

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Conserving Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Spatial Planning and Integrated Landscape Management

Region

China

GEF Project ID

11693

Country(ies)

China

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNDP

GEF Agency ID

9715

Executing Partner

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

9/17/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Transform policy and regulatory environments, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Beneficiaries, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Awareness Raising, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Large corporations, SMEs, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Threatened Species, Biomes, Lakes, Wetlands, Rivers, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Conservation Finance, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Tourism, Infrastructure, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

72

GEF Project Grant: (a)

5,509,453.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

523,397.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
6,032,850.00	59,400,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
150,000.00	14,250.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
164,250.00	6,197,100.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

China’s unique geography hosts globally significant biodiversity, representing over 10% of the world’s species. However, land use change, exacerbated by climate change, and unsustainable use of natural resources have led to persistent loss and degradation of biodiversity. Despite substantial efforts on biodiversity conservation, China still faces challenges such as sectoral silos, over-reliance on engineering technology, lack of awareness and participation from Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), and insufficient funding. These challenges hinder the country’s progress in strengthening biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. The proposed project aims to create an enabling environment to eliminate drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation, overcoming barriers to effective biodiversity conservation. Using a “cross-sector, jurisdiction and scale” approach and harnessing the synergy of national spatial planning and integrated landscape management, the project seeks transformative change to achieve significant national and global environment benefit. This overarching objective will be brought to fruition via the following components: **(1)** Development and strengthening of multi-level coordination mechanisms and tools, including policy and financing to boost financing, to enhance biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors and landscapes. **(2)** Landscape-level interventions in the target geography (Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan), involving the implementation of actions related to landscape management and monitoring. This component also includes policy integration with territorial spatial planning to restore habitats and conserve biodiversity. **(3)** Knowledge management and dissemination to increase public awareness of the importance of biodiversity. Additionally, the project will facilitate capacity strengthening to enhance application of integrated spatial planning and protected area (PA) management.

This project’s activities will enhance the management effectiveness of 320,000 ha terrestrial and coastal PAs and improve management practices across 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs to benefit biodiversity. These combined interventions are expected to contribute to the mitigation of 33 MtCO₂e and directly benefit 100,000 beneficiaries, 50% being women. Scaling up best practices will align with China’s Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035) and engage multiple international platforms. This effort is geared towards bending the curve of biodiversity loss, aligning with Kunming-Montreal GBF for a future of Living in Harmony with Nature, and achieving Global Environmental benefits.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

By 2030, to effectively implement the harmonized spatial planning framework and integrated landscape management plans to enhance protection, sustainable management and restoration of 1 million hectares of

natural and productive landscapes in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan, with scalable impact covering 10 million hectares across China through the mainstreaming of biodiversity and restoration guidelines and plans into the Master Plan.

Project Components

1. Coordination Mechanisms in Policy and Financing Environments: Develop and strengthen multi-level coordination mechanisms and tools to boost financing for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and landscapes

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,469,187.00	19,600,000.00

Outcome:

1.1 Biodiversity is mainstreamed in the national territory spatial planning system and aligned with GBF, through cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation and coordination.

Indicated by:

- (a) A biodiversity coordination mechanism is established and operational at the national level.
- (b) Nature restoration national regulation developed.

(c) Biodiversity incorporated into the redline review of national Spatial Planning leading to at least 10% decrease in Pressures to biodiversity.

1.2 Key Land Use change drivers are addressed through the development of national technical guidelines that integrate Protected Areas (PAs) and productive landscapes.

Indicated by:

- (a) At least four thematic national level technical guideline sets of directions for mainstreaming of biodiversity into land planning, bio-corridor conservation-restoration, OECM and landscape management, covering the range of national PA network.

1.3 The enabling and regulatory environment at the provincial level is established and supported through technical guidelines on integrated approaches for ecological conservation and restoration in alignment with national level and global obligations.

Indicated by:

- (a) At least four biodiversity- related ecological conservation and restoration local guidelines complied.
- (b) At least four provincial land use regulations developed and adopted

(c) At least four local OECM guidelines developed.

1.4 The enabling environment for biodiversity financing is established and supported by policies and incentives.^[11]

Indicated by

- (a) One national Biodiversity finance plan developed.

(b) At least three provincial biodiversity finance plans or policies developed.

^[11] In developing the biodiversity financial plans (national and local), the project will consider the BIOFIN approach to biodiversity finance, and the lessons from the existing sub-national BIOFIN programs such as Shanghai and Shandong, and global programs.

Output:

1.1.1 Development and establishment of a permanent biodiversity steering committee composed of natural resources, ecological environment, grassland, sea, financial ministries to further mainstream biodiversity in the national territory spatial planning system.

1.1.2 Development of the nature restoration regulation to align with the updated NBSAP and GBF.

1.1.3 Incorporation of biodiversity objectives on reducing threats in alignment with GBF targets 1, 2, and 3 in the redline review of national Spatial Planning.

1.2.1 Development of biodiversity-oriented land use/land use change guidelines^[12] to mainstream biodiversity conservation in land-use regulation.

1.2.2 Development of Conservation and Restoration (bio-corridors and connectivity) technical guidelines on restoration of food pyramid complexity for riverine, grassland, forest cropland ecosystems.

1.2.3 Development of OECM (other effective area-based conservation measures) guidelines for effective conservation of large landscapes including PAs and productive landscapes, to inform Output 1.3.3.

1.2.4 Develop integrated landscape management plans that are fully aligned with the policy and the technical guidelines frameworks developed under 1.1 and 1.2

[1] The guidelines for BD mainstreaming in this Output will focus on “land use” and “land use change”, following the terms used in China’s land use regulation.

1.3.1 Establishment of biodiversity coordination groups at provincial level and/or city level, and formulation of biodiversity- oriented ecological conservation and restoration management guidelines.

1.3.2 Development of provincial land use regulations.

1.3.3 Development of local OECMs technical guidelines for the different types of ecosystems in four target areas that aligned with the guideline framework under Output 1.2.3.

1.4.1 Development of a national biodiversity finance plan^[1] with an emphasis on sustainable ecological conservation and natural resource utilization, including the identification of viable resource mobilization mechanisms.

1.4.2 Initiation and completion of a biodiversity policy and institutional review, as well as expenditure review and finance need analysis at provincial level.

1.4.3 Compilation of provincial biodiversity finance plans based on the research above and contribute to the national biodiversity finance plan and identify many reasonable biodiversity finance solutions. (Working as foundation for and in tandem with 2.4.1 and 2.4.2)

[1] BIOFIN is being piloted in China in two target provinces as local level. Output 1.4.1 will be informed by this process to develop a national level biodiversity finance plan

2. Landscape Management and Policy Integration: Implementation actions of landscape management with territorial spatial planning to restore habitats and conserve biodiversity of global significance.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,458,268.00	25,000,000.00

Outcome:

2.1 Management effectiveness of large landscapes improved and delivered in an integrated manner on the basis of robust management plans and guidelines.

Indicated by:

(a) 320,000 ha of terrestrial and coastal PAs under improved management effectiveness, supported by at least 4 management plans.

(b) At least 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs under improved practices (including 180,000 ha of OECMs candidates in Output 2.3).

2.2 Large landscapes with increased connectivity and bio-corridor network, within which habitats and food pyramid of biodiversity hot spots are improved.

Indicated by:

(a) At least four habitats improved, and at least one network of corridors of at least 20km established.

(b) Carbon fixation of at least 33 M t of CO2 equivalent.

2.3 Rare species conservation is expanded in scope and effectiveness on the basis of newly identified OECMs candidates.

Indicated by:

(a) Identification of potential OECM sites and establishment of at least 15 OECMs candidates.

(b) Maintenance of the number of key protected species status as "stable" (e.g., red-crowned cranes) based on 180,000 ha of identified OECMs candidates.

(c) Compilation of certification and management guidelines for OECMs.

2.4 Biodiversity financing increased in target areas through application of the selected biodiversity finance solutions under 1.4.

Indicated by:

(a) At least two national level biodiversity finance solutions implemented.

(b) At least five biodiversity finance solutions (local level) implemented in target areas.

2.5 Biodiversity is monitored within institutional systems and information is generated.

Indicated by:

(a) Biodiversity is monitored in four target areas, with the support of at least one MRV system/platform that functions on the basis of specific monitoring guidelines

2.6 Alternative livelihoods created for local communities and their income increased through responsible commercialization of ecological products in target areas, taking into account gender.

Indicated by:

(a) Beneficiaries in terms of economic benefit no less than 100,000 people, (50% women).

(b) At least four ecological product brands are formed, or 20% value added to the products.

(c) At least five enterprises engaged, and Private Sector investment mobilized.

Output:

2.2.1 Improvement of habitat and food pyramid through implementation part of management plans under 2.1 and adoption of integrated approaches, including proper improved management and restoration' measures, and incorporation of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the four target areas (Sichuan, Yunnan, Jiangsu and Zhejiang).

2.2.2 Ecological corridors established in Sichuan and Yunnan with biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches, and following appropriate guidelines/ standards / principles.

2.2.3. Monitoring of carbon emission reduction from interventions of sustainable forest management under 2.1.2, as well as 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 in alignment with the biodiversity -oriented guidelines developed under 1.2.

2.3.1 Application of national definition and criteria of OECM (built upon IUCN guidance on OECM) for the screening and designation of OECM candidates within natural and productive landscapes in the target areas using technical guidelines under 1.3 and in alignment with High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) criteria.

2.3.2 Development of supportive local policy incentives for OECMs candidates, and adoption of favorable regulatory measures to further integrate OECMs in more various fields such as fisheries, agriculture, cities, recreation, etc.

2.3.3 Compilation of OECMs certification, management guidelines, and lessons/experiences from application and demonstration, to promote standardization and scaling-up of OECMs in China

2.4.1 Implementation of national biodiversity finance solutions/instruments as per output 1.4.3 to mobilize resources for biodiversity, such as carbon market, blended biodiversity bond, etc.

2.4.2 Implementation of selected biodiversity finance solutions, such as, biodiversity offset, PES, etc., as per provincial biodiversity finance plans to mobilize more resources for biodiversity, reduce harmful expenditure and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use in target sites.

2.5.1 Establishment of a monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system/platform for monitoring the status and trends of biodiversity in the four target areas to protect biodiversity of global significance, aligned with the targets of NBSAP and headline indicators of the global biodiversity framework.

2.5.2 Collection and generation of biodiversity conservation data for the MRV system/platform, and development of monitoring guidelines based on the collected data.

2.6.1 Development and implementation of business models for ecological product brands, including geographical identification and ecological product certification, in target areas.

2.6.2 Creation and establishment of alternative livelihoods to increase income for local communities.

2.6.3 Active engagement of enterprises in ecological conservation and restoration through establishment of land/sea trading and transfer systems, private social investment, or PPPs (Public-Private Partnerships).

3. Knowledge and Awareness Enhancement: Elevate awareness and knowledge management of new biodiversity policies, technical methods/standards, and landscape-level results for cross-border applicability.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,154,361.00	11,260,000.00

Outcome:

3.1 Public awareness raised, and knowledge products on the best practices developed and applied by the project efficiently and shared across different levels and stakeholders.

Indicated by:

(a) Public awareness raised in demonstration sites by 20% through KAP surveys.

(b) 50,000 people with increased awareness of the thematic areas of the project and biodiversity through at least two international campaigns.

3.2 Capacities to design and deliver spatial planning and PA management are enhanced including through the use of integrated approaches and tools (such as NbS, OECM guidelines, MRV et. Al).

Indicated by:

(a) 2,000 officials and more than 20,000 local practitioners (50% female) trained and with active capacity to design and utilize integrated approaches in SP and PA management.

(b) Increase in understanding on spatial planning and PA management through at least one South-South engagement on conservation and restoration platform established.

(c) 200 practitioners (minimum 50% women) in LDCs with active capacity to design and utilize integrated approaches in SP and PA management delivered, by at least two international training events.

(d) Increased information shared and provision of ready reference for at least 20 best practices on ecological protection, restoration and conservation in the form of a handbook and shared at international events.

(e) 20% increase in the UNDP Capacity Development score card (from the baseline that will be determined at PPG) of the institutions receiving capacity training by the project.

Output:

3.1.1 Completion of KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices) surveys.

3.1.2 Public awareness campaigns, conferences, and events organized at national, regional, and global levels, and to share the best practices and lessons learned of the project.

3.2.1 Provision of training and capacity building for Government officials and local practitioners in the four target areas and two scale-up areas (Ningxia and Inner Mongolia).

3.2.2 Establishment and international expansion of a South-South engagement mechanism on conservation and restoration platform/alliance.

3.2.3 Cross-regional learning and training on spatial planning, PA management, through the use of integrated approaches and tools, such as NbS, OECM guidelines, MRV and best practices and lessons learned, as well as knowledge sharing exchange trips including LDCs.

3.2.4 Development of knowledge products, such as handbook, on best practices of China's biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
165,283.00	570,000.00

Outcome:

4.1 Enhanced monitoring for adaptive management.

Indicated by:

(a) annual reports and PIRs in good quality and timeliness.

(b) MTR and TE facilitated and delivered, recommendations addressed with diligence and lessons learned taken on board for any future project development.

c) Completion of the required assessments and Social and Environmental Standards (SES) plans as described in the project's ESMP.

Output:

4.1.1 M&E system supporting project impact including gender and youth mainstreaming, as well as the application of SES-related management plans including ESIA.

4.1.2 Completion of project mid-term review and terminal evaluation

4.1.3 Development of recommendation and action plan for long term project sustainability as part of follow-up to terminal evaluation

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Coordination Mechanisms in Policy and Financing Environments: Develop and strengthen multi-level coordination mechanisms and tools to boost financing for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and landscapes	1,469,187.00	19,600,000.00
2. Landscape Management and Policy Integration: Implementation actions of landscape management with territorial spatial planning to restore habitats and conserve biodiversity of global significance.	2,458,268.00	25,000,000.00
3. Knowledge and Awareness Enhancement: Elevate awareness and knowledge management of new biodiversity policies, technical methods/standards, and landscape-level results for cross-border applicability.	1,154,361.00	11,260,000.00
M&E	165,283.00	570,000.00
Subtotal	5,247,099.00	56,430,000.00
Project Management Cost	262,354.00	2,970,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	5,509,453.00	59,400,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Background, Barriers, and Baseline Situation

China has a total land area of 9.60 million km² and sea area of 4.73 million km²) with complex terrain and the diverse climate. These conditions gave birth to rich genetic variety, abundant species, and unique ecosystems, such as the world-famous Danxia and Karst, as well as diverse ecosystems across mountains, deserts, grasslands, and wetlands. As one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, China is endowed with colossal biodiversity, with more than 120,000 species in the 2022 Annual Checklist from Catalogue of Life China, accounting for more than 10% of the world's species. The country has more than 34,984 known higher plant species^[13] (of which 17,300 species are endemic)^[24], and about 6,445 vertebrate species^[35] (of which 667 species are endemic)^{[4]6}. China also has more than 10,000 fungi species, accounting for 14% of the world's total.^{[5]7} Among the global 36 biodiversity hotspots^{[6]8}, four hotspots are found predominantly or partially within China: The Mountains of Southwest China (98%), the Himalaya (33%), the Mountains of Central Asia (29%) and Indo-Burma (15%). Additionally, due to geography, topography and climate, biodiversity in China is much richer than in any other country found in similar latitudes.^{[7]9}

However, biodiversity in China continues to decline, as predominantly evidenced by the degradation of 90% grasslands and 53% of important wetlands.^{[8]10} According to the ESSC 2012 report, about 2140 species in China listed in the CITES appendices were endangered in 2011.^{[9]11} Another report states that 15-20% species of higher plant are under threats (vulnerable risks) with 44% wildlife species and non-nationally protected key wildlife populations are in decline.^{[10]12} Furthermore, in the last 50 years, there has been a loss of 27.2% of protected vertebrate species, with mammals suffering the highest decline at 47.7%, followed by amphibians and reptiles at 28.8%, and birds at 19.8%.^{[11]13} Unfortunately, if unaddressed properly, the country's remaining biodiversity is expected to decline due to significant threats from rapid economic development, pronounced climate change, and unsustainable resource management over the past fifty years.

