -Attend work meetings by the CPMO. -Make decisions for important local affairs of the project implementation. -Lead the implementation of Activity 2.1.1. -Coordination of various training and awareness activities at local level.	-Use the existing governmental structures, mechanisms and networks for organization and coordination of local affairs of the project. -Mobilize local resource to focus on the local implementation of the project. -Release official documents related to push the local implementation of the project.	The director of the LPMO.	The whole project cycle

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development of Panzhihua City	It is a key stakeholder in the project document design and its engagement will ensure enough concerns of the conservation of endangered indigenous fish.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advice the outputs by the activity 2.1.1. -Involve in the implementation of relevant training activities at local level.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Call for and organize attendance of local agricultural representatives in the local training activity. -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	Quarter 2-4 of yr1-Q1-3 of yr2.
Sichuan Panzhihua Cycad National Nature Reserve	It mobilizes local students to participate in local biodiversity training for conservation awareness raising of future generation.	-Implement the training on biodiversity knowledge and skills for primary and secondary schools in Panzhihua in the support of Panzhihua Ecological Environment Bureau.	-Provide assistance and inputs in design of the training for local students. -Provide a platform/base for the field session of the training. - Provide safeguards for the training.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	Quarter 2-3 of yr3
Bureaus of Forestry (BoF) in Panzhihua City	Its engagement will ensure enough concerns of the conservation of local wetland biodiversity and ecosystem.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.1.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	Quarter 2-4 of yr1-Q1-3 of yr2.

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Local Development and Reform Commissions (DRC) in Panzhihau city	To ensure the mainstreaming of the output from the activity 2.1.1 into local development plans.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.1.	- Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Exchange information related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	Quarter 2-4 of yr1-Q1-3 of yr2.
Local Bureaus of Housing and Urban-Rural Development in Panzhihau city	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.1.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.1.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.1.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	As needed by the project
Bureaus of Transportation in Panzhihau city, Jiujiang city	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.1.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.1.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.1.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	As needed by the project
Bureaus of Education and Sports (BES) in Panzhihau city	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.1.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.1.	- Attend the key output review meeting key work meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.1.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	As needed by the project

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Panzhihua College	To encourage local university to participate in GEF project and utilize its technical resources.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.1 and relevant trainings.	-Provide a technical inputs for the output of the activity 2.1.1 and the local training and awareness	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Panzhihua City.	As needed by the project
Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province					
Ecological Environment Bureau of Jiujiang city	It is a most key stakeholder in the project document design and a responsible partner of its implementation. Its engagement will ensure successful implementation of all the pilot activities.	-Organize and coordinate its local implementation. -Attend work meetings by the CPMO. -Make decisions for important local affairs of the project implementation. -Lead the implementation of Activity 2.1.2. -Coordination of various training and awareness activities at local level.	-Use the existing governmental structures, mechanisms and networks for organization and coordination of local affairs of the project. -Mobilize local resource to focus on the local implementation of the project. -Release official documents related to push the local implementation of the project.	The director of the LPMO.	The whole project cycle
Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development of Jiujiang City	To ensure enough concerns of the conservation of endangered indigenous fish in the Yangtze river.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.2. -Make comments and advice the outputs by the activity 2.1.2. -Involve in the implementation of relevant training activities at local level.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1-Q1-4 of yr2

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Jiujiang City Lushan West Sea Scenic Area Management Committee	To improve concerns of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and raise awareness of tourists to conserve biodiversity.	-Assist in the Implementation of the training on tourism and biodiversity	-Provide a platform/base for the field session of the training.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	Q4 of yr2
Local Development and Reform Commissions (DRC) in Jiujiang city	To ensure the mainstreaming of the output from the activity 2.1.2 into local development plans.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.2. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.2.	- Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City -Exchange information related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1-Q1-4 of yr2
Bureaus of Forestry (BoF) in Jiujiang City	Its engagement will ensure enough concerns of the conservation of local wetland biodiversity and ecosystem.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.2. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.2.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1-Q1-4 of yr2
Local Bureaus of Housing and Urban-Rural Development in Jiujiang city	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.2.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.2. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.2.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.2.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	As needed by the project

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Bureaus of Transportation in Jiujiang city	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.2.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.2. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.2.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.2.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Jiujiang City.	As needed by the project
Taihu County, Anhui Province					
Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu County	It is a most key stakeholder in the project document design and a responsible partner of its implementation. Its engagement will ensure successful implementation of all the pilot activities.	-Organize and coordinate its local implementation. -Attend work meetings by the CPMO. -Make decisions for important local affairs of the project implementation. -Lead the implementation of Activity 2.1.3. -Coordination of various training and awareness activities at local level.	-Use the existing governmental structures, mechanisms and networks for organization and coordination of local affairs of the project. -Mobilize local resource to focus on the local implementation of the project. -Release official documents related to push the local implementation of the project.	The director of the LPMO based on Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu County.	The whole project cycle
Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Taihu County	To ensure enough concerns of the conservation of endangered indigenous fish in the Yangtze river.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.3. -Involve in the implementation of relevant training activities at local level.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county. -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1- Q1 of yr2

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Culture, Radio, Film and Tourism Bureau in Taihu county	To ensure production of the film of thematic propagenda on ecosystems and biodiversity and release of the news related to project.	-Assist in making the film thematic propagenda film on ecosystems and biodiversity. - Release of the news related to project.	-Report the news for the project implementation -Participate in design and production of the propaganda film.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	Quarter 2-4 of yr2
Local Bureaus of Housing and Urban-Rural Development in Taihu county	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.3.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.3. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.3.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county. -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.3.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1- Q1 of yr2
Bureaus of Transportation in Taihu county	To ensure its voice in the period of the activity 2.1.3.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.3. -Make comments and advices for the outputs by the activity 2.1.3.	- Attend the key output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county. -Make output review and consultation of the activity 2.1.3.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	As needed by the project
Bureaus of Forestry (BoF) in Taihu County	To ensure enough concerns of the conservation of key wetlands in the Yangtze river.	-Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.1.3. -Involve in the implementation of relevant training activities at local level.	-Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county. -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	Quarter 3-4 of yr1- Q1 of yr2

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Taihu County Huating Lake National Wetland Monitoring Center	To utilize its resource (e.g. biodiversity data. Bird specimen, and expertise on Huating Lake) and encourage it to participate in local GEF project for the first time.	-Participate in local training courses -Provide assistance in biodiversity film-making.	-Provide relevant information and data and technical consultation for the production of the film of thematic propagenda. -Guide the field activity during the production of the film of thematic propagenda.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	Quarter 2-3 of yr2
Taihu County Women's Association	To provide assistance in mobilizing local women to participate in the project	-Assist local training and outreach of the project.	-Mobilize and organize local women as volunteers to service for the project.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	As needed by the project
Taihu County Youth League Committee	To provide assistance in mobilizing local youths to participate in the project.	-Assist local training and outreach of the project.	-Mobilize and organize local youths as volunteers to service for the project.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Taihu county.	As needed by the project
Yuexi County, Anhui Province					

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Ecological Environment Bureau of Yuexi County	It is a most key stakeholder in the project document design and a responsible partner of its implementation. Its engagement will ensure successful implementation of all the pilot activities.	-Organize and coordinate its local implementation. -Attend work meetings by the CPMO. -Make decisions for important local affairs of the project implementation. -Lead the implementation of Activity 2.2.1-Planning and practice for the development of biodiversity-friendly organic tea industry in Yuexi County. -Coordination of various training and awareness activities at local level.	-Use the existing governmental structures, mechanisms and networks for organization and coordination of local affairs of the project. -Mobilize local resource to focus on the local implementation of the project. -Release official documents related to push the local implementation of the project.	The director of the LPMO based on Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Yuexi County.	The whole project cycle
Bureau of Agricultural and Rural Affair of Yuexi County	To ensure the biodiversity-friendly organic tea development aligns with local agriculture development policies.	-Support the implementation of Activity 2.2.1. -Involve in the implementation of the activity 2.2.1. -Involve in the implementation of relevant training activities at local level.	-provide agriculture policy consultation and advices. -Help the identification of potential organic tea farms/households. -Attend the key work meetings and the output review meetings held by Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Yuexi county. -Exchange information and discuss issues related to the local implementation. -Make output review and consultation for the local implementation.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Yuexi county.	Quarter 4 of yr1-Q1-2 of yr4

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Yuexi County Baojia Township Shifo village Organic Tea Garden Cooperative	A potential pilot site for organic tea practice	-Participate in implementation of the activity 2.2.1and relevant training as a key partner of the project,	-Guide and organize local farmers to conduct organic tea practice and certification. -Mobilize local farmers to participate in training courses.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Yuexi county.	Quarter 4 of yr1- Q2 of yr4
Yuexi County Gujingyuan National Nature Reserve.	To coordinate organic tea development and local National Nature Reserve.	-Participate in implementation of the activity 2.2.1and relevant training as a key partner of the project,	-Provide a policy guidance and advices for local organic tea development adjacent to National Nature Reserve.	A designated deputy director within Bureau of Ecology and Environment of Yuexi county.	Quarter 3 of yr1
Local stakeholders (not necessarily organized)					
Farmers	To raise the awareness of local farmers in biodiversity conservation	-Participate in relevant training courses and outreach at local level. - Pay attention to the project implementation process.	-Attend the relevant training sessions and participate in campaigns on local biodiversity propaganda -Make some comments for the project outputs which are released on local governmental website. -Report to LPMOs the illegal activities and grievance related to the project implementation.	The directors of LPMOs	The whole project cycle
Women	To raise the awareness of local farmers in biodiversity conservation	-Participate in relevant training courses and outreach at local level. - Pay attention to the project implementation process.	-Attend the relevant training sessions and participate in campaigns on local biodiversity propaganda -Make some comments for the project outputs which are released on local governmental website. -Report to LPMOs the illegal activities and grievance related to the project implementation.	The directors of LPMOs	The whole project cycle

Stakeholders	Purpose of Engagement	Elements of Engagement	Means of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Timing
Youth	To raise the awareness of local farmers in biodiversity conservation	-Participate in relevant training courses and outreach at local level. - Pay attention to the project implementation process.	-Attend the relevant training sessions and participate in campaigns on local biodiversity propaganda -Make some comments for the project outputs which are released on local governmental website. -Report to LPMOs the illegal activities and grievance related to the project implementation.	The directors of LPMOs	The whole project cycle
Indigenous peoples and local communities					
Ethnic minorities and local villagers in four pilot sites	To raise the awareness of local farmers in biodiversity conservation	-Participate in relevant training courses and outreach at local level. - Pay attention to the project implementation process.	Through Mobilization of local Ethnic Religious Affairs Commission and local Village Committees, The Indigenous peoples and local villagers in four pilot sites in four pilot sites will: -Attend the relevant training sessions and participate in campaigns on local biodiversity propaganda -Make some comments for the project outputs which are released on local governmental website. -Report to LPMOs the illegal activities and grievance related to the project implementation.	The directors of LPMOs	The whole project cycle
Employees in targeted companies	To raise the awareness of local farmers in biodiversity conservation	-Participate in relevant training courses and outreach at local level. - Pay attention to the project implementation process.	-Attend the relevant training sessions and participate in campaigns on local biodiversity propaganda -Make some comments for the project outputs which are released on local governmental website. -Report to LPMOs the illegal activities and grievance related to the project implementation.	The directors of LPMOs	The whole project cycle

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, the sel. Their importance, impact, role, means of engagement are presented in the following tables.

Table 6-1 Key Project Stakeholders

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	Provide technical support and training in smart assessment for local rivers and their biodiversity in Taihu County.
Local Government System		

Government Se cretariat	High/High	Lead and coordinate project implementation.
Communication 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 /	Assist or participate in project training and Communication.
Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission	Medium / Low	Assist in organizing local ethnic groups to participate in the training and outputs consultations of the project.
Village Committee	Medium / Medium	Assist in organizing local villagers to participate in the training and outputs consultations of the project.
Local Agency/community		
Panzhihua College	Low / Low	Assist or participate in project information, education and training activities and provide related technical assistance.

Sichuan Panzhihua Cycad National Nature Reserve	Medium / Low	Participate directly in project outreach, education and training activities.
Taihu County Huating Lake National Wetland Monitoring Center	Medium / Low	Assist or participate in project training.
Taihu County Women's Association	Low / Medium	Organize participation of women in project training and Communication.
Taihu County Youth League Committee	Low / Medium	Assist or participate of local youths in project training.
Yuexi County Gujingyuan National Nature Reserve.	Medium / Low	Assist or participate in project training.
Local enterprises		
Management Committee of Jiujiang Lushan Xihai Scenic Area	Medium / Low	Assist or participate in project training.
Yuexi County Baojia Township Shifo village Organic Tea Garden Cooperative	Low / Low	Participate in project publicity and training, participate in the preparation of organic tea garden development plan and consultation of organic production practice

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.

The All-China Women's Federation and the National Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey on the social status of Chinese women (aged 18-64) in 31 Chinese provinces (including the 11 provinces in the YREB) in July 2020. The findings indicate that:

l The proportion of women in employment remains high. Women account for 43.5 percent of the employees. The proportion of working women in urban and rural areas was 66.3% and 73.2%, respectively.

l Women's participation in democratic political improvement has been enhanced. Women accounted for 87.5% and 83.3% of the voters, respectively in the elections of the village committee leaders and local people's congress representatives.

l Women can actively express their views and interest demands on public affairs. The proportion of women participating in at least one kind of democratic activities was 39.8%.

l Education is one of the areas where women have made the most significant progress in the past decade. Women had an average of 9.41 years of schooling compared with 9.66 years for men. The percentage of women enrolled in higher education was 1.6 percentage points higher than that of men.

l Women's health services have been significantly improved. 66.4 percent of women had a health check-up; there are 71.7% of urban women and 56.9% of rural women.

l Women's abilities and roles have been widely recognized by the society. 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".

l The concept of gender equality is more popular. 95.4% of the respondents agreed that "it is important for women to have a gainful job".

These findings were echoed by the group interviews and local consultations undertaken during the project preparation to inform the project design. In general, women, ethnic minorities and low-income people can actively express their views and interests of the project in the group interviews, and hope to participate in the relevant activities of the project under the unified coordination of the local government, and obtain relevant labour remuneration.

As for the opportunities and rights of women to participate in the project, almost all the representatives at the local consultation meetings said that they have no discrimination or prejudice against the participation of different genders, ethnic groups and the institutions of different ownership in the local ecological environment (including biodiversity) protection.

Meanwhile, it is hoped that through the implementation of the project, relevant local officials, managers, technicians and the local public can effectively enhance their awareness, knowledge and skills of biodiversity conservation, especially among female workers and rural women.

The opinions and suggestions were equally heard by the project design and the project outputs and activities have been designed to be relevant and beneficial for both women and men. However, among all the participants in the interviews and consultations, only 30 percent were female, suggesting a potential to improve during the project implementation.

In order to facilitate and ensure greater participation of women in the project implementation, a Gender Participation Action Plan has been developed (see Appendix 5 of the project document), based on the project result framework and work plan, to help achieve the gender engagement target of the project ? at least participants of the project are female.

Sex-disaggregated indicators have been developed for each of the activities and therefore embedded in their budgets?though the project does not have dedicated gender engagement activities or budgets. In

addition, the Output 3.2 will drive the implementation of the action plan and monitor its progress. During the project inception, training on gender issues and engagement will be provided for the project staff, together with the training on project cycle management etc.

Gender Action Plan

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Component 1: Coordination and policy development for ecological and environmental protection in Yangtze							
Output M1.1: An ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanism developed at the Yangtze basin level for ecological protection, sustainable land and water use, and waste and emission management etc.							

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.1.1: Develop guidelines for water ecology assessment in the Yangtze River Basin	**Objective:** To ensure the equal participation of women and men in the process of developing the guidelines, including their situation analysis, drafting, discussion, consultation and finalization. **Actions:** (1) The central project management office (CPMO) and IUCN will organize, coordinate and establish an expert group by recruiting or recommending, with women experts having stronger voice in it. (2) Consult woman experts and managers at national and local organizations such as research centres, universities, river management centres by email, phone and wechat. (3) Collect opinions and suggestions from general public (including women and mem) for the draft guidelines by the project and local governmental websites.	% of female experts in the expert group	0	At least 40%	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.1.1.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.1.2: Develop a framework of coordination mechanisms for the regulation of domestic transboundary waters	**Objective:** To ensure the full participation in the framework development of the woman officials and key personnel from the local governments, supervision and evaluation agencies, industry associations and women federations etc. in Yangtze River Economic Belt (YREB). **Actions:** (1) Local woman officials and key personnel in YREB will review the coordination framework and give their inputs. (2) Local woman officials and key personnel in YREB will participate in discussing the important topics about the frameworks. (3) Collect opinions and suggestions from general public (including women and mem) for the draft framework by the project and local governmental websites.	Ratio of women and men in review and discussion of the framework	0	approximately 35:65	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.1.2.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.1.3: Develop indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity monitoring in the Yangtze River Basin	**Objective:** To ensure that female technical experts can play key roles in development of the indicators and methods. **Actions:** (1) Establish a specialist team for development of the indicators and methods, as well as openly recruit and recommend female specialists by CPMO, with expertise and experience in biodiversity monitoring. (2) Consult some female specialists from the national universities, Chinese Academy of Science and relevant research centers in environment, natural resources, water conservancy and agriculture.	% of female in the specialists team	0	At least 35%	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.1.3.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.1.4: Organize a forum on ecological and environmental monitoring and coordination mechanisms in the Yangtze River Basin (YRB)	**Objective:** To ensure that women in Yangtze River Basin (YRB) have an opportunity to communicate and present their innovative ideas, papers and experience in monitoring and coordinating conservation. **Actions:** (1) establish a Forum organization committee with member of well-known female experts. (2) Give a keynote speech in the Forum (3) Encourage and inform the women in YRB to attend the Forum	-% of the women experts who will make a keynote speech in the Forum -% of the female participants	0	-At least 30% -40-50% of female participants	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.1.4.
Output M1.2 Needs and experience with reference to monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts summarized and provided for the formulation and implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law							

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.2.1: Develop policy recommendations for nature conservation monitoring in the Yangtze River Basin	**Objective:** To ensure that the reasonable recommendations from women in YRB can be integrated into its final version at the national policy. **Actions:** (1) Collect and review the opinions and suggestions from women officials, experts, practitioners and others at national and local levels. (2) Make final version of the policy recommendations in close collaboration with women policy officials and experts.	% of women officials and experts participating in the finalization of the policy recommendations	0	At least 40%	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.2.1.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.2.2: Policy Recommendations for Human Environmental Impact Monitoring in the Development of the Yangtze River Basin	**Objective:** To ensure that the reasonable recommendations from women in YRB can be integrated into its final version at the national policy. **Actions:** (1) Collect and review the opinions and suggestions from women officials, experts, practitioners and others at national and local levels. (2) Make final version of the policy recommendations in close collaboration with women policy officials and experts.	% of women officials and experts participating in the finalization of the policy recommendations	0	At least 40%	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.2.2.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.2.3: Develop a guidebook for citizen participation in monitoring the ecological environment of the Yangtze River basin	**Objective:** To ensure that full participation of the women from the social and civil organizations at national and local levels in development of the guidebook. **Actions:** (1) Conduct a survey and consultation in terms of structures, elements, readability and style of the guidebook with relevant key women. (2) Let key women participate in finally editing the text, tables and figures of guidebook	% of women in designing, writing and editing group of the guidebook	0	At least 50%	2022-2026	? CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.2.3.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 1.2.4: Training Course for the Implementation of Yangtze River Protection Law	**Objective:** The project will ensure equal opportunities are provided for both male and female in terms of training and capacity building. **Actions:** (1) Recruit female trainers/environmental legislation expert as facilitators. (2) Support more local woman related to Implementation of Yangtze River Protection Law in Yangtze River Basin.	% of female trainees in total attendees in the training course	0	50% or so	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 1.2.4.
Component 2: Integration of biodiversity in development and economic sectors in Yangtze							
Output M2.1: Biodiversity considerations integrated into development planning and policies of selected municipalities in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui							

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 2.1.1: Develop and implement the Panzhihua An Ning River Ecological Environmental Protection and Remediation Program	**Objective:** To ensure that local women officials fully participate in decision-making in local biodiversity mainstreaming. **Actions:** (1) Conduct a survey and consultation in terms of local biodiversity situation analysis with relevant key women informants from different governmental sectors, industry associations, civil organizations, communities and academic institutions. (2) Establish a development and leadership group of the Program with woman members. (3) Collect opinions and suggestions from local woman public (including ethnic minority) for development, review and improvement of the Program.	% of the women in the development and leadership group	0	40-50%	2022-2026	Local PMO (LPMO) under the supervision of CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 2.1.1.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 2.1.2: Development and implementation of the Jiujiang Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2030)	**Objective:** To ensure that local women officials fully participate in decision-making in local biodiversity mainstreaming. **Actions:** (1) conduct a survey and consultation in terms of local biodiversity situation analysis with relevant key women informants from different governmental sectors, industry associations, civil organizations, communities and academic institutions. (2) Establish a development and leadership group of the Action with woman members. (3) Collect opinions and suggestions from local woman public (including ethnic minority) for development, review and improvement of the Action.	% of the women in the development and leadership group	0	40-50%	2022-2026	Local PMO under the supervision of CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 2.1.2.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 2.1.3: Building a biodiversity conservation mechanism in Taihu County	**Objective:** To ensure that woman leaders from all the sectors related to biodiversity can play a key role in its decision-making. **Actions:** (1) Establish a biodiversity decision-making group in a balance way of women and men	% of women in the biodiversity decision-making group	0	40-50%	2022-2026	Local PMO under the supervision of CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 2.1.3.
Output M2.2 Production practices of identified sectors to reduce their negative impacts and to be more biodiversity positive demonstrated in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui							
Activity 2.2.1: Planning and practice for the development of biodiversity-friendly organic tea industry in Yuexi County	**Objective:** To ensure that woman leaders and female farmers in the pilot village. **Actions:** (1) Establish a development and leadership group for the Planning, with a balanced number of women and men. (2) Consult local female villagers in terms of the development and implementation of the Planning	Numbers of female villagers who will be consulted for development and implementation of the Planning	0	About 100 women	2022-2026	Local PMO under the supervision of CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 2.2.1.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 2.2.2: Training and capacity building at local levels	**Objective:** To ensure that the relevant woman can attend the training courses in four local sites of the project. **Actions:** (1) A gender specialist will introduce basic concepts and best practices about gender equality and woman?s empowerment before starting planned technical trainings in the 4 local sites. (2) Local governments encourage, support and mobilized relevant women to attend the training courses in the local sites.	% of women who will attend the training workshops in each site of the project.	0	About 50%	2022-2026	Local PMO under the supervision of CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 2.2.2.
Component 3: Knowledge, capacity and information management							
Output M3.1 Knowledge products and events delivered to disseminate experience and raise awareness and capacity.							