More specifically, the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation in China are:

- Land use change for economic development, especially driven by agricultural expansion, rapid urbanization and industrialization in the last 20 years,^{[12]14} which occurred due to overlapping land use priorities and land use designations. As a result, China has experienced habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, posing significant threat to a large number of flora and fauna species.

- Climate change, as highlighted in China's third National Assessment Report on Climate Change, has resulted in an average temperature increase of 0.9-1.5°C during 1909-2011, attributed to raising global temperature. Projections indicate a continued temperature rise in the next 20-100 years, ranging between 0.5-0.8 °C).[13]¹⁵ This temperature increase has altered precipitation patterns and other bioclimatic factors, subsequently impacting China's natural ecosystems, ecosystem services and biodiversity.
- Unsustainable resources use and overexploitation, including over-extraction for food and traditional medicines,[14]¹⁶ has intensified due to the growing demand to accommodate population growth. This issue is exacerbated by the insufficient valuation of biodiversity conservation. Rare fauna and flora species, such as the Chinese giant salamanders (*Andrias spp*), the protected tree species *Excentrodendron hsienu* (*Tiliaceae*)[15]¹⁷ are often subjected to over-exploitation. Additionally, data indicates that overexploitation is the primary threat to Chinese vertebrate species, contributing to the endangerment of 78% of imperiled species.[16]¹⁸

These drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation are rooted in the following issues (baseline situation):

(1) Past development and land/natural resource use planning have not effectively incorporated the biodiversity objectives, resulting in fragmentation, degradation, habitat loss, and overexploitation of natural resources due to a lack of unified technical and scientific guidance. This situation is caused by three major ongoing issues in China. **First, silos thinking, and lack of sectoral coordination and cooperation** (Barrier 1): there are notable discrepancies in China's environmental governance both vertically between government sectors and horizontally among different government levels. These discrepancies are especially pronounced concerning environmental regulations. While the national government is mandated to design the regulations, the sub-national governments compete to maximize their development interests. As a result, inter-governmental conflicts of interests diminish China's efforts in implementing effective policies for environmental protection. Simultaneously, the lack of functional multi-stakeholder platforms or fora at both the national and sub-national levels has resulted in insufficient coordination among different ministries and offices. This absence impedes cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogues, collaboration, and collective actions. **Second, limited standards and policies related to biodiversity and natural resource conservation and management** (Barrier 2): in China, the majority of environmental laws primarily concentrate on pollution control, with only a limited number addressing biodiversity and natural resource protection. Moreover, many environmental laws are presented as policy statements, creating challenges in terms of administration and enforcement implementation. The country's bureaucratic structure also experiences administrative overlaps among various government institutions, with unclear distinction between agencies responsible for issuing and enforcing environmental laws. The lack of integrated technical standards and derivative policies, which could facilitate inter-agency and jurisdictional coordination, financial support, and public participation, has resulted in sub-optimal enforcement of the environmental governance in China. **Third, there is a lack of integrated planning and management approaches for biodiversity and natural resource conservation and management** (Barrier 3): China has formulated national and provincial spatial-zoning plans covering all terrestrial functional zones: critical ecological functions, agricultural production and zones for industrial development and human settlements. The MNR is currently consolidating these spatial-zoning plans into a unified, integrated land-use-management plan for the entire country. This management plan has been incorporated into the 14th Five-Year Plan, effective from 2021. However, there is notable absence of a detailed biodiversity-related integrated landscape management plans that account for different types of ecosystems in China.

(2) Past eco-engineering programs have overemphasized artificial interventions and lacked site-specific thinking, failing to adequately take into account the heterogeneity of baseline conditions, and failing to follow natural processes of ecology and pathways such as ecosystem complexity, food pyramid levels integrity and resilience, leading to further habitat and biodiversity loss. This situation resulted from **over-engineering of the current eco-projects that lack consideration of site-level biophysical and social conditions, and integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge** (Barrier 4): the lack of considerations of the biophysical and bio-ecology complexities, including the integrity and resilience of food chain pyramid, has led to inefficient biodiversity conservation and management. This has resulted in habitat and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, biodiversity in China co-exists with ethnically diverse rural communities that are interlinked within socio-ecological systems. Despite this interconnection, there remains lack of integration and mainstreaming of traditional and indigenous knowledge into conservation policies and measures. Moreover, there are gaps in understanding local communities' perspectives, including whether

management policies and measures are suitable for the communities, how conservation is perceived by these communities, and what resources can be effectively protected by traditional and indigenous laws/practices.

(3) Limited resource mobilization due to a lack of private capital participation and market-oriented operation, including the inefficient use of funds. This situation is driven by **the ineffective market incentive mechanism and insufficient funding** (Barrier 5): while China has initiated various payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes (e.g., inter-basin water-transfer ecological compensation policy), there is currently no systematic ecological compensation system to effectively mobilize private funding for conservation efforts. The majority of environmental programs are funded by the central government, lacking a long-term and stable compensation financing mechanism. Moreover, there is an absence of comprehensive financial plans for biodiversity conservation and management. The existing funds are also not systematically monitored to track their utilization and ascertain whether they are effectively contributing to biodiversity conservation and management.

(4) sub-optimal participation of stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts. This situation is attributed to two main factors. **First**, there is **weak public awareness of biodiversity and natural resource conservation and management** (Barrier 6), leading to ineffective engagement of stakeholders, in particular local communities. This condition has led to over-exploitation of natural resources, emerging as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation in the country. Additionally, lack of knowledge about the values of biodiversity and environmental protection has contributed to insufficient participation of local communities in conservation actions. **Second**, there is on-going **limited capacity of stakeholders to participate in conservation and management efforts** (Barrier 7). This limited capacity in terms of human resources and facilities is especially noticeable at the sub-national level in China. The capacity of stakeholders (including government actors) to implement biodiversity and ecosystem management is significantly restricted. This limitation is attributed, among other factors, to a lack of capacity building for these stakeholders, hindering their active participation in conservation and management efforts. The identified root causes and barriers above underscore the urgent need for robust biodiversity conservation and natural resource management strategies. The forthcoming project interventions, further detailed in **Part B**, are designed to target these root causes and barriers directly. Emphasis will be placed on integrated landscape management and policy strengthening, aiming to enhance biodiversity mainstreaming and conservation, restore natural ecosystems, and mobilize resources for biodiversity financing, to curb land degradation through sustainable management-restoration practices that foster resilient ecosystems. The proposed interventions under this project seek to establish a comprehensive framework that addresses the intricacies of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. By fostering inter-sectoral collaboration, facilitating policy guidance, promoting integrated landscape management, and enhancing awareness and capacity, the project aims to not only halt the current trends of degradation but also pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient ecosystems. These objectives are in line with the GEF's programming objectives and strategies related to biodiversity and climate change.

Project Areas

The project's interventions will cover the national level as well as the target geography, which includes **Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Yunnan, and Sichuan** provinces (see Annex C for more information about the target provinces). These areas have been selected for the following reasons: (1) biodiversity significance, (2) potential for improved management and practices, and (3) the large extent of natural ecosystems and high-conservation value landscapes facing deforestation and degradation threats. Additionally, the project will implement landscape-level interventions (integrated management, OECMs candidates and corridor creation, financial solutions, and sustainable livelihoods) in four pilot sites. During the PPG, the project will conduct detailed situational analyses to verify specific drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation in the landscape, to determine appropriate biodiversity mainstreaming and landscape management-restoration strategies for each target landscape. Accumulatively, the four target provinces have a total terrestrial area of 1,088,000 km². Brief information about the target provinces is provided below, with additional details available in Annex C of this document.

- **Zhejiang Province** (101,800 km²) is situated to the south of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. This province is characterized by mountainous landscape with 62% forestland and 23% cultivated land.^{[17]¹⁹} Zhejiang possesses abundant vegetation and valuable biological resources, delivering crucial ecosystem services and functions. For example, Zhejiang's Baishanzu National Park hosts a unique mid-subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest ecosystem, contributing to the province's ecological functions in soil and water conservation, climate regulation, and air pollution control. Additionally, this ecological reserve contains significant biodiversity, recording around 1,545 species and varieties of seed plants, with 48% of them

being endemic to China. However, the province is now facing worsening various ecological and environmental problems, driven by deforestation^{[18]20}, which has occurred in tandem with rapid urbanization. A total of 266,984 ha of forest was deforested between 2001 and 2018.^{[19]21}

- **Jiangsu Province** has a total land area of 107,200 km². The province's coastal ecosystem serves as a crucial point on the East Asia-Australasia migratory bird migration route. It provides habitat for 23 species of internationally important birds, supporting the survival of 17 species on the IUCN Red List and holding special value for global migratory bird protection. Yancheng, the largest coastal wetland area in the province covering about 291,300 ha, is considered the world's largest intertidal wetland system. Despite being home to 29 bird species listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List, rapid urbanization and development in Jiangsu are exerting increasing pressure on the ecological environment. Issues such as overexploitation of land resources, reduction in the area of natural and semi-natural ecological land, and declines in ecosystem service capacity^{[20]22} pose significant challenges to achieving ecological civilization and sustainable development in the province.
- **Yunnan Province** (394,000 km²) stands as the exclusive host of mainland China's remaining tropical rainforests, constituting a substantial 20% share of the country's overall biodiversity.^{[21]23} Geographically situated within the Indo-Chinese biodiversity hotspot, this province has struggled with an ongoing deforestation and habitat degradation, precipitated by inadequate landscape management and monitoring practices. Consequently, these challenges have led to a substantial depletion of its biodiversity assets due habitat fragmentation^{[22]24}, predominantly led by accelerated urbanization and industrialization^{[23]25}. Out of 3,767 threatened species (IUCN Threatened Categories include Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable) in China, about 1,426 species are distributed in Yunnan.^{[24]26} Without immediate and comprehensive interventions, Yunnan Province is at risk of potentially losing a quarter of its extant species by the year 2100.^{[25]27}
- **Sichuan Province** (485,000 km²) is situated in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. The province features diverse topographical conditions, varied climates, abundant natural biological resources, and a relatively intact ecological system. Recognized as one of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots, Sichuan serves as a valuable gene pool for species in China and worldwide, earning its reputation as the "treasure house of biodiversity." The province is home to over 10,000 species of higher plants, including 84 nationally rare and endangered plants, constituting one-third of the national total. Additionally, it harbors nearly 1,300 species of vertebrates, representing 45% of the country's total. Currently, Sichuan stands as one of the provinces with the largest number and area of Protected Areas (PAs) in China, designating 20% of its total area as protected land, ensuring enhanced protection for over 85% of rare wildlife and their habitats. However, despite the government's conservation efforts, Sichuan's biodiversity faces severe threats due to population growth, economic development, resource exploration, vegetation damage, and environmental pollution.

A.2 Enabling Condition and Project's Approach

The project and its interventions aim to assist the Chinese government in overcoming existing challenges and barriers previously described in A.1 and to enhance biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. In the long run, the project intends to create transformative outcomes and impacts on both national and sub-national levels, aligning with China's global and national commitments and priorities. These contributions include:

- First, the project will address discrepancies in China's environmental governance and intergovernmental conflicts of interests, caused by system drivers associated with siloed thinking, lack of coordination, absence of uniform standards and

policies, and lack of integrated planning. Here, the project will establish permanent committees and coordination groups at the national and provincial levels. This will improve multi-sectoral and multi-level coordination, which will ensure inclusive and systematic integration of biodiversity into national and sub-national spatial planning systems, and formulation of regulatory frameworks and guidelines for biodiversity conservation and natural resource – landscape management. This approach is considered the best fit for China’s reality and governance as opposed to – for example – to a focus on investments in technologies of remote sensing that provide mere support to decision making rather than a decision-making result. At the same time, these collaborative decision-making processes will enable adaptive and effective biodiversity planning and management, as it integrates diverse perspectives and expertise from relevant stakeholders, and promotes buy-in, especially in the face of future environmental, socio-economic, and political dynamics.

- Second, recognizing the need to mainstream biodiversity in spatial planning, the project will pilot integrated landscape management approaches in target provinces. This approach is taken to reorientate China’s development approach to a more environmentally sustainable manner, consider the environmental externalities of rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, and natural resource overexploitation, and acknowledge the values of biodiversity in ensuring resilience of local people and environment to climate change. Here, the project will promote biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches, that balances economic growth with biodiversity conservation, emphasizing collaborative actions and socio-economic and environmental resilience to climate hazards. In the current context of the proposed project, integrated approaches, given the size and the capacity of China, these are considered as good fit for the project’s intervention. The reason for this is two-fold (a) it can generate spin offs of other important tools such as Valuation of Ecosystem Services and (b) contribute to the enabling environment to link biodiversity conservation to economic benefits. This approach was selected as it generates the potential to encompass several significant yet partial tools and approaches under a single solution rather than invest resources to the roll out of stand-alone tools such as VES, PES, et al.
- Third, the project will address the financing gap in biodiversity conservation due to system drivers associated with ineffective market incentive mechanisms for biodiversity (e.g., limited availability/access to biodiversity financial instruments, or distorted market signals that devalue biodiversity conservation). In this regard, the project will facilitate sustainable financing mechanisms involving the private sector and innovative finance solutions, also at national level, benefiting local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPLCs). This approach, as opposed to ex-ante decentralized financing mechanisms that rely solely on public funds, fits the case of China as the massive cost for biodiversity conservation and resource management is heavily burdened on the limited public fund. Engaging the private sector introduces additional funding sources beyond traditional government funding. Moreover, innovative finance solutions open avenues for diverse financial instruments, which will enhance longer-term financial resilience for biodiversity financing in China.
- Lastly, the project will address the ongoing systemic drivers associated with over-engineering of the current biodiversity projects that do not fully consider site-specific conditions and natural processes and lack of integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge into biodiversity planning and management. To achieve this, the project will foster stakeholder participation and behavior change through enhanced innovation, knowledge, and capacity to drive transformative change (see Section B for more details about project’s interventions). This intervention, as opposed to one-way communication approach where knowledge is only generated and disseminated by the project to public, is appropriate for China’s context, considering the gap in public awareness in the value of biodiversity conservation as well as the limited incorporation of traditional knowledge into conservation. This is the main reason why the project will promote a multi-way communication approach in knowledge, where both formal and traditional knowledge systems are given equal importance in the project’s knowledge generation and dissemination, and information flows in both directions. In this regard, knowledge management and dissemination, and capacity building are strategic approaches that will ensure inclusivity, community empowerment, adaptability, and long-term sustainability of the project’s interventions.

Overall, these interventions/approaches will generate multiple environmental, climate, economic and social benefits, which will contribute to the GEF’s biodiversity objective and strategies. And to achieve these outcomes and impacts, the project will leverage existing political commitments, as well as tap into the current support and investments from both government and non-government entities.

Government’s commitments:

In efforts to prevent further loss of biodiversity, the Chinese Government has promoted ecological and biodiversity conservation and restoration over the past two decades. This action is reflected in the country’s global and national pledges and efforts, among others:

- Kunming Biodiversity Fund: China pledges to contribute \$233 million to the global biodiversity, and improve relevant laws, regulations, policies, and systems to mainstream biodiversity internationally.
- Paris Agreement: China has set ambitious goals, aiming to peak CO₂ emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, as mentioned in its *Mid-Century Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy (LTS)*. A key focus involves enhancing the carbon sink of ecosystems through projects aimed at protecting and restoring important ecosystems. Additionally, integrated protection and restoration efforts span diverse landscapes, including mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grasslands, and sandy areas.

- Sustainable Development Goals: as a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015, China has pledged to work towards achieving all 17 SDGs.

Nationally, through the full engagement and joint efforts of stakeholders at all levels, China has effectively protected 90% of its terrestrial ecosystem types and 74% of key state-protected wildlife species noted in the List of State Key Protected Wild Animals (LSKPWA).^[26]^[28] This includes the successful restoration and breeding of more than 300 rare and endangered species. Within the total of 1520 species listed in LSKPWA, 923 species have corresponding assessment levels in the Biodiversity Red List of China, accounting for about one-fifth of the total number of species assessed in the Red List^[27]^[29]. To fulfill these global and national commitments, China has undertaken various measures and approaches. For instance, at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, China has issued a position document and blueprint for action under the theme of *'Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth: China in Action'*. Concrete measures have also been taken in the past decade, including biodiversity mainstreaming and conservation, the ecological protection 'red line' under spatial planning system, as well as the systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas. These measures are manifested in the following initiatives:

- **Incorporation of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources into Territorial Spatial Planning System:** in 2019, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued *Opinions on Establishing and Supervising the Implementation of a Territorial Space Planning System*, requiring that a unified territorial spatial planning system be basically established by 2020. China has also taken the lead internationally by proposing and implementing a red line system for ecological conservation. In October 2021, the government also issued a *White Paper: Biodiversity Conservation in China* – to further affirm the country's commitment to biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the *Opinions on Further Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation* in the same year, which proposed to optimize the spatial pattern of biodiversity conservation, and to implement local conservation system and promote the conservation and restoration of important ecosystems.
- **Master Plan:** in 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources jointly issued the Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035). This plan outlines the ecological conservation and restoration initiatives for 'Three Zones and Four Belts' (shown in the base map of figure 1). Serving as a fundamental program for ecological conservation and restoration at a national scale, the *Master Plan* plays a pivotal role in guiding these efforts.
- **Red line:** The red line is a spatial planning framework that takes both socioeconomic and ecological needs into consideration and was incorporated into Chinese environment protection law in 2014. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) oversees the process of defining the red line, a crucial component for maintaining national ecological security, ensuring ecosystem function, and promoting sustainable social-economic development. In April 2023, MNR completed the mapping of national red line, covering a total area of 3,150,000 km². This red line will serve as a comprehensive policy tool, further enhancing the integration of development planning. Many red line areas may qualify to be "conserved" through OECM, but China has not yet listed a single conserved area under OECM criteria ^[28]^[30], ^[29]^[31].
- **Systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas – the Shan-Shui initiative:** launched in 2016, China's Shan-Shui Initiative, a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Ministry of Ecological Environment (MEE), encompasses 75 large-scale initiatives. These initiatives aim to restore ecosystems from mountains to coastal estuaries across the world's most populous nation. The United Nations has recognized the Shan-Shui initiative, designed to restore 10 million hectares of ecosystems across China, as one of 10 pioneering efforts to revive the natural world.

Existing initiatives:

Additionally, the project will leverage investments and draw upon lessons learned from previous and ongoing government programs, as well as insights from similar GEF and non-GEF initiatives in China. Specific intersections with the project's strategies are explained in Part B's "coordination and cooperation" section.

- Government programs: MOF-MNR-MEE's collaborative program on the systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas – the Shan Shui initiative; MOF-MNR's marine and coastal ecological conservation and restoration project; MOF-MNR's Ecological restoration of historical mines project; NFGA's the shelter forest system program in three-north regions of China.
- GEF initiatives: GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) Project; GEF-6 PRC-GEF Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP) project; GEF-7 Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asia-Australasia Flyway (EAAF) in China; GEF-7 Restoration of Degraded Natural Forests and Soil Erosion Management Improvement in Erosion-Prone Regions of China; GEF-7 Transformational Wildlife Conservation Management in China Project.
- Other initiatives: UNDP-BIOFIN, and ADB-IUCN's biodiversity conservation projects

Additionally, to secure the project's resilience in the face of potential shifts in the factors driving biodiversity loss and degradation, this project will actively monitor the changes in political enabling conditions, reassess risks and opportunities, and implement adaptive management. This process will be undertaken with a focus on garnering support from diverse stakeholders. In this case, the project will actively seek meaningful engagement and inclusion of multi-level and cross-disciplinary stakeholders in the project design and implementation phases. During the PPG phase, the project will identify stakeholders including IPLCs, and vulnerable groups. It will develop appropriate and costed modalities to guide stakeholder engagement process throughout. Additionally, the project will adopt a Gender Action Plan to ensure that project's interventions are gender-responsive and contribute to improved gender equality. Preliminarily, the key stakeholders aside from the government (both national and sub-national levels) are anticipated to include: (a) IPLCs (especially vulnerable sections of society including women and youth), who are among the key beneficiaries of the project, and actors in biodiversity and landscape planning and management, and sustainable livelihoods; (b) private sector, such as Ant Group, which will be engaged for potential co-financers and financing solutions, and multi-stakeholder dialogues; (c) UN/IFIs/CSOs (including FAO, World Bank, ADB, IUCN, WWF, Conservation International), which have been implementing similar programs/projects in the target provinces or elsewhere in China. The project will collaborate with these agencies to leverage lessons from their initiatives and explore potential partnerships for project execution support or co-financing.

[1] [BIOFIN China](#)

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[3] [BIOFIN China](#)

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[5] [BIOFIN China](#)

[6] <https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots>

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- [25] [China Dialogue](#). Nature series.
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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

B.1 Project's Theory of Change

Considering the challenges and barriers related to biodiversity and resource management in China (described in Part A), the project anticipates three potential **external systemic drivers** that could impact the project's objective to support the government's efforts in fostering effective biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. These external drivers include:

1. Land use change: the rapid economic development, urbanization, and industrialization of the past two decades have profoundly altered China's landscape. These shifts, prompted by conflicting land use priorities, have resulted in the loss and fragmentation of habitats, exerting immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems. Despite the government's commitment to sustainable development, the trajectory of urbanization and land utilization for economic and industrial purposes is anticipated to persist in the future and is subject to governmental political priorities that change over time.
2. Climate change: China, being among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, has experienced a shift in climate marked by rising temperatures impacting ecosystems. Future projections indicate sustained warming, with consequent alterations in precipitation patterns that pose threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The anticipated persistence of climate change risks spans from the melting glaciers of the Tibetan Plateau to the implications of rising sea levels on densely populated regions like the Yangtze River Basin and Pearl River Delta. The spectrum of risks includes record heatwaves, drought, and unprecedented flooding from extreme precipitation events.
3. Resource overexploitation: the growing demand for resources, encompassing land, food, and medicine, is projected to continue. This demand, coupled with an inadequate valuation of biodiversity especially among local communities, results in unsustainable practices such as over-hunting and the exploitation of natural resources. These actions such as illegal

logging and poaching of wildlife and plants will continue to contribute to the depletion of natural resources and the decline of endangered species populations, disrupting ecosystems and threatening biodiversity.

Drawing from the external system drivers described above, and barriers along with the current fragmented investments in biodiversity and resource management as outlined in Part A, the project anticipates three potential scenarios. These scenarios outline the intended role of the project and its constraints.

'BAU' scenario

In the absence of the project, weak biodiversity conservation and natural resource management would persist due to sub-optimal governance. Ineffective inter-sectoral coordination would undermine cohesive conservation efforts. Additionally, the lack of established policy frameworks and guidance for biodiversity mainstreaming, as well as nature management/restoration and financing, would continue to hamper the development of effective conservation strategies. This would result in continued uncoordinated spatial planning and fragmented conservation efforts. Failure to apply biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches, coupled with the oversight of climate risks, would also lead to suboptimal outcomes of conservation investments and efforts. Moreover, the limited stakeholder participation would prevent the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge into landscape planning and management, along with sustainable livelihood practices, which further contributes to scattered efforts. Lastly, the lack of public awareness and the value of biodiversity conservation, coupled with insufficient capacity of relevant stakeholders would result in inadequate implementation of effective conservation measures.

As a result, the country will continue to experience exacerbated habitat loss and nature degradation. In this situation, unsustainable land uses in pursuit of urbanization, industrial expansion, infrastructure, and agriculture development, would further fragment the currently protected and productive habitats, increasing the risk of species extinction. This loss of biodiversity would disrupt ecosystem functioning, compromising vital ecosystem services like clean water and climate regulation, impacting community well-being and socio-economic development. Furthermore, reduced biodiversity would diminish ecosystem resilience to climate change, heightening vulnerability to extreme weather events and shifting climatic patterns. Indigenous and local communities reliant on natural resources would be disproportionately affected and would become more vulnerable due to persistent environmental degradation.

'Project-based' reality

Under the project intervention scenario, the project will facilitate acceptable transformative change in the strengthening of biodiversity and resource governance, particularly in the target areas. It will enhance inter-sectoral coordination and facilitate the adoption of policy frameworks and guidance for biodiversity mainstreaming, nature management/restoration, and financing. These initiatives will create enabling conditions for implementing coherent and effective conservation strategies, with the potential for replication in other regions of China. By improving coordination and establishing cohesive policies and guidelines, the project will promote more integrated spatial planning and conservation efforts. Additionally, increased stakeholder participation will facilitate the integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge into landscape planning and management, fostering more effective conservation practices.

The GEF alternative will build on previous and ongoing investments, both GEF and non-GEF funded, by integrating lessons learned from past projects into the design of the currently proposed project. For example, the project will draw on the experiences from previous and ongoing initiatives in China that focused on biodiversity conservation, land degradation, and integrated landscape/habitat/ecosystem management-restoration. This includes best practices in engaging local communities and scaling up biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches. Moreover, it will leverage ongoing non-GEF projects to strengthen cross-sectoral policy coherence and the institutional capacity required for long-term sustainability. Please refer to "planned cooperation with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives" table (p. 27-28). These efforts will ensure that the current project not only benefits from the foundation laid by previous investments but also adapts to the evolving landscape of biodiversity governance in the country.

These approaches and efforts will contribute to systemic improvements by mitigating unsustainable land uses and preventing further fragmentation of protected habitats. By reducing the risk of species extinction and biodiversity loss, the project will help maintain, if not enhance, ecosystem functioning and preserve vital ecosystem services such as clean water and climate regulation in the target areas and potentially in other regions of China. Furthermore, the project's strategies for enhancing the management of protected areas and productive ecosystems will help reduce the vulnerability of indigenous and local communities reliant on natural resources, both socio-economically and in terms of resilience against climate hazards.

'Ideal World' Scenario

In an 'Ideal World' scenario, a dynamic and comprehensive transition towards fully integrated planning and governance of biodiversity and natural resources would be achieved. This transformative change would effectively confront and mitigate the multitude of threats facing China's biodiversity, particularly those exacerbated by unsustainable land use practices, the impacts of climate change, and the overexploitation of biodiversity and natural resources. The enabling conditions (e.g., enhanced coordination and the formulation of policies and guidelines) created by the project within its target areas, would set the stage for broader systemic changes across China. These changes would extend to the establishment of other supportive policies, regulatory, financial, and institutional frameworks that seamlessly integrate conservation objectives into local government planning and development processes. This integration would ensure that biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management are not only prioritized but also ingrained into the nation's long-term development agenda.

Furthermore, this comprehensive shift towards integrated planning and governance would catalyze economic pathways prioritizing sustainability, balancing economic growth with environmental conservation. As a result, China's rich biodiversity and natural resources would be well-preserved and nurtured for the long term.

The second scenario 'Project-based reality' will be most likely to happen given the GEF's investments and the project's approaches with an objective: *"By 2030, to effectively implement the harmonized spatial planning framework and integrated landscape management plans to enhance protection, sustainable management and restoration of 1 million hectares of natural and productive landscapes in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan, with scalable impact covering 10 million hectares across China through the mainstreaming of biodiversity and restoration guidelines and plans into the Master Plan"*. This scenario identifies the framework in which the project can realistically operate in an ambitious format. The proposed GEF alternatives will counter the business-as-usual described in the 'BAU scenario' by overcoming the barriers that hinder effective biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. To achieve this objective, the project will employ the following integrated approaches to ensure the achievement of its objective, while mitigate the risks attributed to external drivers:

1. **Mainstreaming biodiversity into spatial planning systems:** the project aims to integrate biodiversity considerations into national and sub-national spatial planning systems by establishing a permanent biodiversity steering committee at the national level, and biodiversity coordination groups in the target provinces. These groups, composed of representatives from various relevant governmental sectors, will facilitate the formulation of regulatory frameworks, technical guidelines and guidance for nature conservation and restoration, and integrated landscape management plans. The participation of non-governmental actors, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and IPLCs, will be actively encouraged through public consultations facilitated by the committee and coordination groups. During these consultations, stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise, which will inform the decision-making processes for the formulation of policy and technical guidelines for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. Private sector entities will play a crucial role in these consultations by providing insights particularly into sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms, and technology solutions that can support biodiversity conservation efforts. Their involvement will help ensure that policies and guidelines are pragmatic, feasible, and conducive to private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation initiatives.
2. **Improving the management of PAs and other natural and productive landscapes:** through participatory processes, the project will formulate integrated landscape management plans, improving the management of **320,000 ha** terrestrial and coastal PAs, and **680,000 ha** of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs (of which 180,000 ha is in the form of identified OECMs candidates). These efforts will collectively mitigate approximately **33M tCO₂e** with community-based management approaches applied for sustainable forest management. For the purpose of this project, 'landscapes' are

defined in this project according to the principles of landscape ecology^{[1]³²}, referring to areas that encompass both natural ecosystems (such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands) and managed ecosystems (such as agricultural lands, urban areas, and mined areas). These landscapes are dynamic, multi-functional spaces where human and ecological systems interact, influencing ecological connectivity, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

The specific boundaries and areas of the target landscapes will be determined at the provincial level during the PPG phase, taking into account the Master Plans, spatial plans, and other land use/sectoral plans relevant to each target area.^{[2]³³} Local social-ecological contexts will guide priority interventions— for example, 'conservation agriculture' will be emphasized in farmland-dominated landscapes, while green mining approaches will be prioritized in mining areas. In each target landscape, a Biodiversity Coordination Group will be established, consisting of key stakeholders such as the Bureau of Natural Resources and Planning, Ecology and Environment Bureau, Bureau of Water Resources, Bureau of Forestry and Grassland, Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Bureau of Finance. These groups will coordinate efforts to align the project's activities with local and provincial planning frameworks, ensuring an integrated approach to biodiversity and landscape management. The project will support the development of individual plans for four target landscapes under Outcome 2.1, working closely with local planning authorities (e.g., Bureau of Natural Resources and Planning at the city level) to ensure that landscape-level spatial plans are integrated into the broader Spatial Planning System.