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Activity 3.1.1: Corporate eco-environmental information disclosure platform	**Objective:** To ensure that female experts and local woman information collectors can participate in development of the Platform. **Actions:** (1) Establish a development team of the Platform (2) Local governments support and mobilize female collectors to provide eco-environmental information of the corporates	% of woman experts in the development team of the Platform	0	At least 30%	2022-2026	PMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 3.1.1.
Activity 3.1.2: Knowledge products developed and disseminated	**Objective:** To ensure equal opportunities are provided for both male and female in terms of knowledge development and dissemination. **Actions:** (1) Develop knowledge products about the project. (2) Communicate knowledge products delivered from the project.	% of women who will participate in Communicating knowledge products	0	50 -60 %	2022-2026	PMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions, the budget of which has been incorporated into expenses of the activity 3.1.2.

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
Management related to (C)PMO operation, Program coordination and M&E of the project							
PMO Staff	**Objective:** To ensure that equal opportunities can be provided for both male and female in office work. **Actions:** (1) Recruit female staff in C/LPMO. (2) Recruit a female expert in M&E (3) Guide and implement the collection of sex-disaggregated data produced from the project. (4) Modify and adapt the Gender Action Plan over time and circumstances.	% of women staff in (C)PMO.	0	50-60%	2022-2026	CPMO	No additional cost needed for the gender actions

Project activities	Objective and actions of the Plan by project activities	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Timeline	Responsible agencies	budget
A training workshops on gender equality for project staff in (C)PMO.	**Objective:** To ensure that project staff in C/LPMO can pay more attention to gender equality in implementation of GEF project. **Actions:** (1) Organize all C/LPMO staff and relevant people attend the training workshops on gender equality. (2) Invite gender specialist(s) to facilitate the training workshops.	Number of attending training workshops on gender equality	0	All the staff in C/LPMO	2022-2024	CPMO	About 5,000 USD, already included in the PMC budget.

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.

Industry in the YREB is the most important force in local economic development, but they are also responsible for the environmental pollution and habitat destruction that has led to the decline of ecological quality and biodiversity loss in the YRB. Engaging the business sector therefore is critical for biodiversity conservation in the YRB. However, at present, industries are rarely involved in

biodiversity matters, due to the lack of awareness, knowledge, sense of responsibility, and mechanisms and ways to participate in such activities.

To address these challenges, this project has established a dedicated Output 2.2 ?Production practices of identified sectors to reduce their negative impacts and to be more biodiversity positive demonstrated in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui?, and will integrate various business sector engagement approaches and activities in other outputs, such as Output 3.1 and Output 1.2 etc.

- providing mechanisms and opportunity for participation: through Output 3.1, the project will facilitate the establishment of a corporate eco-environmental information disclosure platform to disclose their environmental information on time and truthfully. The project will also make available opportunities such as consultations and surveys through Output 1.2 for business sector stakeholders to express and provide inputs for the policy recommendations that will be submitted to national decision makers.

- recognizing efforts and success: the project will integrate the case studies, achievements and efforts made by pioneering enterprises in the knowledge products to be developed through Output 3.1 and will support the upscaling and replication of the experiences and effective practices at the national level through various channels and events.

- awareness raising and capacity building: through Output 2.2, this project will organize training programs for industries on biodiversity conservation and monitoring, biodiversity impact and footprints, biodiversity offset and mitigation hierarchy etc. The training will benefit from various IUCN's data, tools and metrics such as NbS, STAR, Red List and IBAT, as well as include international sustainable development and biodiversity goals e.g. the SDGs and the Post-2020 GBF.

- demonstration for good practices: the Output 2.2 of this project will also develop and implement biodiversity-friendly organic tea development planning and organic production practices in the tea production area of Yuexi County, to reduce the pollution of traditional tea plantations with chemical fertilizers and pesticides on farmland and its surrounding water bodies.

- partnership building for corporate biodiversity strategies: It is often difficult to guide enterprises to participate in the biodiversity conservation by directly changing their production practices in China. Under Output 2.2 of this project, the IUCN Guideline for Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance will be introduced through training programmes as an entry point to build capacity and develop partnerships with pioneering sectors and enterprises in Panzhihua and Jiujiang, who will develop their biodiversity management strategies that could hopefully lead to net positive impact or nature positive.

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):

The project is mostly implemented at the policy level focusing on mainstreaming biodiversity in various sectors and legislations. A set of limited site-level activities will be conducted, which mainly are monitoring of water qualities, species and habitat etc., thus the environmental and socio-economic risks are limited for this project. The identified risks and their mitigation measures are listed as follows:

Risks	Risk level (High, Medium, Low)=Hazards X Probability	Prevention and mitigation measures
The current COVID-19 may have an impact on the implementation of this project as planned.	Hazard: **H** Propobility: **M?H** Risk: **M?H**	China will reach an 80% vaccinated population by the end of 2021. The CPMO will develop relevant contingency plans correspondence with the project implementation. As the current prevention and control strategy and specific measures for COVID-19in China are efficient, most of the outbreaks can be controlled within 60 days. Also, Remotely working mechanisms will be designed.
The YREB involves 11 provinces and cities, and there are significant differences in economic development, resource and environmental (including biodiversity) conditions, and capacities in different provinces and cities. There may be some degree of challenge in establishing and implementing an effective ecological and environmental protection supervision system and key coordination mechanisms, and there may even be a conflict between development and protection in a few places.	Hazard: **M** Propobility: **L?M** Risk: **M**	The central government on the development of the YREB has been very clear strategy, that is, " working together for its protection and not for overdevelopment", which is a political task that must be completed by the provincial and municipal governments along the river, otherwise they will be subject to administrative accountability, such as the withdrawal of administrative positions or demotion. During the project implementation, IUCN and FECO support the EESA under the MEE to fully listen to and incorporate the opinions and suggestions of the relevant provinces and municipalities along the river on the ecological environmental protection supervision system and key coordination mechanisms through a participatory approach and invites the provinces and municipalities to send representatives to participate in the process of developing the relevant supervision systems and key mechanisms.In terms of institutional capacity building, through the national transfer payment system, the central government annually increases the funding for ecological compensation to the provinces and municipalities in the YREB that are less developed but have clean water sources, important ecosystem functions and species to improve their capacity and conservation efforts.
A disagreement between the central and local governments in the YREB on the establishment and implementation of ecological environmental protection supervision and coordination mechanisms.	Hazard: **M** Probability: **L** Risk: **L**	The project will collect the comments from stakeholders at key stages during the development of the mechanisms.

Key information might be limited to reach due to confidentiality or other issues.	Hazard: **M** Probability: **M** Risk: **M**	Official letters for information inquiry will be issued via the central level. And coordination meetings will be triggered if further explanations are necessary. Information and data involving confidentiality shall be executed following relevant national laws and regulations.
Low capacities and low willingness of sharing data of the pilot enterprises.	Hazard: **M** Probability: **L** Risk: **L**	China?s government-led systems will be used to mobilize the local private enterprises/companies to participate in relevant activities related to their business, knowledge, skills, and awareness-raising about biodiversity conservation. Local industry associations will invite/ask the local relevant enterprises/companies to participate in the project as a routine yearly action in environmental protection. In addition, local co-finance from the local government also safeguards their effective participation. BEE in the pilot cities and counties will coordinate with enterprises at the local level. And a confirmation letter will be issued by the target enterprises before the implementation of the project. Capacity buildings will be conducted for the stakeholders along with publicity activities to award their efforts.
Limited manpower at local government departments.	Hazard: **L** Probability: **L** Risk: **L**	Local PMO will be set up and personnel will be hired and trained to coordinate and manage the project at the local level.
Central-level and local-level co-funds are not available on time.	Hazard: **L** Propobility: **L** Risk: **L**	Both the central and local governments have annual funds from the treasury for ecological and environmental protection. Since the activities designed for this project at the central and local level are closely related to their environmental protection work, as long as the work plan for this project is properly arranged, there is little chance that the supporting resources will not be available in time.

Inadequate coordination between this project and the NFGA project.	Hazard: **L** Propobility: **L** Risk: **L**	The project will be coordinated with NFGA through CPMO and supported by FECO, MEE. To ensure a low risk scenario in developing the transboundary waters regulation coordination framework in Yangtze River Economic Belt, CPMO will take the following measures: First of all, with the support of MEE, the project management team plan to hold a participatory symposium and invite sectoral officials and experts from the local provinces and cities in the field of economic development and environment to identify and discuss the main obstacles faced by the various provinces and cities along the YRB for local coordination of transboundary water regulation, especially for biodiversity conservation; Second, set up the ?framework? development expert group and absorb relevant local experts recommended by local governments to participate in the development of this coordination framework; Third, in the process of developing the framework, the expert group will report in a timely manner and communicate with the working results and related problems to the relevant local governments through irregular visit and meetings; Fourth, the expert group will fully consult local officials and local experts and maintain communication in terms of transboundary waters regulation coordination

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 Program - "Biodiversity Conservation in the Yangtze River Basin" consists of two sub-projects, of which IUCN is the Implementing Agency (IA). Sub-project 1 - "Strengthening in situ biodiversity conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt" is executed by the International Cooperation Center of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (ICC-NFGA) as executing agency (EA) under the MNR, while this project, sub-project 2 - "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) as the EA. Through FECO, MEE will provide policy guidance on the design and implementation of this project, support the communication with relevant departments at the central level, and provide comments and suggestions on the project key documents and reports, to ensure the project outcomes and specific outputs are in line with the national policies, plans, and programs for ecological protection and the key areas and priorities of the 14th Five-Year Plan period. The project will also coordinate the NFGA project and ADB project with work related to pollution management in Sichuan province, and contributions to the formulation and implementation of the Yangtze Protection Law.

Considering the need 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 will comprise of 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 progress, overseeing the coordination, and providing policy guidance.

The implementation of this project will comply with the relevant laws and regulations of China. The use of the central and local financial co-funds for this project will be following the relevant regulations of the MoF and local finance bureaus regarding the management of financial funds.

The decision-making, coordination, and management of the project implementation will operate according to the institutional framework shown in Figure 4. The key components of this institutional framework include the project steering committee (PSC), the IA, the national EA, the central management team, and the local management teams.

The MEE will provide policy guidance and central-level inter-governmental coordination for this project, and the specific management of this project will be done at FECO under the MEE, through the establishment of a central project management office (CPMO). The CPMO will manage the project at the central level and be chaired by FECO. 4 posts will be recruited in CPMO, namely Project Manager (full-time), Project Officer (full-time), Finance Officer (full-time), and Chief Technical Advisor (part-time). The local project management office (LPMO) will also be established in each pilot province, the LPMO consists of a director and a coordinator. The director is the leader of the designated organization by the local government and does not receive any remuneration from the project. Under the leadership of the LPMO director and the guidance and supervision of the CPMO, the LPMO Coordinator is responsible for the daily management during the implementation of the project and reports to the LPMO Director and CPMO on all required matters.

Regarding the coordination with other GEF projects on biodiversity and in the YRB, a Technical Advisory and Coordination Committee (TACC) will be established to address the coordination with the following GEF projects: GEF-7 Demonstrating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin project (ECM) being formulated by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and NDRC, GEF-7 Innovating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin by UNDP, CI and FECO-MEE and; GEF-6 China's Protected Area Reform (C-PAR) for Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity and GEF-7 Transformational wildlife conservation management in China (TWC) being formulated by UNDP and NFGA. The TACC would include primarily the IAs of those projects, including IUCN, ADB, UNDP, CI, etc, as well as representatives from EAs, etc. to avoid redundancy and establish synergies, cooperation, and communication.

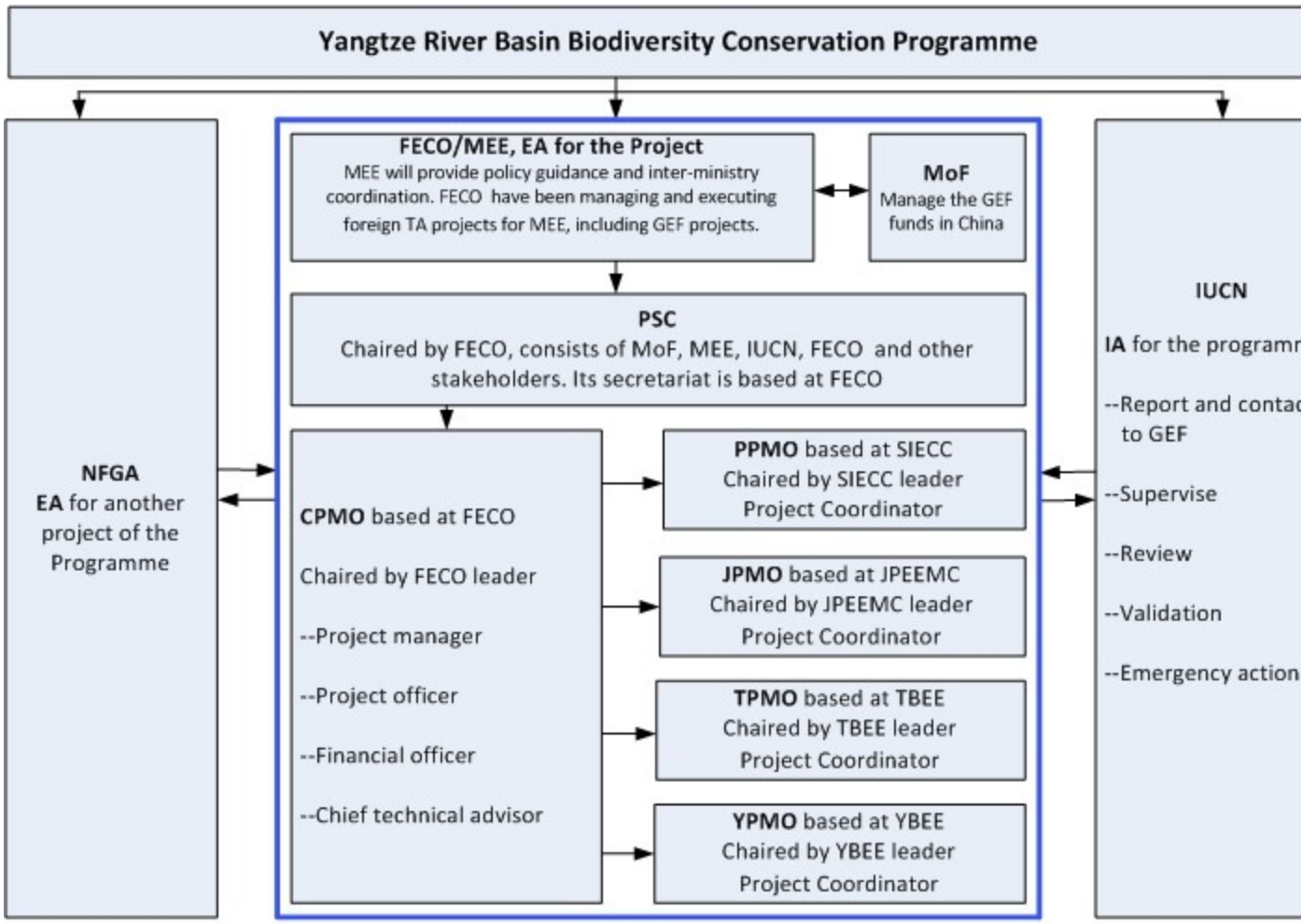

Fig. 5-1： Institutional Framework for the Project Management

Figure 4. Institutional Framework for Project management.

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, Chinese central and local governments have provided great support to the ecological environment and biodiversity conservation in the YRB, especially in conjunction with the implementation of the YREB Development Outline, which has introduced a series of policies, laws, and plans. The objectives, outcomes and outputs of this project reflect the political will and national strategy for ecological environment and biodiversity conservation in China, and are highly consistent with the specific objectives and priority areas of the medium- and long-term plans and implementation programs for the development, conservation and ecological restoration in the YREB and are closely related to the specific tasks it needs to accomplish.

In the past five years, Chinese central and local governments have provided significant support to the ecological environment and biodiversity conservation in the YRB, especially in conjunction with the implementation of the YREB Development Outline, which has introduced a series of policies, laws, and plans. The objectives, outcomes and outputs of this project reflect the political will and national strategy for ecological environment and biodiversity conservation in China, and are highly consistent with the specific objectives and priority areas of the medium- and long-term plans and implementation programs for the development, conservation and ecological restoration in the YREB and are closely related to the specific tasks it needs to accomplish. It can be said that the activities set out in this project at the national level and at the pilot city and county levels are all urgent priorities for the central and local governments in China in terms of ecological environment and biodiversity conservation that will be carried out in the next 5-10 years, and most of these activities are already on the agenda of government departments at all levels, some start to being implemented, some have been included in annual work plans, and some are in the planning stage (e.g. priority contents, funding channels, departmental coordination, etc.). The following is an overview assessment of the consistency and relevance of specific national priorities, policies, plans and implementation programmes, as well as the 2030 action targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (first draft) to this project.

This project reflects the political positioning of the central government on the development of the YREB, which prioritizes ecological protection. In January 2016 and April 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping presided over two meetings on the YREB Development, which clearly emphasized that restoration of the ecological environment of the Yangtze River must be given overwhelming priority at present and for a long time to come, and joint efforts should be made to protect it. Instead of large-scale development, the effort will be to strive to build the YREB into a golden economic belt with better ecology, better transportation, better economy, better market coordination, more unified mechanism and more scientific development, and explore a new path of giving priority to ecological and green development.

The results obtained from this project, such as the supervision and coordination mechanism for ecological protection in the YREB and the coordination mechanism for local transboundary water pollution management will strongly support and contribute to the joint prevention and control of environmental pollution between upstream and downstream, the response mechanisms of cross-basin ecological

emergencies, as well as the integrated ecosystem approach required by the Outline of the YREB Development Plan to ensure priority protection of biodiversity and sustainable restoration of damaged ecosystems.

This project is highly compatible with the fundamental policy and overall strategy of ecological environmental protection in China. Ecological protection has been a fundamental state policy in China since the 1980s, and biodiversity is one of the important elements and strategic objectives of ecological protection. China is one of the earliest parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol and Cartagena Protocol. In order to effectively implement the obligations of the Convention, the State Council of China established the "China National Committee for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010" and officially released the "China Action Plan for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010" and the updated "China, BCSAP" in September 2010. The BCSAP clearly states that many cities and counties in the YRB are priority areas for biodiversity conservation in eastern China, and that various measures should be taken to strengthen the protection of lake ecosystems, rare and endangered species, and economically important fish. The development of local BCSAP in pilot Jiujiang city and its implementation through cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms will promote, at local level, the integration of biodiversity conservation into the key agendas of the local development sectors, thus contributing to the implementation of ?China, BCSAP? in the YRB. In addition, development of biodiversity monitoring in the YRB

This project is closely related to the key requirements of the central and local governments regarding ecological environmental protection and restoration in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the 2035 Visionary Goals. This National Economic and Social Development Plan states that the quality and stability of ecosystems should be improved, systemic management of mountains, water, forests, farmlands, lakes and grasses should be adhered to, major biodiversity conservation projects should be implemented, ecological protection and management of large rivers and important lakes and wetlands should be strengthened, and a ten-year fishing ban on the Yangtze River should be implemented. The project will develop and implement the programme for ecological environmental protection and improvement of the Anning river basin in Panzhihua City, which will be incorporated into the Overall Plan for Comprehensive Development of the Anning River Basin, and will support and contribute to the achievement of local ecological environmental protection goals during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

This project is highly consistent with the medium- and long-term objectives, priorities and specific tasks proposed in the important plans and programs on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration of the Yangtze River and their related implementation programs issued and implemented by China in recent years. The MEE, the NDRC and the MWR jointly issued the Ecological Environmental Protection Plan for the YREB in July 2017. One of the main objectives of this Plan is to ensure that the ecological functions of the YRB, such as water conservation and soil conservation, are enhanced, the area of biodiversity and

nature reserves is steadily increased, and the stability of wetland ecosystems and ecological service functions are gradually improved through continuous improvement of Yangtze River water quality, delineation of the upper line of water resources utilization, delineation of ecological protection red lines, and control of environmental pollution and ecological damage risks. According to the Chinese political and administrative systems, the plans listed in Table 3-3 in the Section 3.1.1.4 were developed by the local governments in line with the overall objectives and actions of the Ecological Environmental Protection Plan for the YREB at the central level. Therefore, scaling-up of the IUCN Guidelines application in other cities of the YRB will not only promote the implementation of the local plans, but also contribute to the implementation of the central ones.

In January 2019, the MEE and the NDRC issued the "Yangtze River Protection and Restoration Action Plan", which clearly states that the main tasks of Yangtze River protection and restoration should be integrated into the following tasks: strengthen ecological and environmental space control to strictly adhere to the ecological protection red line; investigate and rectify sewage outfalls to promote unified supervision of water and land; strengthen industrial pollution control to effectively prevent ecological and environmental Risk; strengthen rural environmental improvement to curb agricultural surface pollution; strengthen ecosystem management and protection to crack down on ecological damage. The development of the technical guidelines for water ecology evaluation in the Yangtze River Basin will technically support and contribute to the unified coordination of environmental inspection executed by the Central Environmental Supervision Group based at the MEE in terms of ecosystem destruction, aquatic biodiversity conservation and water pollution in the YRB, thus reducing or eliminating the separate management of eco-environment from different administrative regions and different sectors in the YRB.

In March 2021, the MARA released the "Biodiversity Conservation Project Construction Program in Yangtze River (2021-2025)". The Program emphasizes strengthening the conservation and restoration of rare and endangered species resources and their habitats, establishing a monitoring network for aquatic biological resources in the Yangtze River, and evaluating the effect of the fishing ban and the biological integrity index in the Yangtze River. The training on conservation, restoration and monitoring techniques of rare and endangered fish in Panzhihua city carried out by this project will strengthen the capacity building needed for the implementation of this Program at the local level.

This project is aligned with many provisions of the Yangtze River Protection Law, which was officially promulgated and implemented by the National People's Congress in December 2020. This national law is the only one focused at the watershed level in China so far, which clearly stipulates that the state establishes a coordination mechanism in the YRB to guide and coordinate its river conservation work in a unified manner; incorporates its conservation work into national economic and social development planning; and carries out survey, protection, restoration and management of wetlands as well as biodiversity in the river basin. The results of this project, such as the coordination mechanism and policy recommendations for the conservation of biodiversity in the YRB and the promotion of its mainstreaming,

will strongly support and contribute to the in-depth research and policy system improvement of the coordination mechanism related to ecological environment and biodiversity in the YRB, and promote the coordination of biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts in various regions and sectors along the river.

The project will also contribute directly to the 2050 long-term target and 2030 action target of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (first draft), particularly as the 2030 action target, which are described in the section 4.1.1 of the document, in that Framework is consistent or highly relevant to the project's objectives, outcomes, outputs and its various planned activities.