By treating landscapes as integrated systems that incorporate ecological and human components, the project aims to address biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development goals holistically. This integrated approach will involve applying appropriate biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches in enhancing natural habitats, and creating wildlife corridors. Here, the project will prioritize engagement with non-governmental actors for the implementation of the landscape management plans in the four target landscapes. The project will engage with IPLCs and incorporate their indigenous and traditional knowledge in specific landscape management-restoration interventions. Moreover, NGOs like The Nature Conservancy (TNC), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be actively engaged in OECM piloting. The project will collaborate with these NGOs for data sharing, information exchange, and joint development of guidelines, strengthening the capacity for integrated landscape management. Academic institutions and universities will also jointly work on data collection, laboratory analysis and data process for biodiversity monitoring. Additionally, partnerships with private sector actors like Ant Group will focus on green product traceability certification and contributions to ecological branding, enhancing the visibility and marketability of sustainable products. Local businesses, including ecotourism corporations and bed-and-breakfast owners, will also be engaged to partner with IPLCs in the restoration of terraced landscapes, creating opportunities for sustainable tourism and contributing to local economic development.

3. **Catalyzing sustainable financing for biodiversity and nature conservation and restoration:** the project will ensure effective participation of private sector, IPLCs and other stakeholders in conservation and restoration efforts. It will leverage public and private funding through the development of national and provincial biodiversity finance plans e.g., carbon market, blended biodiversity bond, etc. It will also implement innovative biodiversity finance solutions (e.g., biodiversity offset, PES, etc.) in the target provinces to mobilize more resources for biodiversity-positive investments. Furthermore, through this sustainable financing, the project will promote alternative livelihoods for **100,000 local beneficiaries** with active engagement of IPLCs. Specifically, the project will ensure gender-responsive representation and involvement of IPLCs, women, and youth, and that their traditional knowledge and practices are incorporated into the project's interventions.
4. **Enhancing innovation, knowledge and learning, and capacity.** The project will establish a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system/platform and guideline in the target provinces to monitor the status and trend of biodiversity. Here, private sector and civil society entities will be engaged to contribute to the development and implementation of this system by providing expertise in data collection, analysis, and technology solutions. Furthermore, to foster innovation for sustainable livelihoods, the project will engage private sector entities in the creation of creating ecological products, sustainable value chain for livelihood, as well as developing land/sea trading and transfer incentives. The project will encourage private social investments from private sector entities through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), where the private sector engagement in these partnerships can provide financial resources, technical expertise, and market access

opportunities, facilitating the implementation of biodiversity conservation projects and initiatives. Furthermore, the project will conduct public awareness campaigns, conferences, and events to share the best practices and lessons learnt of the project. It also plans to organize training for stakeholders including government officials and local practitioners in target areas and establish South-South engagement platform on ecological conservation and restoration platform for international expansion. Capacity trainings will empower and increase the ability of key actors to apply integrated approaches and tools in spatial planning and PA management, and to facilitate more efforts in biodiversity conservation and resource management.

While the second scenario represents the most anticipated outcome of the project, the project and its approaches aim to work as much as possible towards the ideal scenario through enhanced design during the project preparation phase and robust, adaptive implementation. The Theory of Change (ToC) for the project is grounded in the assumption that it has the capacity to mitigate, or at the very least, not exacerbate the continuous trend of biodiversity loss and degradation in the provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Yunnan, and Sichuan. The project operates under the premises that:

- If multi-level coordination mechanisms are established and policies that integrate effective biodiversity conservation into national and sub-national planning are adopted, then coherent implementation across sectors will be ensured, fostering a collaborative approach that mitigates the challenges posed by land use change, climate change, and resource overexploitation.
- If IPLCs alongside various stakeholders are effectively engaged in the formulation of regulatory frameworks and technical guidelines, then sustainable practices will be adopted and stakeholders' participation is secured, leading to the activation of sustainable financing mechanisms that enable long-term financial sustainability for biodiversity conservation.
- If spatial planning, landscape management and alternative livelihood investment approaches are effectively implemented across large landscapes, then ecological connectivity will be enhanced, hotspots of biodiversity will be restored, habitat loss will be reduced, and ecosystem resilience will be strengthened, thereby addressing the drivers of land use change and the ongoing impacts of climate change and resource demands on biodiversity.
- If knowledge management, public awareness, and capacity building for stakeholders are enhanced, then cross-sectoral learning will be fostered and communities will be equipped to actively participate in biodiversity conservation efforts, ensuring adaptive management and responsive project implementation.

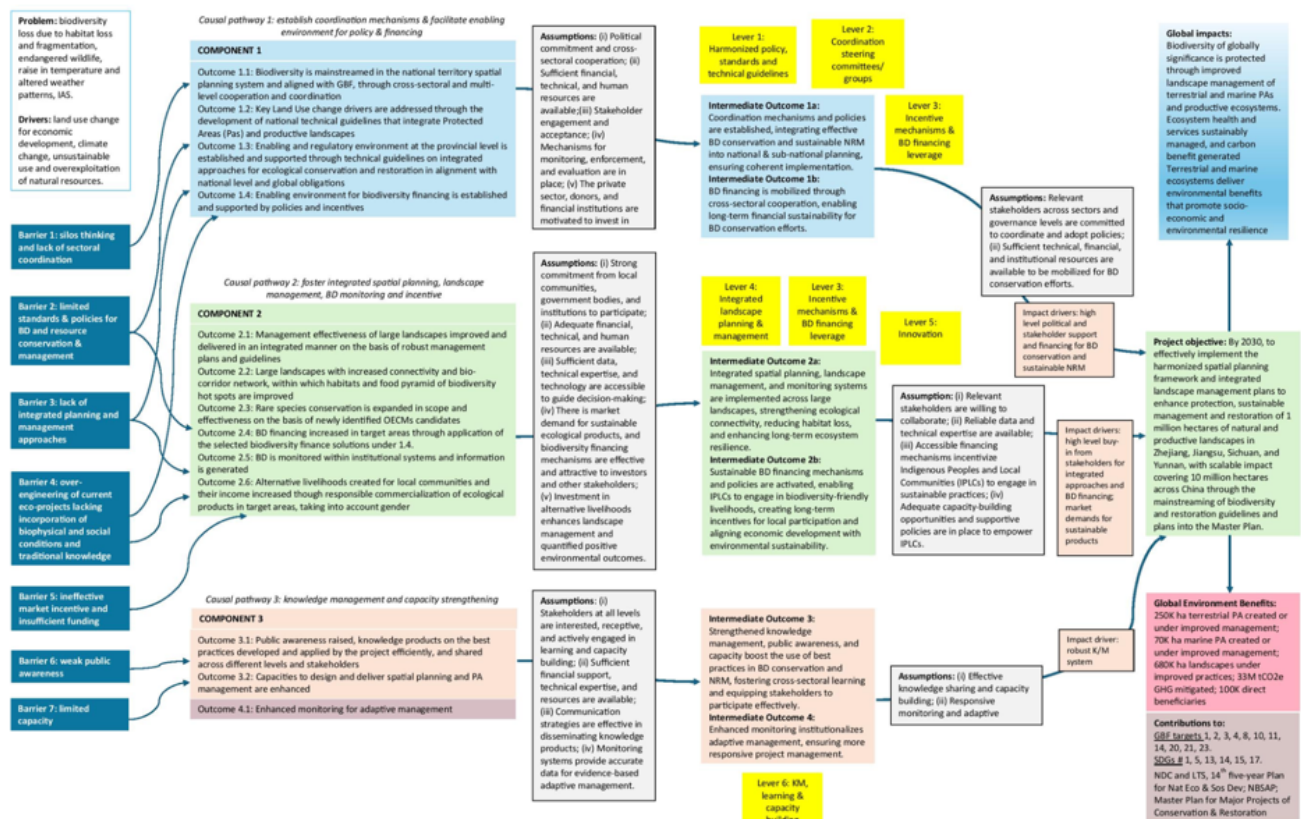
The project's approaches and interventions (outlined in the project's ToC) are shown in Figure 1 below. Based on the premises above, the ToC follows three causal pathways narrated below to achieve the goal and intended impact of the project:

- The project will *establish coordination mechanisms and facilitate enabling environments for policies and financing at the national and sub-national levels* for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management and restoration. This will contribute to Intermediate Outcome 1a by integrating effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management into national and sub-national planning, ensuring coherent implementation across sectors. Additionally, Intermediate Outcome 1b will be addressed by mobilizing biodiversity financing through cross-sectoral cooperation, enabling long-term financial sustainability for biodiversity conservation efforts. This will be achieved through the operationalization of a permanent biodiversity committee and coordination groups and formulation regulations and technical guidance/guidelines/plans related to biodiversity and natural resource conservation, management/ restoration, and financing (outlined in the project's Component 1). These interventions aim to tackle barriers related to silo-thinking, lack of standards and policy, and lack of incentive and financing for effective biodiversity conservation and restoration. More specifically, they seek to address the challenge associated with ineffective biodiversity conservation and natural resource management resulting from ineffective inter-sectoral coordination, the absence of policy frameworks and guidance for biodiversity mainstreaming and resource management/restoration and financing.
- The project will *foster integrated spatial planning, landscape management and biodiversity monitoring, as well as catalyze incentives* for biodiversity. These efforts will drive Intermediate Outcome 2a, which focuses on implementing integrated spatial planning, landscape management, and monitoring systems across large landscapes to strengthen ecological connectivity, reduce habitat loss, and enhance long-term ecosystem resilience. To support this, Intermediate Outcome 2b will also be realized through the activation of sustainable biodiversity financing mechanisms and policies that enable IPLCs to engage in biodiversity-friendly livelihoods, creating long-term incentives for local participation while aligning economic development with environmental sustainability. This will involve the formulation and implementation of biodiversity-related management plans for the target geographies, incorporating the identification of potential OECMs and wildlife corridors through application of integrated landscape approaches. Additionally, a biodiversity MRV tool will be developed and financial solutions and alternative livelihoods at the site-level will be initiated to mobilize resources for biodiversity.

These interventions are outlined in the project's component 3. These measures seek to address barriers related to lack of integrated planning and over-engineering of the current eco-projects. In particular, they aim to address the ongoing unsustainable land use change due to disintegrated landscape management resulting from unsynchronized spatial planning, insufficient application of integrated approaches in the biodiversity and natural resource management plans (including the failure to consider climate risks), and lack of integration of the traditional and indigenous knowledge into landscape planning and management, as well as sustainable livelihoods.

- The project will facilitate *knowledge management and capacity strengthening* efforts to enhance public awareness of the significance of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. This aligns with Intermediate Outcome 3a, which focuses on strengthening knowledge management, public awareness, and capacity to boost the use of best practices in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, fostering cross-sectoral learning and equipping stakeholders to participate effectively in decision-making. Furthermore, Intermediate Outcome 3b will be supported through enhanced monitoring systems, institutionalizing adaptive management and ensuring more responsive project management. The project also seeks to strengthen stakeholders' capacity and participation in decision-making process in designing and implementing integrated spatial planning and PA management. These strategies are designed to fill-in the gaps in awareness and capacity related to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

Figure 1. The project's Theory of Change (ToC)



In the long term, by pursuing those pathways, the project aims to foster systemic change and promote replication by engaging with not only the governmental actors but also private sector, CSOs and IPLCs. This approach will thereby maximize the effectiveness and scale of the transformative impact envisaged through the GEF investment. Additionally, the project's approaches aim to foster **behavioral change** by engaging all relevant stakeholders, individuals, and communities to encourage their support for biodiversity and resource management. This will be done through various educational and awareness campaigns, lessons documentation from pilot implementation, participatory decision-making processes, and collaborative partnerships, and by tapping into social and cultural values/traditions to promote biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, it also seeks to ensure **resilience to future changes** related to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in China. To achieve this, the project will ensure that all of the project's approaches, processes, and interventions involve multi-level engagement (national, provincial and local), at pilot but also replication scales in the project's Target Areas, affirming inclusivity and buy-in of all relevant stakeholders. In this regard, private sector, CSO and IPLCs engagement will be essential in developing

innovative solutions and technologies to effective biodiversity conservation. By collaborating with private companies and the other relevant stakeholders, the project can access innovative research, technology, and financing mechanisms to build resilience and adapt to changing environmental conditions. Furthermore, the project's causal pathways also underscore its intention to strengthen the systems that enable effective biodiversity and landscape management/restoration. Here, the GEF's investment is directed towards enhancing social capital by fostering knowledge exchange networks, complementing capacity building, which will promote adaptive learning. This comprehensive approach seeks to deliver impact that extends beyond the immediate scope of the project, benefiting not only targeted areas but also holding the potential to create lasting change in other parts of China, as well as outside the country.

In doing so, the project will build on and complement national/sub-national programs and capacities (as outlined in Part A) for integrated biodiversity conservation and natural resource management and use transformational levers to catalytically enable impact at scale. Additionally, the project recognizes the importance of strengthening gender equity and enhancing the participation of private sector, civil society organizations, and particularly the IPLCs, in biodiversity and resource governance and will ensure that gender and indigenous knowledge mainstreaming is reflected in the project's design and its intervention. The project's components, outcomes, outputs, and interventions are described in the next section.

B.2 Project components

The goal of this project mentioned above in TOC will be achieved through four complimentary and inter-related components. It is important to note that the descriptions of the outcomes in the following component narrative will be implemented in a dynamic and iterative manner and therefore should not be interpreted as being a linear process.

The project will be achieved through components:

This component will address barriers related to insufficient policy and technical guidelines and sectoral silos to mainstream biodiversity conservation. It will also focus on facilitating the mobilization of resources that can be invested in biodiversity conservation through establishing supportive policy and financing solutions. Interventions will include:

Outcome 1.1 Biodiversity is mainstreamed in the national territory spatial planning system and aligned with GBF, through cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation and coordination.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Improvement of cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination at the ministry level: development of a permanent biodiversity steering committee composed of natural resources, ecological environment, grassland, sea, financial ministries; establishment of an operational coordination mechanism in the national territory spatial planning system; (2) Formulation of regulation on nature restoration to align with the updated NBSAP and GBF; and (3) Incorporation of biodiversity objectives into the redline review of National Spatial Planning, such as all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning, effective management processes addressing land use change, sufficient restoration for enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystem services and connectivity, and so on, in alignment with GBF targets 1-3.

Outcome 1.2 Key Land Use change drivers are addressed through the development of national technical guidelines that integrate Protected Areas (PAs) and productive landscapes.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Development of and use/land use change guidelines to mainstream biodiversity in land-use regulation; (2) Development of Conservation and Restoration (bio-corridors and connectivity) technical guidelines for different types of ecosystems such as riverine, grassland, forest cropland ecosystems that considers bio-ecological and tropic complexities; (3) Development of national OECMs guidelines for effective conservation of large landscapes including PAs and productive landscapes outside PAs, to inform Output 1.3.3; and (4) Development of integrated landscape management plans that are fully aligned with the policy and the technical guidelines frameworks developed under (1) and (2).

Outcome 1.3 The enabling and regulatory environment at the provincial level is established and supported through technical guidelines on integrated approaches for ecological conservation and restoration in alignment with national level and global obligations.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Establishment of biodiversity coordination groups, and formulation of biodiversity-oriented ecological conservation and restoration management guidelines for the target provinces; (2) Development of provincial land use regulations to address land use and habitat conversion due to anthropogenic activities; and (3) Development of local OECMs technical guidelines for the different types of ecosystems in the four target provinces, based on the national OECMs guidelines developed under Output 1.2.3.