14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development	This National Economic and Social Development Plan states that the quality and stability of ecosystems should be improved, systemic management of mountains, water, forests, farmlands, lakes and grasses should be adhered to, major biodiversity conservation projects should be implemented, ecological protection and management of large rivers and important lakes and wetlands should be strengthened, and a ten-year fishing ban on the Yangtze River should be implemented.
Ecological Environmental Protection Plan for the YREB	The MEE, the NDRC and the MWR jointly issued the Ecological Environmental Protection Plan for the YREB in July 2017. One of the main objectives of this Plan is to ensure that the ecological functions of the YRB, such as water conservation and soil conservation, are enhanced, the area of biodiversity and nature reserves is steadily increased, and the stability of wetland ecosystems and ecological service functions are gradually improved through continuous improvement of Yangtze River water quality, delineation of the upper line of water resources utilization, delineation of ecological protection red lines, and control of environmental pollution and ecological damage risks.
Yangtze River Protection and Restoration Action Plan	In January 2019, the MEE and the NDRC issued the "Yangtze River Protection and Restoration Action Plan", which clearly states that the main tasks of Yangtze River protection and restoration should be integrated in the following tasks: strengthen ecological and environmental space control to strictly adhere to the ecological protection red line; investigate and rectify sewage outfalls to promote unified supervision of water and land; strengthen industrial pollution control to effectively prevent ecological and environmental Risk; strengthen rural environmental improvement to curb agricultural surface pollution; strengthen ecosystem management and protection to crack down on ecological damage.
Program for the Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in Key River Basins	In April 2018, the MEE, the MARA and the MWR jointly issued the Program for the Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in Key River Basins. The Program emphasizes the need to provide good living conditions and reproduction space for aquatic organisms in the Yangtze River, and specifies that the key species to be protected in the YRB are: germplasm resources, habitats and migratory pathways of Yangtze River endemic, rare and endangered fish (including Yangtze finless porpoise and Chinese sturgeon)

Biodiversity Conservation Project Construction Program in Yangtze River (2021-2025)	326313 In March 2021, the MARA released the "Biodiversity Conservation Project Construction Program in Yangtze River (2021-2025)". The Program emphasizes strengthening the conservation and restoration of rare and endangered species resources and their habitats, establishing a monitoring network for aquatic biological resources in the Yangtze River, and evaluating the effect of the fishing ban and the biological integrity index in the Yangtze River.
Yangtze River Protection Law	328315 This project can be effectively in alignment with many provisions of the Yangtze River Protection Law, which was officially promulgated and implemented by the National People's Congress in December 2020. This national law is the only national law on watershed level in China so far, which clearly stipulates that the state establishes a coordination mechanism in the YRB to guide and coordinate its River conservation work in a unified manner; incorporates its conservation work into national economic and social development planning; and carries out survey, protection, restoration and management of wetlands as well as biodiversity in the river basin.
Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves (revised in 2017)	Although the Regulation needs to be revised under the new situation of ecological environment and biodiversity conservation, many activities of this project are still consistent with the legislative objectives of the Regulation, especially the summary of this project regarding the experience of implementing the existing nature reverse regulations in the YRB will provide technical support for the new national legislation on protected areas.
2050 long-term target and 2030 action target of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (first draft)	The project will also contribute directly to the 2050 long-term target and 2030 action target of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (first draft), particularly as the 2030 action target, which are described in the section 4.1.1 of the document, in that Framework is consistent or highly relevant to the project's objectives, outcomes, outputs and its various planned activities.

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.

The project will support "communication and knowledge management" as one of the key elements of its document development and implementation, by collecting, organizing, sharing, using and analyzing the information, data and preliminary outputs generated during its implementation, and further processing them by experts in the relevant fields to make them useful structured and systematic knowledge for the implementation of the project and future use by others. The project will also use an inclusive strategy to communicate its implementation process, expected outcomes, tangible outputs and intangible experiences, and relevant key events to all project partners, central and local stakeholders, and other interested members of the public in a timely and effective manner through a variety of communication tools and channels.

Prior to implementation, the central PMO of the project will develop a communication and knowledge management plan (including specific technical requirements for knowledge products and information

management) for the outcomes, outputs, activities, and key events of the project as part of its work plan, and the PMO's knowledge management/communications officer will be responsible for all relevant communications and knowledge management matters on the project and the Program during the implementation of the project.

The project will engage experts in relevant fields to professionally review the various guidelines/specifications/manuals/compilations of results/technical reports/ (see Section 4.3 for details) and other technical outputs from the project to ensure their recognized quality requirements in terms of scientificity, accuracy and reliability. The experience gained from the application of the IUCN Guideline to the mining and processing and chemical industries in the pilot cities will be summarized in time to make it an effective practice for such industry to participate in biodiversity mainstreaming. For the policy-type outcomes such as relevant strategies and action plans, programs, and management regulations produced by this project (see Section 4.3 for details), the Project Officer will assist local governments to form official documents that will be released, shared, and archived in accordance with the Chinese government's requirements. . Information generated from various work meetings, issue exchanges and feedback, and complaints during the implementation of this project will be recorded, organized and filed in a timely manner. In addition, for the knowledge, data and information formed in this project implementation report and various results (see section 7), etc. will be mainly organized, analyzed and archived by the Project Officer, who will summarize some experiences and innovative practices about M&E of this project for the benefit of the M&E of future GEF projects.

A communication and knowledge management strategy at the program level has been discussed. The strategy will involve interactive process-oriented engagement with three key groups of target audiences, undertaken by both child projects:

? The program stakeholders and the network of program partners and others that will be closely involved with the program, including the local enterprises and village cooperatives.

? Policy makers, practitioners and workers/farmers at and national and local levels who will benefit from sharing knowledge from the program.

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

The M&E budget is related to and covered in all the activities, as the project is mainly focusing on policy mainstreaming, guideline providing, tools development and experiences sharing.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project Results Framework, the targets and indicators which have been aligned (as far as possible) with the relevant GEF-7 Focal Area objectives, will be the basis of monitoring and evaluation of project progress in achieving its results and objectives. Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow IUCN and GEF policies and guidelines. Total monitoring and evaluation cost is estimated at US$ 60,730.

The monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities will be undertaken through various ways such as day-to-day monitoring and project progress reporting; indicator monitoring with respect to the results frameworks and supervision missions of IUCN. Project inception workshop will further provide guidance on improving indicators, baseline and the results framework.

Based on the annual work plan and budget, the Project Manager (PM) will take lead in day-to-day monitoring of the project?s implementation including the preparation of the project progress reports. PM will also identify tools for monitoring the results framework through wider stakeholder consultation. In line with the planning process of the project partners and project implementation arrangements, an annual project progress review and planning workshop will be organized. Project partners and relevant

stakeholders will participate and contribute to the finalization of annual workplan, budget and progress report. The plan and report will be sent to IUCN for technical clearance and presented at PSC meeting for approval. The approved work plan and budget will guide the project implementation for the subsequent years and this practice shall continue for the remaining years of project implementation.

The project management office (PMO) will prepare the following reports as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the project. They are:

1. Project inception report
2. Annual work plan and budget (AWP/B)
3. Semi-annually progress reports and annual progress reports
4. Thematic (technical) reports
5. Project completion/termination report
6. Midterm evaluation report
7. Final evaluation report

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	Frequency	Budget, USD (GEF funded)	Budget, USD (In-kind)
Project Inception Report	PMO	Immediately after the inception workshop	Staff time	10,000
Project Progress Reports	PMO, IUCN	Semi-annually and annual	Staff time	20,000
Thematic (technical) reports	PMO	As and when needed	Staff time	20,000
Annual supervision	PMO, IUCN	Last month of each project year	Staff time	20,000
Mid-term review	External consultant commissioned by PMO, IUCN, MEE	30th to 32nd month after the start of the project	20,000	40,000
Final Evaluation	External consultant team commissioned by IUCN, PMO, MEE	Last trimester of the project	40,730	70,000
Final Report	PMO, IUCN	Last trimester of the project	Staff time	20,000
Total			**60, 730**	**200, 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)?

This project targets to achieve value of economic, social and environmental benefits generated by the GEF interventions. It is envisaging thriving and sustainable production landscapes, and nature's value and benefits are safeguarded in the long term.

Local socio-economic development in the YRB is closely linked to the extent of local water environment and the scale and rate of urbanization, and the threats to local biodiversity from water pollution and urbanization can only be eliminated or reduced if the biodiversity is mainstreamed in the policy and planning of local government development and economic. The results of this project will be beneficial to the recovery of the fishery resources in the Yangtze River, the sustainable development of tourism, and the enhancement of various ecosystem service functions. The ecological monitoring and coordination mechanisms and biodiversity-friendly production practices in the YRB will contribute to the sustainable improvement of water quality in the Yangtze River, the sustainable recovery of economically important fish and rare and endangered species populations, and more sustainable water and land resource use practices. In turn, these sustainable improvements will contribute to the development of ecotourism and new high-tech industries in the YRB, and provide employment opportunities for more people, especially women, youth and the low-income groups, thereby increasing their income from biodiversity conservation. In addition, the results of this project will contribute to the sustainable improvement of ecosystem service in the YRB in terms of provisioning, support, regulation, and culture over a wider region and longer period of time, and the improvement of these services will support sustainable and high-quality socio-economic development of the country and region, as well as these support the achievement of global environment benefits.

Almost all activities designed under output 2.2 of this project are implemented locally, which will provide an excellent opportunity for direct participation of relevant local workers, farmers, women, ethnic minority and low-income people. Low-income groups will be especially encouraged and invited to participate in this project.

In particular, this project is showing how socioeconomic benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits in Yuexi County?s tea gardens. Relevant domestic and international studies have shown that organic farming practices are conducive to increasing the biodiversity richness of farmland, do not cause environmental pollution by chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, and are one of the effective measures to conserve biodiversity in vast rural areas. Yuexi County has superior natural geographic conditions for growing tea trees, with 12,000 hectares of existing tea plantations and 2,100 hectares of organic tea plantations in 2020, which will increase the annual income of tea farmers by more than USD 250 per capita. According to recent survey, Yuexi County reduces the use of chemical fertilizers by about 60 tons and the use of pesticides by more than 10 tons per year due to the development of organic tea gardens. This project will support the selection of organic agriculture and biodiversity experts to guide relevant local technicians in activities such as biodiversity-friendly organic tea development planning, organic conversion practices and organic product certification, which will not only enable local farmers, women and the poor to increase their income through the sale of high value-added tea, but also raise their awareness and knowledge of biodiversity conservation. With the support of this project, Yuexi County government hopes to formulate an organic development planning, conduct organic conversion practices of existing traditional tea gardens and certification of organic tea so as to eliminate or significantly reduce the negative impact of pollution from trational tea production on local biodiversity. The project will also support the expansion and replication of organic tea gardens to more townships throughout Yuexi county through local training activities and awareness campaigns, and that will eventually also contribute to global environmental benefits.

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 is expected to generate environmental impacts that are highly positive as the activities will contribute to enhanced protection and better environmental management in relevant sectors. There is a minor risk of restoration and species-reintroduction measures leading to unintended negative impacts on the ecosystems, but it is assumed that the referenced available guidance and protocols are sufficient for managing these risks.

While also social benefits are expected to be overall positive, it cannot be fully excluded that the changes in management and land use might have unintended negative impacts for individuals or specific groups. The work with chemical and mining industries under outcome 2 is expected to lead to social benefits as the reduction of environmental threats in these two sectors usually also benefits health conditions of workers and communities living in adjacent areas that might be affected by release of air emission or other pollutants. Also, the work with manufacturing, aquaculture, agricultural and hydropower industries under outcome 2 as well as interventions under outcome 1 such as legal frameworks for environmental protection, regulations for territorial spatial planning and control, the establishment of the coordination mechanism and joint monitoring for transboundary waters etc will provide social benefits through the avoidance of pollution accidents or reduction of impacts and through damage compensation mechanisms. However, addressing the impacts of human activities on

the environment might harbour risks for specific groups, in particular for economically and socially vulnerable people who are highly dependent on the use of natural resources. Environmental protection measures might also affect households who do not have the means to avoid small-scale domestic pollution as well as enterprises, in particular micro or small enterprises, which do not have the financial means for the required investments in mitigation or abatement technology. Enforcement of environmental regulations might force them to cease their business activities with potential secondary impacts such as loss of employment opportunities. Such impacts evidently depend on the economic strengths of the enterprises to absorb the financial implications of the needed investments. Another risk issue relates to the fact that the project will encourage the public to actively participate in monitoring various illegal and unlawful activities. This might increase safety risks for these individuals in case they become subject to retaliation of the environmental offenders.