Outcome 1.4 The enabling environment for biodiversity financing is established and supported by policies and incentives.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Development of a national biodiversity finance plan with an emphasis on sustainable ecological conservation and natural resource utilization, including the identification of viable resource mobilization mechanisms (built upon the BIOFIN approach to biodiversity finance, and lessons from the existing sub-national BIOFIN projects in China e.g., Shanghai and Shandong, as well as lessons from the BIOFIN projects in other countries); (2) Initiation and completion of a biodiversity policy and institutional review, expenditure review and finance need analysis for the target provinces; and (3) Compilation of provincial biodiversity finance plans, and contribute to the national biodiversity finance plan, including identifying appropriate biodiversity finance solutions. (Working as foundation for and in tandem with 2.4.1 and 2.4.2).

This component focuses on landscape-level activities in the four ecosystem types with global biodiversity significance in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan, and implementing the policies/regulations, technical guidelines, management plans, and financing solutions developed in Component 1.

Outcome 2.1 Management effectiveness of large landscapes improved and delivered in an integrated manner on the basis of robust management plans and guidelines.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) In the four target provinces, the background survey of biodiversity and the effectiveness assessment of landscape management conducted to develop biodiversity-related Integrated landscape management plans (covering all representative ecosystems) and individual operational plans for four target landscape; the individual landscape management plan will be tailored to the local typical ecosystems: Jiangsu – coastal ecosystem, Yunnan – alpine lake ecosystem, Sichuan – alpine wetland ecosystem, Zhejiang – integrated ecosystem of montane subtropical forest and productive terrace; (2) Implementation part of management plans and integrated approaches fully aligned with the policy and guideline frameworks developed under outcomes 1.1 and 1.2 to enable improved management effectiveness of 320,000 ha of PAs, and improved practices of 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs (which includes 180,000 ha of potential OECMs candidates facilitated under Outcome 2.3).

Outcome 2.2 Large landscapes with increased connectivity and bio-corridor network, within which habitats and food pyramid of biodiversity hot spots are improved.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Improvement of habitat and food pyramid through implementation part of management plans under outcome 2.1 and adoption of integrated approaches, including adequate ‘improved management and restoration’ measures, and incorporation of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the four target areas. These approaches will include strategies for improvement of management practices in inland waters and wetlands outside protected areas, application of Forest Landscape Restoration approach for improved management of corridors and habitats, sustainable grassland management practices. The specific interventions for integrated landscape approaches in the four target habitats (specific sites to be defined during the PPG) and ecological corridors in Yunnan and Sichuan will be defined during the PPG stage, based on each individual target habitat and ecological corridor. These interventions will be aimed at addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, including habitat degradation and ecosystem fragmentation, while restoring ecological functionality and connectivity and supporting the provision of ecosystem services. (2) Establishment of ecological corridors through application of biodiversity mainstreaming and integrated management-restoration approaches, and following appropriate standards and principles, such as the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) standards; this includes the creation of 18-km ecological corridor along the lakeshore of Erhai Lake in Yunnan Province and the 2-km ecological corridor of Min River Basin in upper headwater region of Ruergai in Sichuan Province; (3) Monitoring of carbon emission reduction from interventions of sustainable forest management under 2.1.2, as well as 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 in alignment with the biodiversity -oriented guidelines forest ecosystem plan developed under 1.2.

2) Improvement of management practices in inland waters and wetlands outside protected areas, amounting to approximately 100,000 ha; (3) Application of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach on 200,000 ha of forest land outside protected areas; (4) Implementation of sustainable grassland management practices on 100,000 ha of grassland ecosystems, contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilization of these ecosystems; and (5) Improve management practices of 100,000 ha farmland outside protected areas, emphasizing sustainable management approaches for productive landscapes.

Outcome 2.3 Rare species conservation is expanded in scope and effectiveness on the basis of newly identified OECMs candidates.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Field investigation and preliminary baseline analysis to screen and identify potential demonstrations referring to the “*Site-level Tool for Identifying Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)*” by IUCN^[4], and designate 180,000 ha of OECMs candidates within natural and productive landscapes using technical guidelines developed under outcome 1.3 and in alignment with HCVA criteria; (2) Development of supportive local policy incentives for OECMs candidates, and adoption of favorable regulatory measures to further integrate OECMs in more various fields such as fisheries, agriculture, cities, recreation, etc.; and (3) Compilation of OECMs certification, management guidelines, and lessons/experiences from application and demonstration, to promote standardization and scaling-up of OECMs in China.

Outcome 2.4 Biodiversity financing increased in target areas through application of the selected biodiversity finance solutions under 1.4.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Implementation of at least two national level biodiversity finance solutions/instruments as per output 1.4.3 to mobilize resources for biodiversity, such as carbon market, blended biodiversity bond, etc.; (2) Implementation of selected biodiversity finance solutions at the local level, e.g., biodiversity offset, PES, etc., as per provincial biodiversity finance plans to mobilize more resources for biodiversity, reduce harmful expenditure and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use in the target landscapes.

Outcome 2.5 Biodiversity is monitored within institutional systems and information is generated.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Establishment of a monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system/platform for monitoring the status and trends of biodiversity in the four target provinces to protect biodiversity of global significance as well as to align with the targets of NBSAP and headline indicators of the global biodiversity framework; (2) Collection and generation of biodiversity conservation data for the MRV system/platform, and development of monitoring guidelines based on the collected data.

Outcome 2.6 Alternative livelihoods created for local communities and their income increased through commercialization of ecological products in target areas, taking into account gender.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Development and implementation of business models for ecological product brands with geographical identification and ecological product certification in the target provinces, to engage local communities to improve their livelihoods and reduce threats to biodiversity; (2) Creation and establishment alternative livelihoods and augment income for local communities such as biodiversity monitoring, nature education, ecological tourism and health tourism. (3) Active engagement of enterprises in ecological conservation and restoration through establishment of land/sea trading and transfer systems, private social investment, or PPPs.

Outcome 3.1 Public awareness raised, and knowledge on the best practices developed and applied by the project efficiently shared across different levels and stakeholders.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Completion of Knowledge-Attitudes-Practices (KAP) surveys; (2) Formulation and implementation of publicity knowledge action plan, and increased public awareness through campaigns, conferences, and events at national, regional, and global levels as well as sharing of project progress, results, best practices and lessons-learned.

Outcome 3.2 Capacities to design and deliver spatial planning and PA management are enhanced including through the use of integrated approaches and tools (such as OECM guidelines, MRV et. al)

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) Provision of training and capacity building for Government officials and local practitioners in the four target provinces and two scale-up areas (Ningxia and Inner Mongolia) through off-line trainings and online scale-up trainings; (2) Establishment and international expansion of a South-South engagement mechanism on conservation and restoration platform/alliance; (3) Completion of cross-regional learning and training on spatial planning, PA management, through the use of integrated approaches and tools, such as OECM guidelines, MRV and best practices and lessons learned, as well as knowledge sharing exchange trips including LDCs (Least Developed Countries); and (4) Development of knowledge products, such as handbook, on best practices of China’s biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project will follow the principles, criteria and minimum requirements set out in the GEF M&E policy. At the same time, M&E will comply with the rules and regulations governing the M&E of UNDP technical cooperation projects. All monitoring and evaluation documents, such as progress reports, final evaluation reports and thematic

evaluations (such as capacity needs assessment), as well as publications/reports on the project, will include attention to gender dimensions.

Outcome 4.1 Enhanced monitoring for adaptive management.

Key outputs and deliverables include: (1) M&E system supporting project impact including gender and youth mainstreaming, as well as the application of SES-related management plans including ESIA; (2) Completion of project mid-term review and terminal evaluation; and (3) Development of recommendation and action plan for long term project sustainability as part of follow-up to terminal evaluation.

Global Environment Benefits

The project will contribute to multiple global environment benefits (GEBs). First, the project will promote improved management effectiveness in 320,000 ha of terrestrial and coastal PAs (terrestrial in Zhejiang and Yunnan, and coastal protected area in Jiangsu) through adoption of biodiversity-related Integrated landscape management plans. Specifically, the project will improve the management of 70,000 ha landscapes within the Dali Mount Cangshan, Global Geopark Cangshan, and Erhai National Nature Reserve in Yunnan, at least 50,000 ha landscape in the Baishanzu National Park in Zhejiang, and 130,000 ha landscape in the Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve in Sichuan. Additionally, the project will also facilitate improved management of 70,000 ha of coastal protected areas in the Yellow Sea coastal zone within the Dafeng Pere David's Deer Nature Reserve and Yancheng Wetland National Nature Reserve of Rare Birds in Jiangsu.

Second, the project will enable improved management practices in at least 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs (including 180,000 ha of OECMs). This target will be achieved through adoption and implementation of the integrated management plans in the target provinces. These include the following: (1) The development and application of OECMs across 180,000 ha in diverse landscapes and seascapes; (2) Improvement of management practices in inland waters and wetlands outside protected areas, amounting to approximately 100,000 ha; (3) Application of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach on 200,000 ha of forest land outside protected areas; (4) Implementation of sustainable grassland management practices on 100,000 ha of grassland ecosystems, contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilization of these ecosystems; and (5) Improve management practices of 100,000 ha farmland outside protected areas, emphasizing sustainable management approaches for productive landscapes.

Collectively, the improved management practices in 320,000 ha of protected areas, and 680,000 ha of productive ecosystems outside protected areas will mitigate 33 MtCO₂e of GHG emissions. These objectives will be achieved through 1) **national level interventions**: concentrating on facilitating cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation and coordination to develop and legalize national regulatory frameworks and guidelines to ensure the effective integration of nature restoration and biodiversity (BD) mainstreaming, coupled with the implementation of robust financing mechanism; and 2) **provincial level interventions**: emphasizing multi-stakeholder coordination to formulate and execute policies and technical guidelines that promote integrated approaches for ecological conservation and restoration at the provincial level. The provincial strategic focus aims to enable the implementation of integrated landscape management, encompassing the identification of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM), and the development of financing plans in designated pilot sites. These interventions above are designed to safeguard both terrestrial and marine protected areas, along with critical high-biodiversity and productive ecosystems. Notably, the targeted coastal ecosystem in Jiangsu Province serves as an important hub for the East Asia-Australasia migratory bird migration route. This area provides a habitat for 23 species of internationally significant birds, playing a crucial role in the survival of 17 species listed on the IUCN Red List. Similarly, the target area in Zhejiang Province possesses an extensive preserved forested region with abundant biodiversity in East China. In addition, the alpine lake in Yunnan Province and the alpine peat swamp wetlands in Sichuan Province have been identified as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) priority areas and global biodiversity hotspots. These targeted sites are instrumental in the protection of endangered species, including but not limited to *Abies beshanzuensis*, *Grus japonensis*, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, *Rhinopithecus*, and more. The project aims to ensure the conservation and sustainability of these vital ecosystems and the species they support.

Lastly, the project will also bring about positive impacts on at least 100,000 beneficiaries (of which half is women) who will share the benefits of increased biodiversity and other ecosystem services equitably. Capacity building will also contribute to sustainability of these approaches after the project's completion. Lastly, the project also recognizes the importance of strengthening gender equity in biodiversity and resource governance and its role in upscaling and will ensure gender mainstreaming and gender inclusion in its interventions. These aspects and approaches are further elaborated in Section D and Annex I.

Incremental cost reasoning

The proposed project will leverage existing initiatives in China to deliver global environmental benefits. Under component 1, the absence of effective coordination among different sectors hampers efforts to create enabling policy for biodiversity restoration and mainstream biodiversity in the spatial plans conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources. Although some guidelines exist, they are not comprehensive or standardized enough to optimize environmental governance in China. All of these will potentially lead to continue ineffective biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in the country without GEF intervention. Under component 2, without GEF investment, landscape management will continue to be fragmented due to unsynchronized spatial planning and lack of sustainable financing for biodiversity. Additionally, there will be gaps in application of integrated landscape management approaches in biodiversity and natural resource management plans, leading to negligence to account for climate-related risks. Moreover, in the absence of GEF support, traditional and indigenous knowledge might also not adequately integrate into landscape planning and management, leading to incorporation of sustainable livelihoods into landscape management.

Lastly, under component 3, there are knowledge and capacity deficits that hamper the effectiveness of the current conservation efforts. Here, GEF investment will lessen the gaps in awareness and capacity related to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. Overall, the proposed project's incremental cost is justified by the potential to achieve multiple global environmental benefits, specifically those related to improved PA and landscape management, and climate mitigation; and contribute to China's GBF targets, NDC and LTS, NBSAP, the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems.

Stakeholder Engagement

Multiple stakeholders have been (PIF process) and will be engaged to contribute to the preparation, implementation, and further promotion of the project activities; these stakeholders include national ministries,^[2] the provincial and municipal bureau of natural resources, UN and international finance agencies (UNDP, FAO, World Bank, ADB), private sector, academic institutes, colleges and universities, CGOs, IPLCs, etc. Details about stakeholders and their roles in this project are listed in **Table 2 of Annex II 'Stakeholder Engagement Plan'**. At the national level, MNR will be engaged in the project as IP, provide comprehensive consultation and advice on project design, management structure, government co-financing, and coordination with other relevant partners, and will take charge of the daily implementation of the project. At the project's geography level, the project selects four target provinces (Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Yunnan and Sichuan) as well as two scale-up areas from Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolia (Figure .1), where their IPLCs are primary users of the natural resources and are also direct participants and beneficiaries of the project.

The project places a dual emphasis on stakeholder engagement and empowerment, acknowledging the pivotal role stakeholders play in the successful delivery of project outcomes and the scalability of its impacts. To this end, the project will actively advocate for collaborative decision-making and invest in the capacity development of stakeholders throughout the implementation phase. This involves, but not limited to, advocating for meaningful inclusion and active participation of the stakeholders from government agencies (i.e. ministries that have the authority to influence land use and ecosystems), civil society organizations, private sector, and especially IPLCs and marginalized groups, in formulating and adopting biodiversity policy, guidelines and plans developed under this project. The project will also empower these stakeholders, in terms of knowledge, capacity and tools, to proactively contribute to decisions and actions delivered through the national permanent biodiversity steering committee, and provincial biodiversity coordination groups. This approach applies to all project's outputs, in particular outputs under outcomes that facilitate policy/regulatory/conservation plans development (Outcomes 1.1., 1.2., 1.3) as well as outputs under outcome that target community's livelihood (Outcome 2.6). Additionally, the project will facilitate capacity strengthening for stakeholders to design and apply integrated approaches and tools for spatial planning and PA management (Outcome 3.2), which is also considered as a form of stakeholder empowerment (i.e. provision of the means to engage).