While there is a potential of social impacts, none of these impacts are considered of high magnitude, large scale and/or large spatial extent. None of them are considered irreversible. The project is therefore considered a moderate risk project and management measures have been identified and documented in form of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to identify and appropriately address the risks.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Appendix 20.ESMP_GEF ID 10753_revised-241022	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Appendix 20.ESMP GEF China_updated	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Appendix 6_GEF-7 China MEE_esms_screening_and_clearance_updated	**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).

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s) Indicator value	Source of Verification	Assumptions
Outcome 1. Coordination mechanism, and new legislation for biodiversity mainstreaming in the Yangtze River Basin implemented **Indicators:** **- Yangtze River protection legislation in place and supported by established mechanisms and building blocks for implementation and enforcement.**					
1.1 An ecological and environmental supervision and coordination mechanism developed at the Yangtze basin level for ecological protection, sustainable land and water use, and waste and emission management etc.	**1.1.1** # Technical guidelines for water ecology and biodiversity evaluation in the Yangtze River Basin	The current supervision and inspection of the eco-environment in YRB is mainly based on "problem list". They are ex post and not ex ante. Results of water ecological assessment are needed as the technical support for early warning supervision and notification for the species associated with waters in YRB.	At least 1 technical guideline developed for relevant central and local government departments and institutions,	1. MEE Water Ecology and Environmental Protection Departments and the Ecological Environment Inspection Bureau?s acknowledgement of receipt, 2. Project implementation review report.	**Assumption:** In next five years, ecological environment supervision and inspection in YRB continues, while monitoring and assessment of aquatic biodiversity in YRB are also carried out, **Risk:** The operability of this technical guide is tested in the field.

	1.1.2 # Framework of coordination mechanisms for the management of shared water bodies and biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin	Effective practices for the regulation of transboundary water pollution in the YRB are still at the stage of research and discussion, and the country has not yet issued a framework at the policy level for a coordinated mechanism for joint water quality management.	The coordination mechanism framework developed for relevant departments of local governments and regulatory agencies in the YRB.	1. MEE Water Ecology and Environmental Protection Department?s acknowledgement of this framework for coordination mechanism for review. 2. Project implementation review report.	**Assumption:** In next five years, the state introduces a general policy on coordination mechanism for domestic transboundary water pollution management. Supervision of environmental pollution in rivers and lakes can be continuously strengthened. **Risks:** eco-environmental information of local governments for transboundary waters cannot be shared in a timely and adequate manner; compensation standards for water pollution damages are difficult to determine.
	1.1.3 # Monitoring indicators and assessment methods for biodiversity in the Yangtze River Basin	At present, China's ecological and environmental monitoring system does not include biodiversity monitoring.	1 set of monitoring indicators and assessment methods developed for relevant central and local government departments and monitoring agencies	1. Monitoring indicators and assessment methodology available on the MEE website 2. Project implementation review report	**Assumption:** Relevant government departments can fully coordinate and agree in the field of biodiversity monitoring. **Risk:** National financial resources do not adequately support skills training for biodiversity monitors and the acquisition of relevant monitoring equipment.

	1.1.4 Forum on biodiversity and ecological, environmental and biodiversity monitoring and coordination mechanisms in the Yangtze River Basin	The Yangtze River Protection Law provides a legal basis for supervision and coordination, but specific operational mechanisms for supervision and coordination has not yet been established.	100-150 participants from governments, academia, enterprises, NGOs and other domestic and foreign institutions	1. Official notice of the forum meeting, on-site photos, press releases, conference proceedings 2. Project implementation review report 3. Conference proceedings	**Assumption:** The country has made the construction of ecological and environmental monitoring and coordination mechanism for the Yangtze River Basin a priority agenda. **Risk:** A new COVID-19 outbreak occurs during the scheduled session.

1.2 Needs and experience with reference to monitoring of nature conservation and supervision of human impacts summarized and provided for the implementation of the Yangtze River Protection Law	**1.2.1** # Policy recommendations for nature conservation supervision in YRB **1.2.2** # Policy recommendations for human environmental impact management in YRB **1.2.3**: # Guidebook for public participation in ecological and environmental monitoring in YRB 1.2.4: # thematic training and workshops for the implementation of Yangtze River Protection Law	Since 2017, the State has carried out the "Green Shield" - a special campaign for supervision of nature reserves management. experiences and effective practices have also been accumulated. However, a systematic summary of them has not yet been developed. In addition, to better implement the Yangtze River Protection Law and the Environmental Protection Law, public participation in ecological and environmental monitoring in YRB needs to be encouraged and guided to effectively fill the gaps of government monitoring and inspection, but no guidebook has been developed.	1. 2 policy recommendations developed sent to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, National Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Ministry of Water Resources 2. 1 Guidebook 3. 150-200 participants	1. MEE, MNR, NFGA, MARD and MWR?s acknowledgement of receipt of the policy recommendation. 2. project implementation review report. 3. Guidebook published and distributed in the relevant seminars, forums, training sessions, communication and publicity activities and important environmental festivals on-site photos 4. Minutes and relevant photographs 5. Project implementation review report	**Assumption:** The national "Green Shield" operation is carried out on a long-term basis. **Risk:** New COVID-19 epidemic may affect offline research and discussions of the policy recommendations and guidance development in the short term.
Outcome 2: Human impacts from development activities on important biodiversity mitigated in the Yangtze River Basin **Indicator: -Biodiversity considerations integrated in the municipal development planning and production practices of 1.65 million hectare landscapes, directly benefiting. 3,000 people including 1,800 women and 1,200 men**					

2.1: Biodiversity considerations integrated into development planning and policies of selected municipalities in Sichuan, Jiangxi and Anhui	**2.1.1** # ecological environmental protection and control initiative developed in Anning river in Panzhihua City, and incorporate it into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan of Anning river Basin	During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the strategy of comprehensive development of the Anning River Basin has been determined, and the master plan is currently in the research and coordination stage, while the plan for ecological protection of the Anning river is also in the data collection and field investigation stage. However, these two plans are prepared by different departments and need to be coordinated and integrated.	Anning River Ecological Environmental Protection and Control Program developed	1. The published Ecological Environmental Protection and Control Program 2. The document issued by Panzhihua Municipal Government to implement the Ecological Environmental Protection and Control Program 3. Project implementation review report	**Assumptions:** The environmental protection, resource and economic development departments of Panzhihua government and the county and township governments of the Anning River basin attach great importance to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, and all stakeholders cooperate and agree. **Risk:** The enterprises in Anning river Basin cannot adhere to the requirements set by the Ecological Environmental Protection and Control Program.
	2.1.2 Jiujiang City Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	At present, most local governments including Jiujiang have not issued and implemented BSAPs. However, the representatives of the pilot cities and counties believe it is necessary to have local level BSAPs.	Jiujiang City Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan developed	1. Strategy and Action Plan published by Jiujiang Government 2. Project implementation review report	**Assumptions:** Jiujiang Government and governments of the seven counties and three districts cooperate with each other in the development and implementation. **Risk:** Lack of local experience, knowledge and expert skills in BSAP development.

	2.1.3 Biodiversity conservation mechanism under the Taihu Environmental Protection Working Committee	In 2016, Taihu County established an Environmental Protection Working Committee, consisting of 34 government agencies, but it does not address biodiversity conservation.	Taihu County Biodiversity Conservation Mechanism established	1. Official document of Taihu Government to establish the Taihu County Biodiversity Conservation Mechanism. 2. Project implementation review report	**Assumption:** Taihu County Government is willing to develop a new biodiversity conservation mechanism. **Risks:** The staff and funding for the implementation of the biodiversity conservation mechanism is not adequate.
2.2 Production practices of identified sectors demonstrated in Sichuan, Jiangxi, and Anhui to reduce their negative impacts and to be more biodiversity positive	**2.2.1:** Planning and practices of biodiversity-friendly tea industry development in Yuexi County	Biodiversity friendly tea gardens e.g. organic tea, in Yuexi County can significantly reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. But they have not been well developed in Yuexi.	1. The plan for the development of biodiversity-friendly tea plantations in Yuexi 2,200 hectares of biodiversity friendly tea plantations	1. Biodiversity-friendly organic tea industry development plan of Yuexi County issued 2. Records of 200 hectares of biodiversity friendly tea gardens 3. Project implementation review report	**Assumption:** With the guidance and support of the county government, local traditional tea plantation owners are willing to develop organic tea plantations. **Risks:** Local tea farmers do not have the experience, knowledge and technology for biodiversity friendly tea plantation planning and production.
	2.2.2 # Training and capacity building at local levels	Not in existence	5 training sessions	1. Minutes and relevant photographs 2. Project implementation review report	**Assumptions:** related policies and mechanisms are in place **Risk:** A new COVID-19 outbreak actually occurs during the scheduled session.
Outcome 3. Improved knowledge base, technical capacity and information exchange for integrated river basin management. **Indicators:** **- knowledge products and events developed and disseminated to scale-up the impact of the project, directly benefiting 1,000 people including 700 women and 300 men.**					

Output 3.1 Knowledge products and events delivered to disseminate experience and raise awareness and capacity.	**3.1.1** An enterprise eco-environmental information disclosure platform	MEE-FECO is currently collecting and collating information on the ecological environment of enterprises nationwide, especially in the Yangtze River basin, in order to provide basic data for the study and evaluation of national biodiversity threat factors.	Platform and at least the information of the pilot enterprises of this project included	The Corporate Eco-Environmental Information Disclosure Platform can run on the FECO portal and perform the intended functions	**Assumptions:** Companies are willing to provide information. **Risks:** Difficult to share information on the ecological environment of enterprises, and relevant sharing rights agreements not formulated
	3.1.2 # Knowledge products are developed and disseminated	Not in existence	Knowledge products via TV, online and offline platform in the form of soft and hard copies	News coverage of training and promotional activities by local TV stations	**Assumptions:** Central and local government, as well as stakeholders will have measure and channel to develop and disseminate the knowledge products **Risks:** outbreak of the COVID-19 within the designed activities.

	3.2.1 Mid-term and final evaluation	Not in existence	Monitoring & Review. Two independent evaluations at the mid-term and end-term of project respectively	Documentation of all project matters, activities, and results filed at the project management office	**Assumptions:** IUCN and MEE-FECO have needed GEF project management expertise**.** **Risks:** Insufficient responsibility of project management staff and insufficient knowledge, competence and experience of local project management staff regarding GEF project management.

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).

RESPONSE TO GEF SECRETARIAT

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)?	October 12, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

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 9, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. November 7, 2022 HF: The expected project completion date reads 12/31/2022. Please correct. October 28, 2022 HF: Expected Implementation Start date has already past ? please amend to a future date	November 8, 2022 IUCN This is now corrected as per your advice in the CER with the completion date reading December 31, 2027
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?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

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 21, 2022 HF: Yes.	

Project Preparation Grant 6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?	November 9, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. 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: PPG report doesn?t give sufficient details about expenditure categories as it is requested. Please ask the Agency to 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).	November 8, 2022, IUCN This is now revised to reflect accurate amounts. The agency fee which had been erroneously added has now been removed from the CER November 2, 2022 IUCN This is now revised in the CER as per your advice 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 14, 2022 HF: ●Comment not fully addressed: Please reflect the target of 4000 beneficiaries, 2500 of whom women, in the project results framework ● November 11, 2022 HF: Core Indicators: Original comment was not addressed. The agency has provided final targets for each selected Core Indicator with justification. However, 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. Please include them. November 7, 2022 HF: 1.) Comment cleared. Please see comment 2. and redact GHG targets and calculations. 2.) 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.) Core Indicators: 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. 3a.) GHG: Please clarify in more detail how the mitigation benefit from the forest area was computed. Namely, the forest area identified in the EXACT sheet corresponds to a high estimate of emission reductions which is not justified based on the currently available data. Please explain how the project would lead to the effects computed in the EXACT sheet (reduction of degradation level, frequency of fires, impact of burning). This can be put in connection with the details outlined in the GEB section of the CEO ER. 3b.) Please revise/update with a more conservative and justified GHG emission reduction target. October 15, 2022 HF: 1.) Please reconcile the CI 4.1 targets for this project. The child project concept at PFD stage contained a target for 4.1 of 1,250,000 hectares and this target is included in the project results framework and ProDoc. The target in the current CER draft has been revised to 200 hectares, whereas the GEBs for the project include: "In the pilot cities and counties, the project is expected to directly mitigate the adverse impacts of 3.1 million hectares of productive landscapes and urban areas on biodiversity, directly improve the quality of water environment and ecological functions of 460,000 hectares of rivers and lakes, and directly mitigate the threats of local production and related illegal activities on endemic, rare and endangered species in the YRB." Please note that a 200-hectare target for a $57.7 million project calls into question the ROI of the investment and seems to only	November 15, 2022 IUCN Kindly be informed that the correction has been made as the core indicator is now integrated by splitting into Outcomes 2 & 3 of the results framework in the ProDoc. Outcome 2: 1, 800 women beneficiaries and 1, 200 men beneficiaries; Outcome 3: 700 women and 300 men beneficiaries. This is also updated in Annex A of the CER online template. November 13, 2022 IUCN Kindly be informed that the correction has been made as the indicator is now

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?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	
2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

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?	October 15, 2022 HF: Please correct the project objective in the CER Table B that still reads: "Safeguarding biodiversity through sustainable protected areas networks in the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt of China." That is not the objective of this child project according to the results framework and ProDoc. Comments 1-8 cleared.	October 24, 2022 IUCN This is now corrected to ?Safeguarding biodiversity in Yangtze River Economic Belt by integrating biodiversity considerations in the productive sectors and municipal development.?
4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. Please revise accordingly once Component Activities have been revised per above comments.	
5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project?s expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	
7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?	October 15, 2022 HF: All comments cleared.	
Project Map and Coordinates Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared	
Child Project If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared-much better.	

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?	October 15, 2022 HF: Table 6.1 and others in the stakeholder engagement section seem to be duplicated. Please review and ensure each is only there once. 1.) Despite the development of the ESMP, The tables in the CER that we understand constitute the 'stakeholder engagement plan' don't seem to include the engagement of IPLCs in project areas. Please include explicitly for all site-based work. April 20, 2022 HF: 1.) The tables in the CER that we understand constitute the 'stakeholder engagement plan' don't seem to include the engagement of IPLCs in project areas. Please include explicitly for all site-based work.	For comments on Oct 15, 2022 The duplicated section has been removed as per your advice in Table 6-1 of the CER 1)This is now revised as per your advice in table 4-6 and annex 4-1 in Appendix 4, table3-9 in the ProDoc and the stakeholder section of the CER According to your comments, we added two stakeholders (Table 6.1 in the CER): Ethnic Religious Affairs Commission and Village Committees at local levels, which are closely related with affairs of local indigenou

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?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared	
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?	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared	

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?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comments cleared.	
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?	April 21, 2022 HF: Comments cleared.	

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?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	
Knowledge Management Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?	April 20, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

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?	November 7, 2022 HF: Totals in M&E budget table noted. October 28, 2022 HF: Please include totals in M&E budget table January 21, 2022 HF: Yes	November 2, 2022 IUCN The aggregate total is included in Appendix 9 as well as in the CER

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 21, 2022 HF: Yes	

Annexes Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?	November 14, 2022 HF: ●While now the Budget table is presented with the correct template, the project staff (Project Manager, Project Officer and Finance Officer) are being charged across components and PMC. Per guidelines, project?s staff should be charged to the GEF and co-financing portions allocated to PMC. Co-financing allocated to PMC is nearly 2.45 million, and 37 million of co-financing is represented in investment mobilized (by the way: the Agency missed to specify the type of co-financing for the 13.2 million coming from the subnational Governments, reason why this comment is also raised). Please ask the agency to explore the possibility to cover the project?s staff with some co-financing November 11, 2022 HF: Budget: As previously mentioned, there are no details on all budget lines such as professional/contractual services, staff costs, etc. Please provide. Also, per Guidelines, project?s staff costs should be charged to the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. Co-financing allocated to PMC is nearly 2.4 million, and 11 million of co-financing is investment mobilized. Please cover some of the project?s staff costs with co-financing. November 7, 2022 HF: Pending further review. October 28, 2022 HF: The current budget table does not allow to assess the reasonability of how the different activities / expenditures are adequately charged to the three sources (project components ? M&E ? PMC). Please use as an example the table included in Guidelines. We will review the resubmission and provide comments as appropriate. October 15, 2022 HF: 1.) Comment cleared. 2.) It seems the project budget contains $945,997 in staff costs charged to project components (vs PMC), please include Terms Of Reference (TOR) for those staff describing unique outputs linked to the respective components per GEF policy annex 7 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 Also, please revise the budget line item 11 to redact "study tours" from the description given the updates to the project activities in this regard. April 21, 2022 HF:. 2.) Please revise budget per changes to 2.2 and other revisions with budget implications given further revisions herein.	November 15, 2022 IUCN Kindly note that the following changes have been made to the detailed budget in Appendix 9 of the ProDoc which is uploaded as well as the Annex E of the CER: a) Staff cost are now removed from components, budget for other items are also adjusted accordingly. b) USD 79,268 cost of the finance officer is now shown against PMC c) The remaining staff costs including project manager and project officer will be

Project Results Framework	November 7, 2022 HF: Comment cleared. October 28, 2022 HF: Project Results Framework and Responses to Project Reviews Tables are out of margins. Please amend so the table is within the margins ? otherwise the autogenerated form will not be readable when circulated / posted for Council. October 15, 2022: Comment cleared.	November 2, 2022 IUCN The concerned tables have been reformatted to be within the margins
GEF Secretariat comments	October 15, 2022: Comment cleared.	
Council comments	October 15, 2022 HF: Comment cleared.	

STAP comments	October 15, 2022 HF: 1.) Responses to STAP comments noted. For several of the comment the response: "now elaborated at PPG phase" is included. It is unclear though how the STAP comment was addressed during PPG phase. For each STAP comment (relevant to this child project), please describe how the comment was addressed (if it was addressed). 2.) Presumably the STAP comment on the METT is only relevant to the other Child Project for this program focused on PAs. If correct, please redact response and note that in table. April 20, 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. We have reviewed the CER in the Portal (Annex B and throughout); the ProDoc; and all Annexes and couldn't locate. January 21, 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.	October 24, 2022, IUCN This is now revised as per your advice in appendix 18 as well as in the relevant section of the online CER template We confirm your understand that the STAP comment on the METT is only relevant to the GEFID 10754
Convention Secretariat comments	NA	
Other Agencies comments	NA	
CSOs comments	NA	
Status of PPG utilization	Yes	
Project maps and coordinates	Yes	

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 7, 2022 HF: No, please address remaining issues highlighted. October 15, 2022 HF: Not at this time. Please see comments in review sheet and address/revise accordingly for re-review. Please note that this project's 2nd cancellation deadline is December 31, 2022 and it must undergo GEF policy review and a 4-week Council review period. Please expedite revisions and resubmit. Thank you. April 20, 2022 HF: Not at this time. Please see comments in review sheet and address/revise accordingly for re-review. January 21, 2022 HF: Not at this time. Please see comments in review sheet and address/revise accordingly for re-review.	

RESPONSE TO 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	PPG phase responses The connection between this program, each of the child projects are updated in p23-25 of the CER; Climate risk analysis and mitigation measures have been updated and uploaded as Annex 14 Regarding PES, financial models etc.: PES: Pay for ecosystem services. Currently, the ecological compensation projects established in protected areas include natural forest protection projects. According to a certain fee, such as 150 yuan per hectare, the highest is 450-500 yuan per hectare in the protected area. Ecological rangers participate in protected area management, etc., and provide subsidies to protected areas through tourism development, hydropower development, etc. National conservation funding and international conservation projects are also a form of PES. Digital technology: This project attempts to establish a natural reserve monitoring demonstration that integrates the sky and the ground. The main contents include high-definition remote sensing vegetation monitoring, video, image and audio collection based on infrared cameras and sound collectors to monitor wild animals and human interference. Based on the regular ground line monitoring of drones and human patrols, the AI data processing platform and the national nature reserve monitoring platform are comprehensively established to promote the improvement of the management level of the protected area. Ecological Product Value Realization Mechanism: The Chinese government issued the "Opinions on Establishing and Improving the Ecological Product Value Realization Mechanism" in April 2021. For protected areas, it is to actively develop ecological tourism, tourism, tourism, tourism Diversified natural experiences and tourism such as exploration, low-carbon leisure, forest health care, and popular science education in protected areas, do a good job of writing articles on the natural gene treasure house of biodiversity in protected areas, mine biological genetic resources, and moderately develop specialty food processing, biopharmaceuticals, and forest medicines Development and innovative utilization of horticultural breeding. Establish a product quality certification mechanism, identify special channels for product sales, ensure that the value of ecological products and services in PA is reflected, and serve the communities surrounding

	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	This is addressed in the GEF ID~~P~~010754 separately.

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)	
	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.	The baseline has been revised
	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.	A TOC and result frameworks haves been developed at the PPG phase to illustrate the pathway for desired outcomes.
	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.	Risks and adaptation methods haves been identified and illustrated in the PPG phase , including the changing conditions which focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic that may have an impact on the implementation of this project as planned and put forward its prevention and mitigation measures as indicated in the section 4.4 ?Risk analysis and risk management measures? in the project document.~~This is now elaborated in the PPG phase.~~
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 is now revised in the PPG phase	This is addressed in the GEF ID~~P~~010754 separately.

	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.	The is now revised in the PPG phase	This is now elaborated in the stakeholder engagement table.

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 16
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	This is now addressed in the GEF ID ~~P0~~10754.
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 Octorber 31, 2022***	***Amount Committed***
International Consultants	10,000.00	?	10,000.00
Travel	5,000.00	4,151.85	1,601.65
Local consultants	90,000.00	54,836.57	35,163.43
Contractual Services-Companies	20,000.00	0	20,000.00
Training, materials and meetings	10,000.00	0	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,615.00	178.53	2,436.47
Total	**137,615.00**	**59,166.95**	**79,201.55**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