Furthermore, the project recognizes that engaging the private sector is essential for effective biodiversity planning, management, and financing, as it leverages resources, expertise, and innovation to address conservation challenges. As previously mentioned, the project will foster partnerships between governments, CSOs, private sector entities and IPLCs to inclusively contribute to the design of biodiversity policy, guidelines, and plans, as well as to improve the management of terrestrial and coastal PAs, and productive landscapes/ecosystems. These PPCPs will help mobilize private sector funding, technology, and expertise to support conservation efforts while creating value for businesses and sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Additionally, utilizing collaborative platforms, the project aims to establish transparent communication channels and feedback loops, ensuring continuous alignment with stakeholders' (including private sector's) evolving needs. These platforms will facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer between the governments, private sector, conservation organizations and IPLCs to promote innovative solutions for biodiversity conservation. This includes collaborating on research and conservation effort designs and implementation, sharing best practices, and adopting cutting-edge technologies for monitoring, management, and restoration of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. This collaborative approach promotes a transformative paradigm in which every stakeholder actively contributes to shared success and empowerment. More specific strategies for stakeholder engagement and empowerment will be thoroughly examined during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) and elaborated upon in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

To demonstrate the project's commitment for meaningful stakeholder engagement, initial consultations have commenced during design stage and will be consulted further during PPG to collect their opinions about the detailed design so as to confirm their support for the project; and throughout the implementation period, they will also be actively engaged (including for their traditional knowledge and wisdom to the protection of landscapes such as village forests, old trees in village ponds and temple woodlands, endangered species such as endemic birds in villages, and small and micro wetlands in screening potential OECMs). Furthermore, the private sector (e.g., the Ant Forest), which will be engaged as co-financing of this project, is currently supporting the practical work of blockchain for ecological conservation and **restoration** in Lishui, of Zhejiang Province, and is able to provide technical support on biodiversity conservation for the project. Many more private sector actors will be engaged during PPG and implementation period, particularly for outcomes 2.4 and 2.6. Meanwhile, the universities, academic institutes, and CSOs will be engaged to contribute to scientific evidence-building, technical innovation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL).

Innovation and scaling up

This project will promote innovative application of integrated spatial planning and landscape management through cohesive participation of multi-stakeholders to bring about a transformational change in biodiversity conservation and resource management. More specifically: (1) **Application of integrated approaches in spatial planning and landscape management**: where the project will enhance synergy in the national and sub-national spatial planning and landscape management. It will do so by strengthening multi-level governance/policies/institutions, technical guidelines, and capacities to maximize the conservation and management of priority, biodiversity-significant landscapes, and promote improved landscape management efficiency and practices including through establishment of OECMs and wildlife corridors. (2) **Diversification of fund source and efficient management of financial flows for biodiversity**: where project will leverage resources for biodiversity by strengthening stakeholder participation and cross-sectoral coordination (by establishing mechanisms for multistakeholder-based biodiversity committee/groups), development and implementation of sustainable financial solutions and market incentives for biodiversity, as well as empowerment of IPLC livelihoods. These financial solutions or incentives will be informed by the BIOFIN approach, taking into account the lessons from any design and applications at both national and sub-national levels.

The project's approach to innovation and scale-up aligns with the transformational levers identified in the program design. By catalytically enabling impact at scale, the project will contribute to the GEBs and long-term objectives on effective biodiversity conservation and resource management.

Knowledge management

The GEF's critical investments in biodiversity, as proposed here, include provisions for 'South-South Cooperation' and 'Knowledge Management' for the project. In this regard, the project will supplement the government's supporting funds and private capital obtained from market-oriented channels to build the knowledge management (K/M) system for the project, to promote collaboration and learning among stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, IPLCs, CSOs, private sector et al. This will ensure that the knowledge gained during the project's design and implementation is shared widely and effectively. The K/M system can also be utilized by implementing and executing agencies, project partners and beneficiaries to track progress and make informed decisions, thereby contributing to effective project operation, meaningful delivery, and sustainability of project outcomes. Knowledge management under the project's interventions will foster adaptive learning among key

stakeholders, in particular the governments and local communities. Consequently, adaptive learning will become a dynamic tool that contributes significantly to the ability of the stakeholders to respond effectively to changing circumstances. Additionally, knowledge management fosters collaboration and connectivity through knowledge-sharing networks and platforms, which enables a holistic understanding of challenges and opportunities. Furthermore, lessons-learned and experience from knowledge exchanges will be utilized for polishing and upgrading, and to elevate practices to work across national and international borders through which the project outcomes will continue functioning.

Coordination, as well as policy strengthening and coherence

A key measure promoted by the project to address barriers to effective biodiversity conservation and resource management is formulation and adoption of policy frameworks and legal guidelines for biodiversity mainstreaming and nature management-restoration and financing. By facilitating the formulation and adoption of these policy frameworks and guidelines, the project will create enabling conditions for harmonizing spatial planning and landscape management at the national and sub-national levels. In terms of incorporating biodiversity protection, management, and restoration into spatial planning, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) plays a central role. MNR is responsible for revising and approving spatial plans at the national, provincial, and mega-city levels, and will be pivotal in ensuring the adoption of relevant policy frameworks, guidelines, and plans. In parallel, the project will also ensure responsible financing/incentives for effective biodiversity and resource governance. The process of policy/regulatory facilitation and guideline development will be convened through inclusive, multi-stakeholder participation, such as through the biodiversity committee and coordination groups). This participatory strategy aligns with the government's commitment to fostering the inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders in environmental protection efforts. Moreover, the project's overarching design is tailored to elevate policy coherence and consistency, mitigating the potentially conflicting impacts of laws, incentives, actions, and subsidies on biodiversity and nature conservation and management. In doing so, the project will conduct meticulous research to identify existing policies, laws, and incentives at the national and sub-national levels that may pose challenges to effective biodiversity conservation. This assessment will be conducted for the formulation of national nature restoration regulation (Output 1.1.2), and BD-oriented land use/land use change guidelines to mainstream BD (outputs under Outcomes 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3).

Achieving effective biodiversity conservation and resource management requires the active involvement of ministries and government departments outside the MNR, as well as relevant stakeholders from civil society counterparts, private sector actors and IPLCs. Government/ministry stakeholders include ministries that have the authority to influence land use and ecosystems, such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Water Resources, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and Ministry of Transport. Their participation is critical to achieving a transformative shift in the drivers and systems impacting biodiversity and ecosystems. Building on this groundwork, the project will facilitate the development of evidence-based policy recommendations, advocating for the adoption of relevant policy frameworks, guidelines and plans, while emphasizing the ecological, economic, and social benefits of biodiversity conservation. Through national and provincial-level spatial planning committees and coordination groups, led by MNR's Spatial Planning Bureau, the project will support cross-sectoral coordination in planning and decision-making. Additionally, biodiversity coordination mechanisms will be activated at the national, provincial, and city levels to further strengthen biodiversity governance. In this context, valuable feedback, and technical inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders, including development partners with experience in similar initiatives, play a pivotal role. This underscores the project's commitment to leveraging the knowledge and expertise garnered from existing GEF and non-GEF parallel and planned projects and initiatives, as outlined in the "Planned cooperation with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives" section. This collaborative approach ensures a well-informed and comprehensive strategy for effective policy formulation and adoption, enhancing the overall success of biodiversity and resource management endeavors.

Finally, the project will capacitate at least 2,000 officials and more than 20,000 local level practitioners (under Outcome 3.2) to design and utilize integrated approaches in spatial planning and PA management. This intervention will enable replication of integrated landscape planning and biodiversity conservation beyond the project's geography and timeline. Here, the project will leverage the National Territory Spatial Planning Outline (2021–2035), which integrates multiple spatial plans into a cohesive "multi-plan integration" approach, ensuring that biodiversity objectives are embedded into broader land-use and development strategies.

[1] : Jonas, H. D., MacKinnon, K., Marnewick, D. and Wood, P. (2023). Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). First edition. IUCN WCPA Technical Report Series No. 6. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

[2] Including Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), Ministry of Agriculture

[1] Forman & Godron (1986); Naveh & Lieberman (1994); Antrop, M. (2000)

[2] The Spatial Planning System in China, with its 'Five Levels, Three Categories' structure, will serve as a foundational framework, guiding the project's alignment with national, provincial, city, county, and township-level plans. In this project, special attention will be given to integrating biodiversity-focused NbS and land-use guidelines into spatial plans, ensuring that interventions are ecologically sound and socially inclusive.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The potential execution support and rationale to seek an exception to the policy will be assessed during the PPG phase, following a detailed evaluation and the completion of the HACT micro-assessment of MNR as the Implementing Partner. During this phase, the project will explore all available options, including the possibility of third-party support, to determine if execution support can be requested on an exceptional basis.

Planned cooperation with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives: The project approaches have a strong emphasis on building upon baseline activities implemented by project partners, as well as on establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved. The project will connect and collaborate with (e.g., potential implementation partners, co-financing) and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. Some of the key related initiatives where partnerships will be fostered are listed in the table below (more initiatives will be explored during the PPG).

Existing initiatives	Main Partners	Intersection with project outputs/interventions
GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) Project	Ministry of Environmental Protection; State Oceanic Administration; UNDP; FECO; CI	C-PAR project aims to transform China's national protected area system through systematic legal and institutional reform and innovation for conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Intersections: <i>project outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 3.2.3</i>
GEF-6 PRC-GEF Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP) project	Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Environmental Protection; UNDP; FAO; the World Bank	C-SAP project focuses on a) piloting and scaling up effective policy and investment measures to mainstream in-situ conservation and sustainable use of globally important genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), b) improving the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species (IAS), c) conserving and enhancing carbon stock and promoting evidence-based and climate-smart conservation of grassland ecosystems, and d) collaborative innovation in climate change and biodiversity from the aspects of policy, mechanism, knowledge sharing and partnerships. Intersections: <i>project outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4</i>
GEF-7 Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asia-Australasia Flyway (EAAF) in China	National Forestry and Grassland Administration; UNDP	EAAF project aims to secure the conservation of globally threatened migratory waterbirds through the establishment of a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China. It covers four provinces, including Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, and Yunnan, with Dashanbao Nature Reserve in Yunnan being one of the project pilots. Intersections: <i>project outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2</i>
GEF-7 Restoration of Degraded Natural Forests and Soil Erosion Management Improvement in Erosion-Prone Regions of China	National Forestry and Grassland Administration; UNDP	To mainstream sustainable Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for improving flows of ecosystems services of degraded Natural Forest Use Land (NFUL) in soil erosion-prone regions of China, based on a multi-level

		governance and landscape approach. The project's geography covers five provinces, including Gansu, Chongqing, Fujian, Yunnan, and Guizhou. Intersections: <i>project outputs 1.1.1, 1.3.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1</i>
GEF-7 Transformational Wildlife Conservation Management in China Project	UNDP, FECO	The project protects China's key threatened flagship wildlife through cross-sectoral coordination, community engagement, and cross-landscape innovative management technologies. Intersections: <i>project outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4</i>
BIOFIN China	UNDP	BIOFIN China Program was launched in June 2021. BIOFIN Pilot in Shanghai and Shandong aims to demonstrate and support local government and financial markets to develop biodiversity finance plans and implement biodiversity finance solutions. Intersections: <i>project outputs 2.4.1, 2.4.2</i>
TBD	ADB, IUCN	In addition to the above contents, there are currently two biodiversity focused projects being developed in China with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IUCN. intersections: to be identified at the PPG
Wildlife Conservation Small Grant Fund	WWF China	WWF has intensified its commitment to the conservation of reptiles and amphibians over the past 2 to 3 years. Presently, there are 11 ongoing projects actively contributing to the protection of these species in the field. Intersections: to be identified at the PPG
TBD	Conservation International China	Conservation International has undertaken diverse projects, including: (i) Enhanced management of protected areas and national parks; (ii) Capacity building initiatives for local nature reserves; (iii) Participation in the BRIGC, where it serves as one of the international partners leading the thematic partnership on 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management.' intersections: to be identified at the PPG
TBD	Shan Shui Conservation Center	The Shan Shui Conservation Center, a local NGO dedicated to species and ecosystem conservation, has successfully executed a range of impactful projects. Some of these include: (i) Snow Leopards and Grassland Conservation Project; (ii) Giant Panda and Forest Conservation; (iii) Forest Conservation in Yunnan and Southeast Tibet; (iv) Nature Watch Project; (v) Urban Biodiversity and Citizen Science Project. intersections: to be identified at the PPG

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
250000	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
250000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Baishan zu National Park		Protected Landscape/Seascape	50,000.00						
Dali Mount Cangshan Global Geopark Cangshan Erhai National Nature Reserve		Protected Landscape/Seascape	70,000.00						
Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve	109014	National Park	130,000.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
70000	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
70000	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Dafeng National Nature Reserve	900674	Protected Landscape/Seascape	70,000.00						

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)
500000	0	0	0

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)
500,000.00			

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)

OECMs in the productive landscapes in Lishu city of Zhejiang Province IECMs (TBD)		100,000.00			
Yellow Sea Wetland OECMs (TBD)		80,000.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	33090041	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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 CO₂e (direct)	33,090,041			
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024			
Duration of accounting	20			

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 CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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	50,000			
Male	50,000			
Total	100,000	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

- Core Indicators 1 and 2: through adoption of biodiversity-related Integrated landscape management plans, the project will improve the management of 70,000 ha landscapes within the Dali Mount Cangshan, Global Geopark Cangshan, and Erhai National Nature Reserve in Yunnan, at least 50,000 ha landscape in the Baishanzu National Park in Zhejiang, and 130,000 ha landscape in the Ruorgai Wetland National Nature Reserve in Sichuan. Additionally, the project will also facilitate improved management of 70,000 ha of coastal protected areas in the Yellow Sea coastal zone within the Dafeng Pere David's Deer Nature Reserve and Yancheng Wetland National Nature Reserve of Rare Birds in Jiangsu.
- Core Indicator 4: the project will also improve the management of 680,000 ha of productive landscapes outside protected areas through adoption and implementation of the integrated management plans in the target provinces. These include the following: (a) The development and application of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) across 180,000 ha in diverse landscapes and seascapes. Examples include OECMs for endangered migratory birds, such as *Grus nigricollis* and *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, in farmlands or wetlands outside protected areas, and OECMs for oyster-formed reef footprints in the coastal zone of the Yellow Sea Wetland. The specific area and name of the OECMs will be identified/designated during implementation. (b) Improve management practices in inland waters and wetlands outside protected areas, amounting to approximately 100,000 ha. This includes enhanced practices for sustainable water and wetland management, such as improved rewetting for peatlands, naturalization for streams and rivers, and sustainable management of constructed wetlands in productive landscapes. (c) Improve management practices through the establishment of ecological corridors via the application of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach on 200,000 ha of forest land outside protected areas in Yunnan and Sichuan. (d) Implementation of sustainable grassland management practices on 100,000 ha of grassland ecosystems, contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilization of these ecosystems. (e) Improve management practices of 100,000 ha farmland outside protected areas, emphasizing sustainable management approaches for productive landscapes.
- Core Indicator 6: Carbon mitigation is calculated using the FAO Ex-ACT tool and is derived from the change in forest cover and land use due to the improved management practices in 320,000 ha of protected areas, and 680,000 ha of productive ecosystems outside protected areas. It is expected that these interventions will result in at least 33 million tons of CO₂e (20-year estimates). Annex C provides the details of the calculation, and validation will be conducted during the PPG phase.
- Core Indicator 11: Finally, the project is expected to directly benefit a total of 100,000 people, with 50,000 females from local to national levels. The estimate for indirect beneficiaries will be conducted at PPG stage.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate change has the potential to impact the target areas in Sichuan and Jiangsu, e.g., through habitat degradation because of warming-induced glacier melting and permafrost

		thawing in Sichuan, sea level rise and flooding in Jiangsu, impacting project outcomes in the longer-term and the resilience of communities and their alternative livelihoods. Please see the project's pre-SESP for details (Annex D)
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The overall risk-rating for the project is 'Moderate'. Among the seven (7) project risks identified through the pre-SESP, five (5) have been assessed as moderate and two (2) risks were rated as low, based on preliminary assessment – all risk ratings will be re-assessed during PPG as more baseline information is gathered. Risks associated with biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, climate change and other low to moderate risks will be addressed through screening and risk assessment during PPG and specific plans will be incorporated into ESMF to be developed during PPG following UNDP social and environmental standards, mitigation measures and proactive stakeholder engagement during project implementation. Please see the project's pre-SESP for details (Annex D).
Political and Governance	Low	The project activities will be carried out at the national, provincial, city, county, and community levels, and have received strong support from the government and relevant parties. The main body of project implementation, i.e., MNR has many years of project implementation and management experience, rich experience in the political environment and governance capacity, and strong response measures. There is a risk that the turnover and job rotation of the government officials might result in some delays in the project implementation, considering that the new personnel might need time to get familiar with the project. But the risk is low owing to management mechanism and lifelong assessment system.