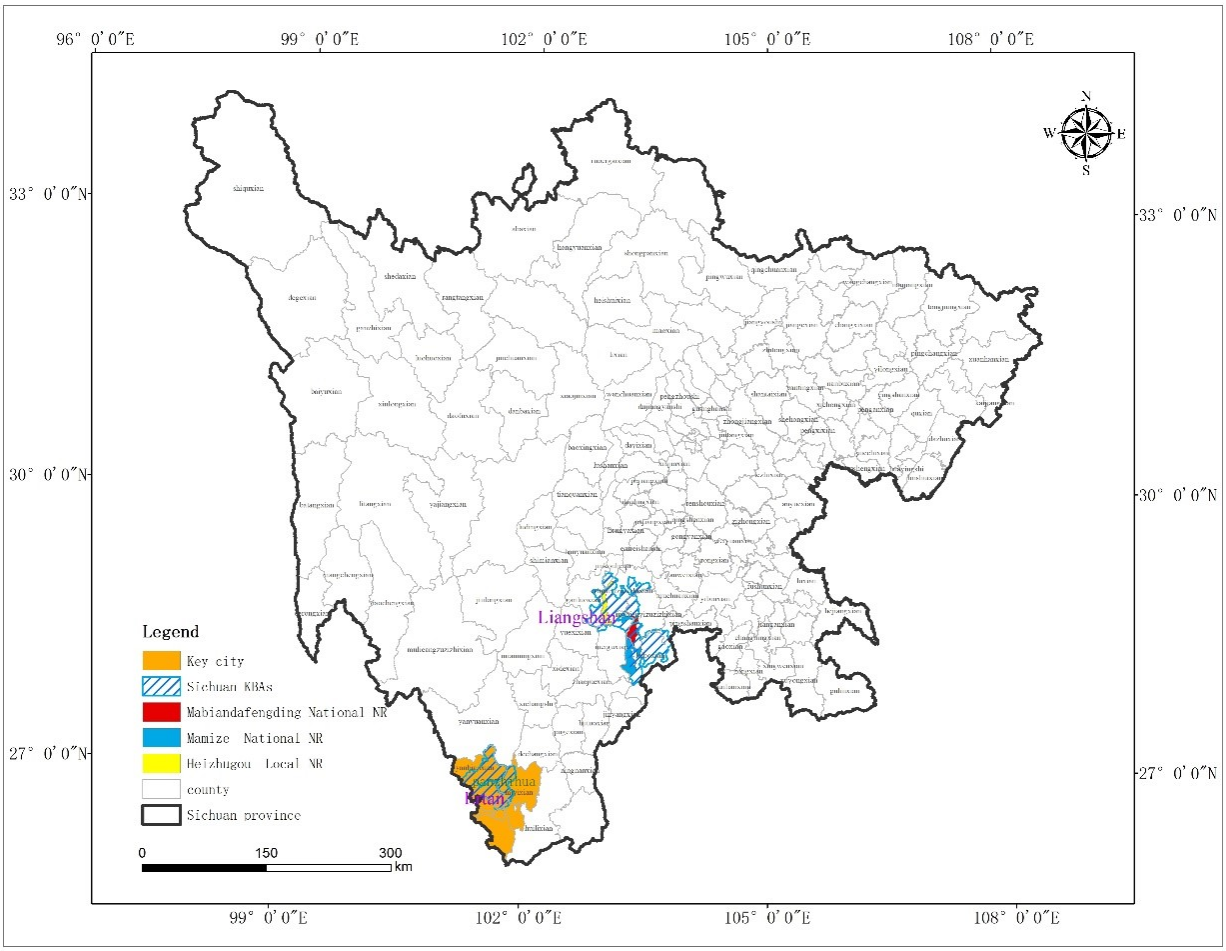

Figure 1: Pilot city (Panzhihua) of Sichuan Province and target Liangshan KBA in the *Strengthening in-situ Biodiversity Conservation in the Yangtze River Economic Belt* Project (NFGA project).

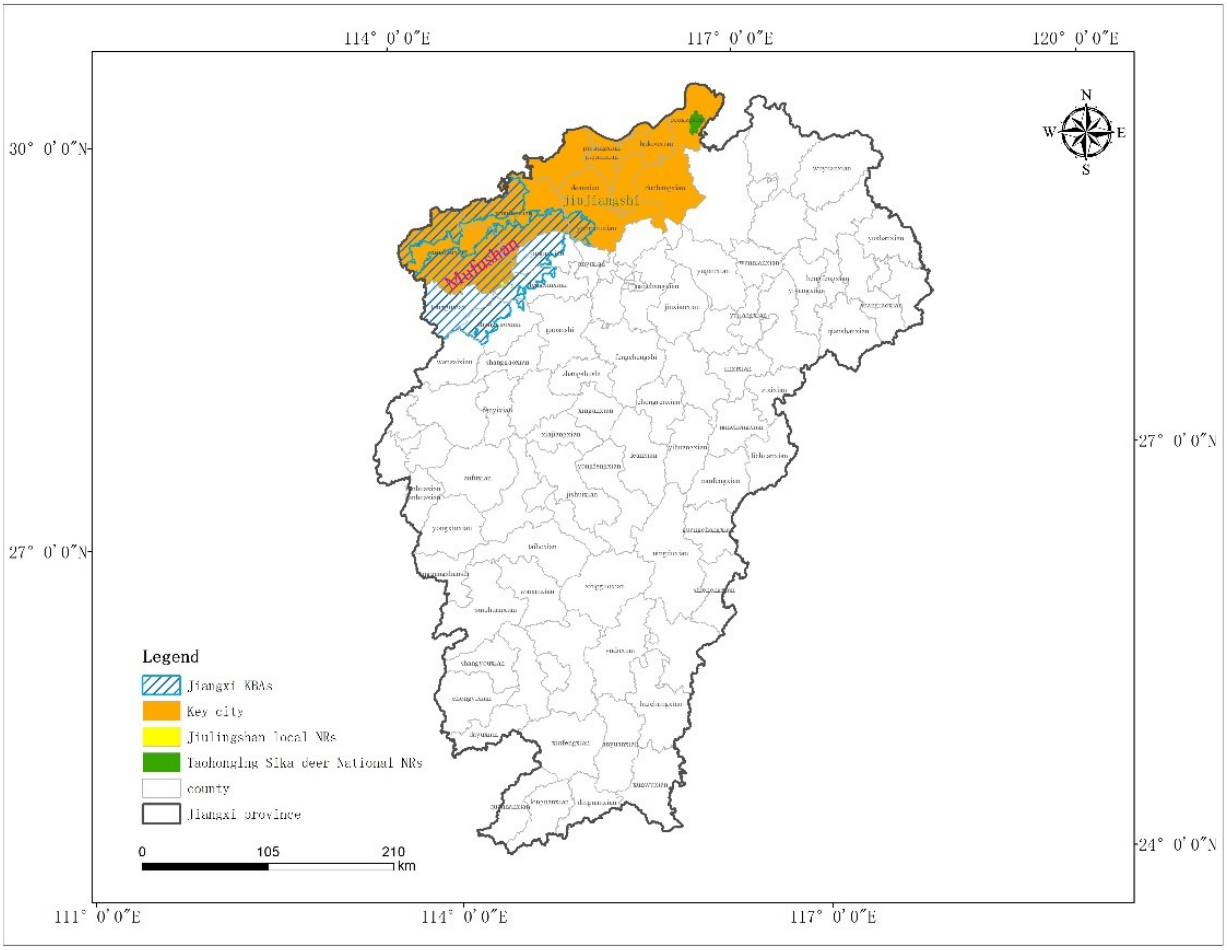

Figure 2: Pilot City (Jiujiang) of Jiangxi Province and the target Mufushan KBA in the NFGA project

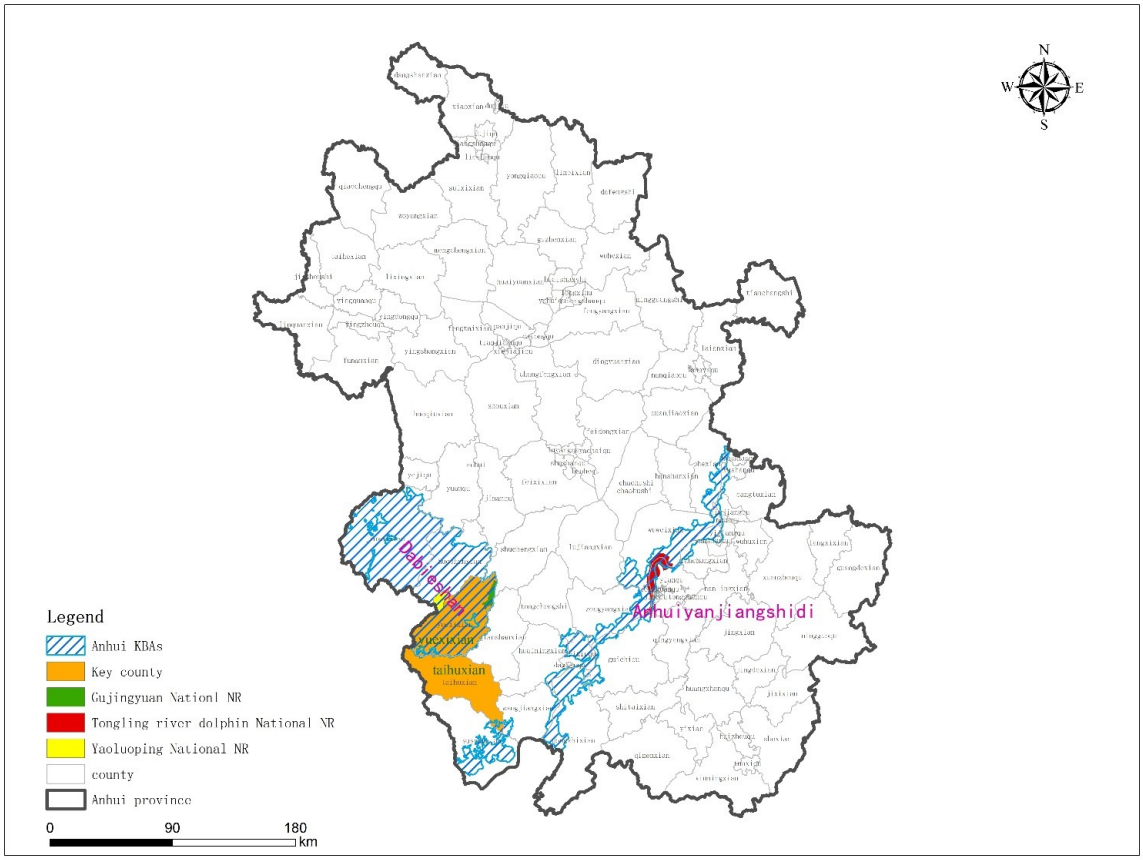

Figure 3: Pilot Counties (Taihu and Yuexi) of Anhui Province and the target Dabie and Wetland Along the Yangtze River KBA in the NFGA project

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)								
		Component 1: Coordination and policy development for ecological and environmental protection in Yangtze Outcome 1:Coordination mechanism, new policies and legislation for biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in the Yangtze River Basin established and in place		Component 2: Integration of biodiversity in development and economic sectors in Yangtze Outcome 2:Human impacts from pollution and municipal development activities on important biodiversity mitigated in the Yangtze River Basin		Component 3: Knowledge, capacity and information management Outcome 3:Improved knowledge base, technical capacity and information exchange for integrated river basin management.		Sub-Total	M&E	PM
		Output 1.1	Output 1.2	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 3.1	Output 3.2			
Communications and publication costs	This will include developing, designing, and publishing knowledge products and communication materials	12,955	21,529	19,023	8,958	58,906		121,371		
Consultants	Techical experts for policy recommendations, action plans, guidelines, indicators etc.	238,259	211,262	314,359	259,343	147,911	7,000	1,178,134		
Equipment and related	Equipments for biodiversity and environmental monitoring	-	-	42,395	87,857	20,898		151,151		
Monitoring and Evaluation	Conduct annual monitoring, mid-term and terminal evaluations as required	-	-	-	-	-		-	*60,730*	
Professional/ Contractual Services	Services from third-party companies and organizations, including orgnizing workshops etc.	*97,071*	*39,424*	*158,601*	*161,507*	*94,291*		550,895		
Staff cost	Cost for finance officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		75
Training, workshops, and conference	Including traning workshop, seminar, Steering Committee and working group meetings	142,857	63,143	143,576	94,837	28,036	16,000	488,450		
Travel, allowance, and study tours and DSA	Travel and allowance required for implementation by project team, and consultants etc.	49,429	70,071	77,045	149,640	25,815	23,000	395,000		
Office running costs (communication, rent, fuel, stationeries etc,	Office rental and other related cost	-								*54*
Machineray and equipments: computers (10 Nos.)	Computers and equipment for project management	-								*15*
Translation and interpretation services	Translation and interpretation costs					*25,000*		25,000		
Total		540,571	405,429	755,000	762,143	400,857	46,000	2,910,000	60,730	148

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).