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The adoption of the national nature restoration regulation, provincial land use regulations and landscape management plans, as well as OECMs and corridor establishment, will depend on the national and provincial government's buy-in. There is a potential that the newly appointed governors change their commitments / priorities due to the turnover. There is a risk that this might lead to a lack of buy-in for the adoption of these policies/plans, or a lack of support for OECMs and corridor establishment, which could delay the execution of interventions under outcomes 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. The project will actively engage with successors during both the planning and implementation phases, particularly when there's a risk of their involvement and buy-in affecting project outcomes. This engagement will aim to secure their support and minimize any negative impact on project deliverables. Additionally, the stakeholder engagement plan will specifically address this risk, outlining detailed strategies to mitigate its effects.
Technological		n/a
Financial and Business Model		n/a

EXECUTION

Capacity	Low	The national implementation agency (MNR) has good capacity and has very professional expertise. However, since this is their first time being involved in a GEF's project as an executing agency, there is a risk that they might need more time to adjust to the GEF and UNDP's procedures, which might cause some delay in the project implementation. UNDP will provide necessary briefing or training during the inception to ensure smooth adjustment (especially considering that the executing agency personnel are fast learners).
Fiduciary	Moderate	Financial Management and Procurement risks correspond to any potential mismanagement of funds. The project will ensure that UNDP and GEF financial rules are followed during the entire lifespan of the project. In addition, financial audits will be carried out on a regular basis to avoid any potential change in the use of project funding.
Stakeholder	Moderate	There is a risk that the project implementers may not effectively engage and ensure the participation of all stakeholders, including women and ethnic minorities, during the project design and the implementation phases resulting in the inequitable impacts on affected populations, and limited participation in decisions that may affect them. Some stakeholders, especially the vulnerable groups, located in remote areas could potentially be excluded from discussions on project design or target beneficiaries. Please see the project's Pre-SESP (Annex D for detail).
Other	Low	Operational Risk: Due to the ongoing global economic situation, there is a risk that inflation rate might increase during PPG and/or project implementation, which might affect the exchange rate and hence, the project's operational and other costs. The project will reassess this risk during the PPG and prepare appropriate mitigation strategies.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Through the combination of all identified risks, this assessment concludes that this project risk rating is moderate. However, close monitoring of risks (identified or upcoming) will guarantee adequate risk identification, management, and adaptation. The project will conduct targeted assessments and SESA and develop the required plans, whether at the PPG phase or implementation period, to mitigate all risks mentioned above.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project’s objective and interventions are aligned with GEF-8 programming strategies, as well as China’s national and global priorities, as outlined in the table below.

GEF-8's programming strategies	National Strategies and Policies	Project Contributions
<p><u>GEF-8 Program objectives:</u></p> <p>BD-1 Improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BD-1-1 financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems • BD-1-3 ecosystem restoration • BD-1-4 BD mainstreaming in priority sectors <p>BD-3 Increase mobilization of domestic resources for BD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BD-3-1 development of domestic resource mobilization/BD finance plans • BD-3-2 implementation of domestic resource mobilization/BD finance plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBF : secure 30% of land and water areas for conservation by 2030; pledge to contribute \$233 million to the global BD; China’s NBSAB has also identified 35 priority zones for biodiversity conservation in China. • Integration of BD conservation and sustainable use of natural resources into Territorial Spatial Planning System (supported by Opinions on Establishing and Supervising the Implementation of a Territorial Space Planning System, White Paper: Biodiversity Conservation in China, Opinions on Further Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation) • The Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035), which demands that by 2035, forest coverage rate should reach 26%, grassland comprehensive vegetation coverage be raised to 60% and so on. • Red Line policy tool for enhancing biodiversity management and restoration. • Systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas – the Shan-Shui initiative 	<p>Project aims to ‘achieve transformational changes for biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources cross-sectorally and at multiple levels through the harmonization of spatial planning and integrated landscape management.’</p> <p>The project’s outcomes are specifically designed to contribute not only to the GEF’s BD objectives but also to China’s national and global priorities related to BD. The project’s first component emphasizes mainstreaming BD into the national territorial spatial planning system and the formulation of national and provincial policy/ technical guidelines for PA and productive landscape management, as well as for ecological conservation and restoration, and BD financing. This first component is in line with the GEF’s BD objectives 1-1, 1-3, & 1-4. Meanwhile, the second component focuses on implementing the management effectiveness of PAs, biocorridors, and other productive landscapes through the application of integrated landscape management-restoration approaches. Additionally, it emphasizes BD financing and strengthening local livelihoods to foster sustainable practices at the local level.</p> <p>These interventions are also aligned with national commitments related to the Territorial Spatial Planning System, Master Plan 2021-2035 Red Line, and the Shan-Shui initiative. At the same time, they will directly contribute to the achievement of the overall GBF targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, and 23. By implementing integrated spatial planning and landscape-level management across target provinces, the project will address land use change, restore critical habitats, and strengthen ecological connectivity. This will reduce the fragmentation and degradation of landscapes, contributing to ecosystem resilience and conservation of biodiversity hotspots. Additionally, landscape interventions will mitigate 33 MtCO_{2e}, helping to combat climate change and enhance ecosystem resilience as well as livelihood interventions aligning economic activities with environmental sustainability. The project will also strengthen the management effectiveness of 320,000 ha of protected areas (PAs) and enhance management practices in an additional 680,000 ha of landscapes, which will ensure sustainable use of biodiversity resources. This will directly support the conservation of globally significant species and habitats, benefiting both biodiversity and local communities. Lastly, the project emphasizes engagement with multi-stakeholders, including IPLCs,</p>

		<p>promoting equitable participation and sustainable livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly practices. Capacity strengthening and knowledge management efforts will raise public awareness of biodiversity's importance, fostering cross-sectoral learning and long-term stewardship of natural resources.</p>
<p>CCM-1.4 Promote Nature-based Solutions with high mitigation potential</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paris Agreement and NDC-LTS: CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. Sustainable Development Goals. 	<p>The project's Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 focus on improving the management of large landscapes with increased connectivity and bio-corridor networks. Through application of integrated landscape management and restoration, the project will enhance the management of 320,000 ha of terrestrial and coastal PAs and at least 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs (including 180,000 ha of OECMs candidates). Cumulatively, they will contribute to mitigating 33M tO2-e of GHG emission. This mitigation target will advance toward China's climate pledge under Paris Agreement and NDC-LTS. Additionally, the project will also contribute to the achievement of SDG including Goal 13 - 'Climate Action'.</p>
<p>LD-1 Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas – the Shan-Shui initiative The Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035). Red Line policy tool for enhancing biodiversity management and restoration. Sustainable Development Goals. 	<p>The interventions under Components 1 and 2 of the projects aim to halt biodiversity and environmental degradation through application of integrated and sustainable land management. These interventions are in line with the country's Shan-Shui initiative, Master Plan 2021-2035, as well as implementation of the Red Line policy tool. The project will also contribute to the achievement of SDG including Goal 14 - 'Life Below Water', and 15 - 'Life on Land'.</p>
<p>The following are the GEF-8's targets related to GEBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Indicator 1: 150M ha Core Indicator 2: 100M ha Core Indicator 4: 195M ha Core Indicator 6: 1850M tCO2e 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBF and Achi target 14 and 15: secure 30% of land and water areas for conservation by 2030 The Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035), which demands that by 2035, forest coverage rate should reach 26%, grassland comprehensive vegetation coverage be raised to 60% and so on. Red Line policy tool for enhancing biodiversity management and restoration. Systemic protection and management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grass, and sandy areas – the Shan-Shui initiative. 	<p>Through its interventions across Component 1, 2 and 3, the project will contribute the following GEBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Indicator 1: 250,000 ha Core Indicator 2: 70,000 ha Core Indicator 4: 680,000 ha Core Indicator 6: 33M tO2-e <p>These GEB targets are aligned with China's targets/commitments related to GBFs, Master Plan 2021-2035, Red Line policy and Shan-Shui initiative.</p>

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

The records summary of the PIF consultation is provided in **Table 1 of Annex J**. During the PIF preparation period, UNDP held offline meetings with the planning management department, use control department, and ecological restoration department from the Ministry of Natural Resources. UNDP (in coordination with the MNR) also held several online meetings and communications with the relevant departments of the provincial and municipal governments where the demonstration zone is located and went to the demonstration zones in Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province to conduct research and communicate with the local areas and received positive responses. Offline discussions were held with local communities, universities, and scientific research institutions such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China University of Geosciences, Beijing Forestry University, China Agricultural University, Peking University, and Tsinghua University, private sectors such as Ant Forest, and NGOs such as TNC and NRDC. Agreements on the theory of change and key work modules were achieved. It is to be noted that further consultations about the project design will be conducted at PPG.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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Medium/Moderate

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	4,443,562.00	422,138.00	4,865,700.00
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	1,065,891.00	101,259.00	1,167,150.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						5,509,453.00	523,397.00	6,032,850.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	130,000.00	12,350.00	142,350.00
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	20,000.00	1,900.00	21,900.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,197,100.00
Total GEF Resources					6,197,100.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	710,593.00	5940000
BD-1-3	GET	1,535,298.00	17820000
BD-1-4	GET	2,197,671.00	26730000
BD-3-1	GET	710,594.00	5910000
BD-3-2	GET	355,297.00	3000000
Total Project Cost		5,509,453.00	59,400,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Natural Resources	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	10000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Natural Resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000

Recipient Country Government	Jiangsu Province	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Zhejiang Province	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	12000000
Recipient Country Government	Zhejiang Province	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Sichuan Province	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	16200000
Recipient Country Government	Sichuan Province	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Yunnan Province	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	6200000
Recipient Country Government	Yunnan Province	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Total Co-financing				59,400,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Over six-year project timeframe, the grantee governments plan to invest mobilize a total of US \$59,400,000 public investment and in-kind recurring expenses contribution for mainstreaming biodiversity in policy, planning and guideline at national and sub-national levels, theoretical innovation and technological integration of spatial planning and integrated approach in ecological conservation and restoration in six demonstration areas, and especially habitat restoration and biodiversity finance. Private sector will be involved to mobilize recurring-expenditure co-financing to create enabling policy environment and providing technical supports at national and demonstration area level, as well as knowledge sharing, capacity building and awareness raising activities. Details on investment type, amount and source of each co-financing source are outlined in the table above.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	8/31/2024		+12129065044	nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Solene le Doze	8/31/2024			solene.le.doze@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Xiang Peng	OFP of GEF of China, Department of International Economic, and Financial Cooperation	Ministry of Finance	9/8/2024

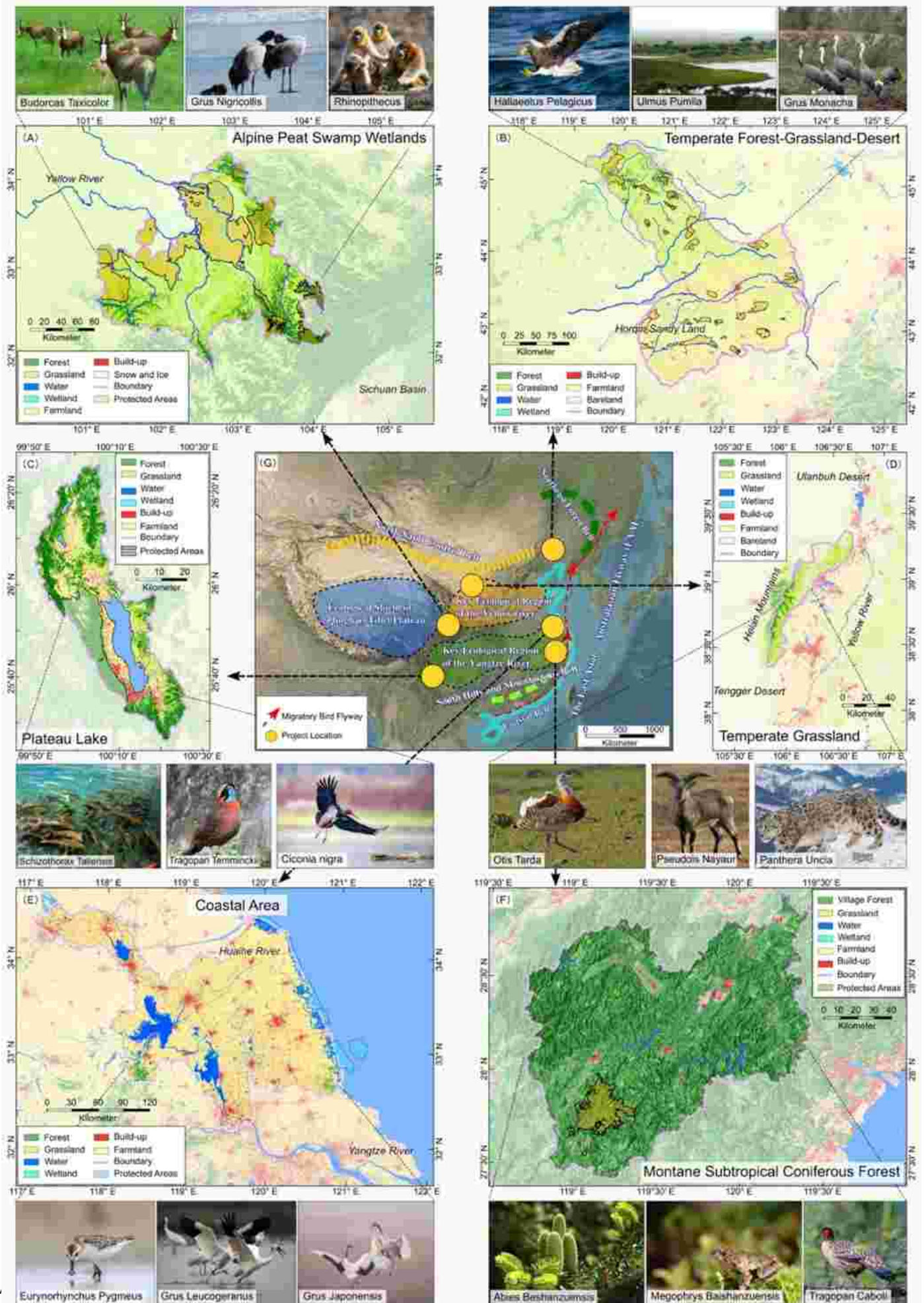
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

The project's target geography comprises of Yunnan, Sichuan, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. These four provinces possess significant biodiversity that is critical due to persistence land conversion, climate change and over-exploitation of natural resources. The locations with geographic characteristics, land cover and key species of four project target areas and two scale-up areas are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1 and 2 below.

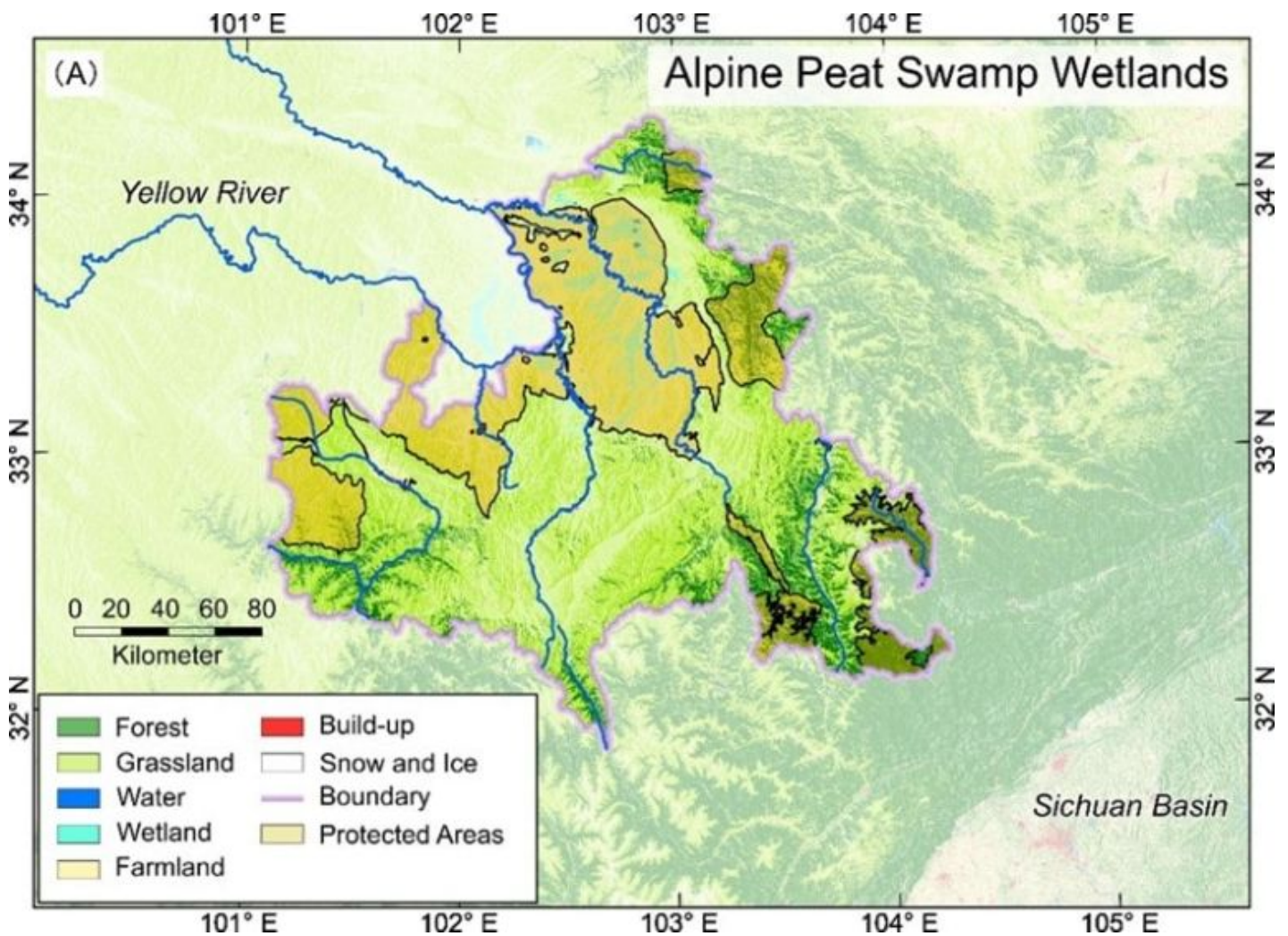
During the PPG, the project will conduct detailed situational analyses to verify specific drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation in the landscape that we identified in the ToC, to determine appropriate biodiversity mainstreaming and landscape management-restoration strategies for each target landscape.

Figure 1. Locations, ecosystem types and endangered species in four demonstrations areas and two scale-up areas



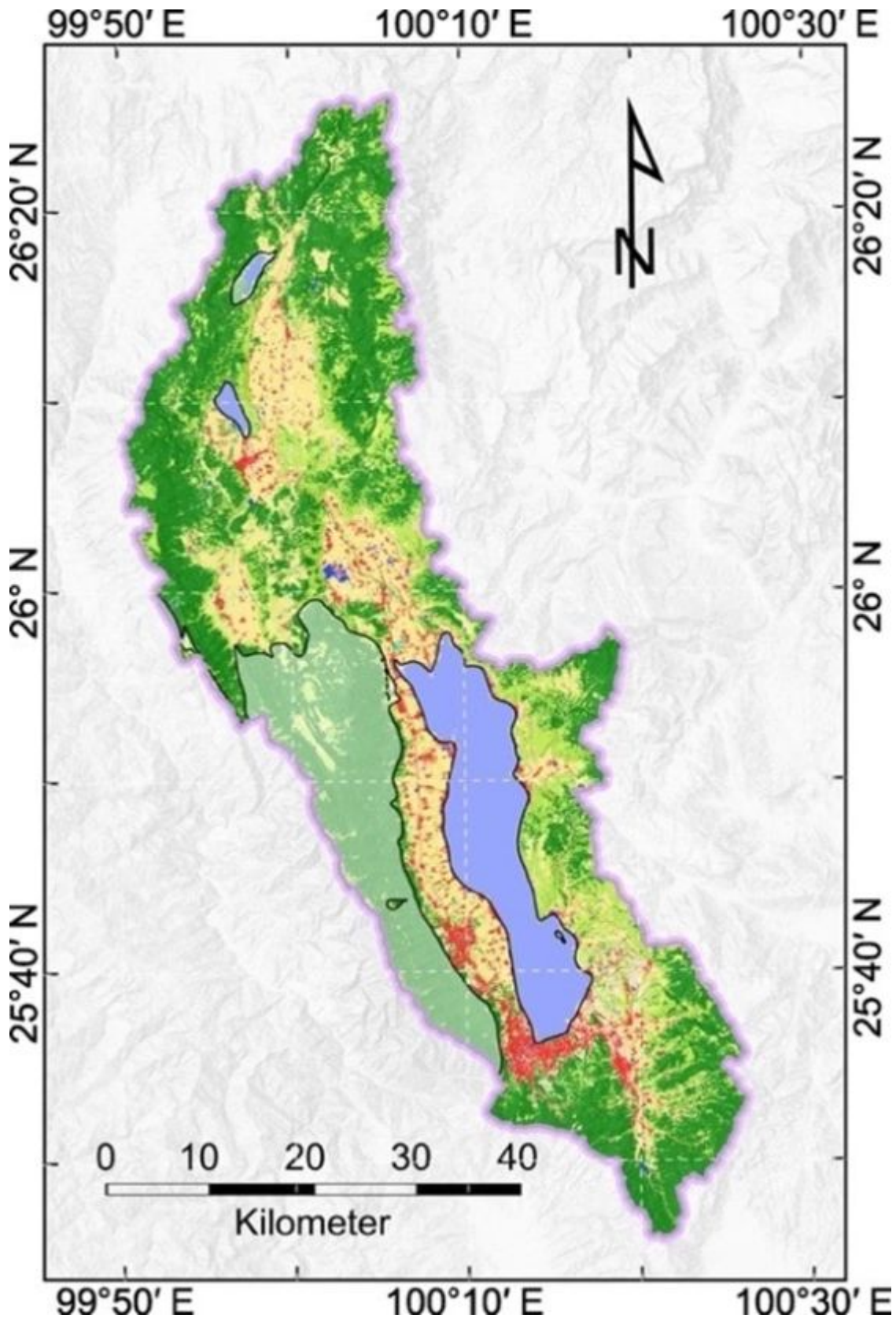
(1) **The alpine lake in Yunnan Province:** is one of the 35 biodiversity conservation priority areas of the NBSAP and one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. Alpine-dam area-faulted lake landform, low-latitude plateau subtropical monsoon climate. The area contains China's unique and most complete *Abies delavayi* forest. It is the mountain range with the most vertical vegetation spectrum, the most diverse vegetation types, and the most complete preservation of mountain vegetation south of 26 degrees north latitude in China. The Erhai Lake Basin is also an important passage for migratory birds in western China, a major stopping point, and a wintering habitat for many species, including the national Class I key protected species *Plegadis falcinellus* and the national Class II key protected species Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), water pheasant (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) and black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). The physical geographical characteristics of the alpine-rifted lake landform determine the vulnerability and sensitivity of the Erhai Basin ecosystem. The chemical pollutions from productive landscapes due to unsustainable resources management around the Erhai Lake directly caused contaminants issues such as eutrophication, affecting the water quality and therefore the ecosystem health.

Figure 2. Location of the target area in Yunan Province: the plateau lake ecosystem.



(2) **The alpine peat swamp wetlands in Sichuan Province:** located in the NBSAP priority area and hotspots of global significance (Qiangtang-Sanjiangyuan Biodiversity Conservation Priority Area and the Minshan-Northern Hengduan Mountain Biodiversity Conservation Priority Area). This is the largest plateau swamp peat wetland at the eastmost margins of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (QTP), and one of the most complete natural wetlands in the world, serving as an important water source supply area for the upper reaches of the Yellow River. There are more than 1,140 species in the Zoige Grassland Wetland Area, including three rare and endangered plants: *Pomatosace filicula*, *Anisodus tanguticus*, and *Meconopsis punicea*. A total of 509 species of wild animals (including insects), including giant pandas, wildebeests, golden monkeys, snow leopards, black-necked cranes, jade-belted sea eagles, and white storks. Limited by the internal factors, such as topography and geological conditions, and the external natural factors, such as climate change and ravine erosion, as well as the unreasonable human activities, such as ditch drainage and overgrazing, the Zoige Grassland Wetland has been degraded, shrunk, and decertified, endangering the ecological security of the Yellow River and reducing and fragmenting the habitats of rare wild animals and plants.

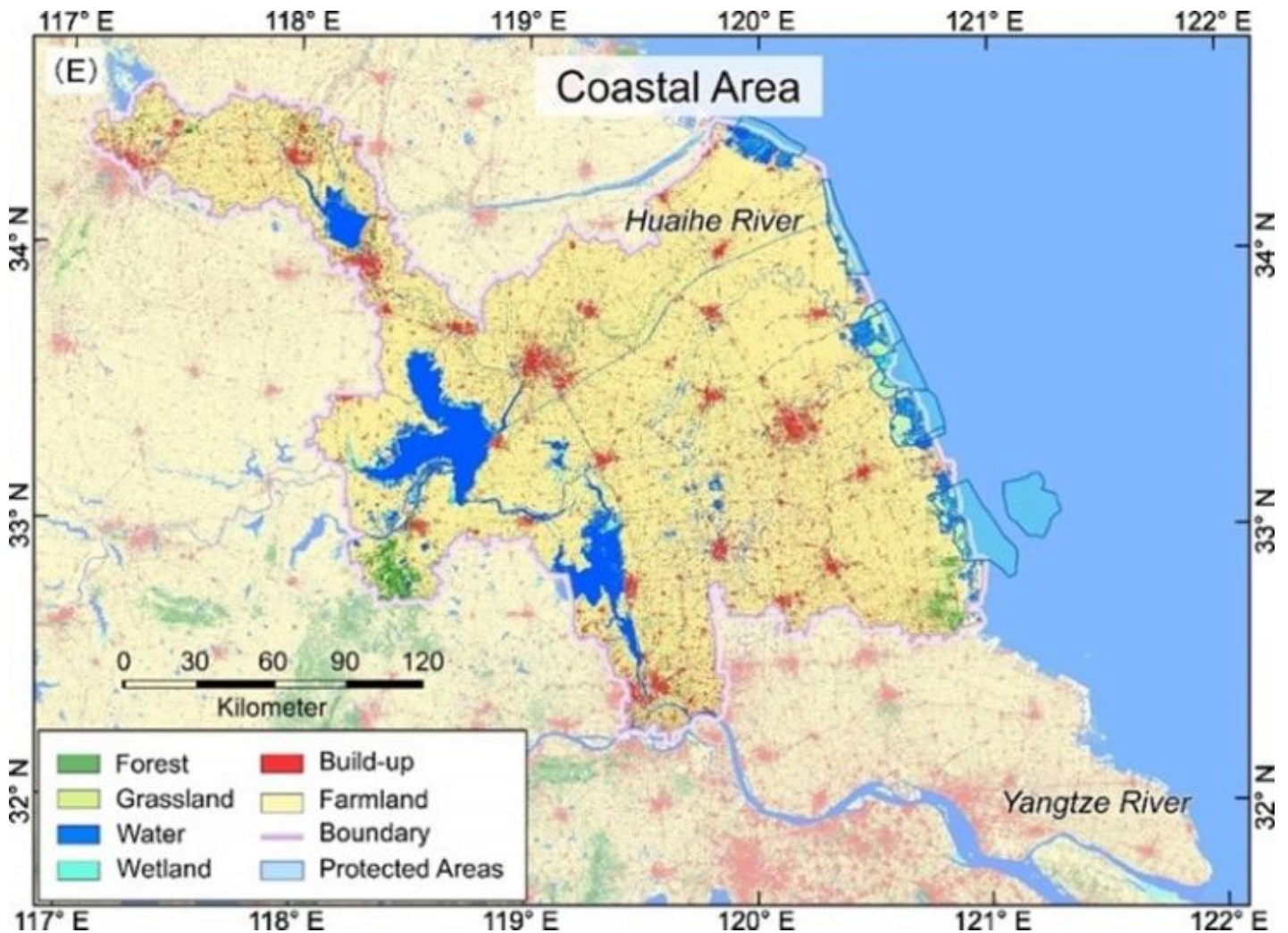
Figure 3. Location of the target area in Sichuan Province: the alpine peat swamp wetlands ecosystem.



(3) **The coastal ecosystem in Jiangsu Province:** a key hub on the East Asia-Australasia migratory bird migration route. It provides habitat for 23 species of internationally important birds, supports the survival of 17 species on the IUCN Red List, and is of special value to the protection of migratory birds around the world. China's Yellow (Bo) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and was successfully

included in the World Heritage List at the 43rd World Heritage Conference. This area has the largest coastal wetland area on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean and the edge of the Asian continent. There are 29 species of birds are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List. The seawater incursion, sea level rise, reclamation, and unsustainable management of aquaculture, all resulted in degradation of the coastal ecosystem, along with invasion of the *mudflat Euphorbia*, the natural wetland has been reduced and habitats of rare birds damaged.

Figure 4. Location of the target area in Jiangsu Province: the coastal ecosystem.



(4) The target area in **Zhejiang Province**: is a region with a large preserved forested area and rich biodiversity in East China. Its unique geographical conditions make it play an important ecological barrier function for the Yangtze River Delta, one of the most GDP regions in China, in terms of soil and water conservation, climate regulation, and air pollution prevention and control. Baishan National Park is a typical distribution area of the mid-subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest ecosystem, and a rare near-natural ecosystem in the economically developed eastern China. It is also the region with the most obvious three-dimensional climate characteristics in mountainous areas of the same latitude. Impact factors including artificial concentrated afforestation, rural small hydropower construction, terrace abandonment, excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, etc., have resulted in the simplification of community structure in some large forest patches in the Baishan National Park, the headwater area of the Oujiang River. The coexistence of over-cultivation and abandonment of cultivated land, series agricultural non-point source pollution, ditches in disrepair, and disconnected watersheds.

Figure 5. Location of the target area in Zhejiang Province: the montane subtropical coniferous forest ecosystem.

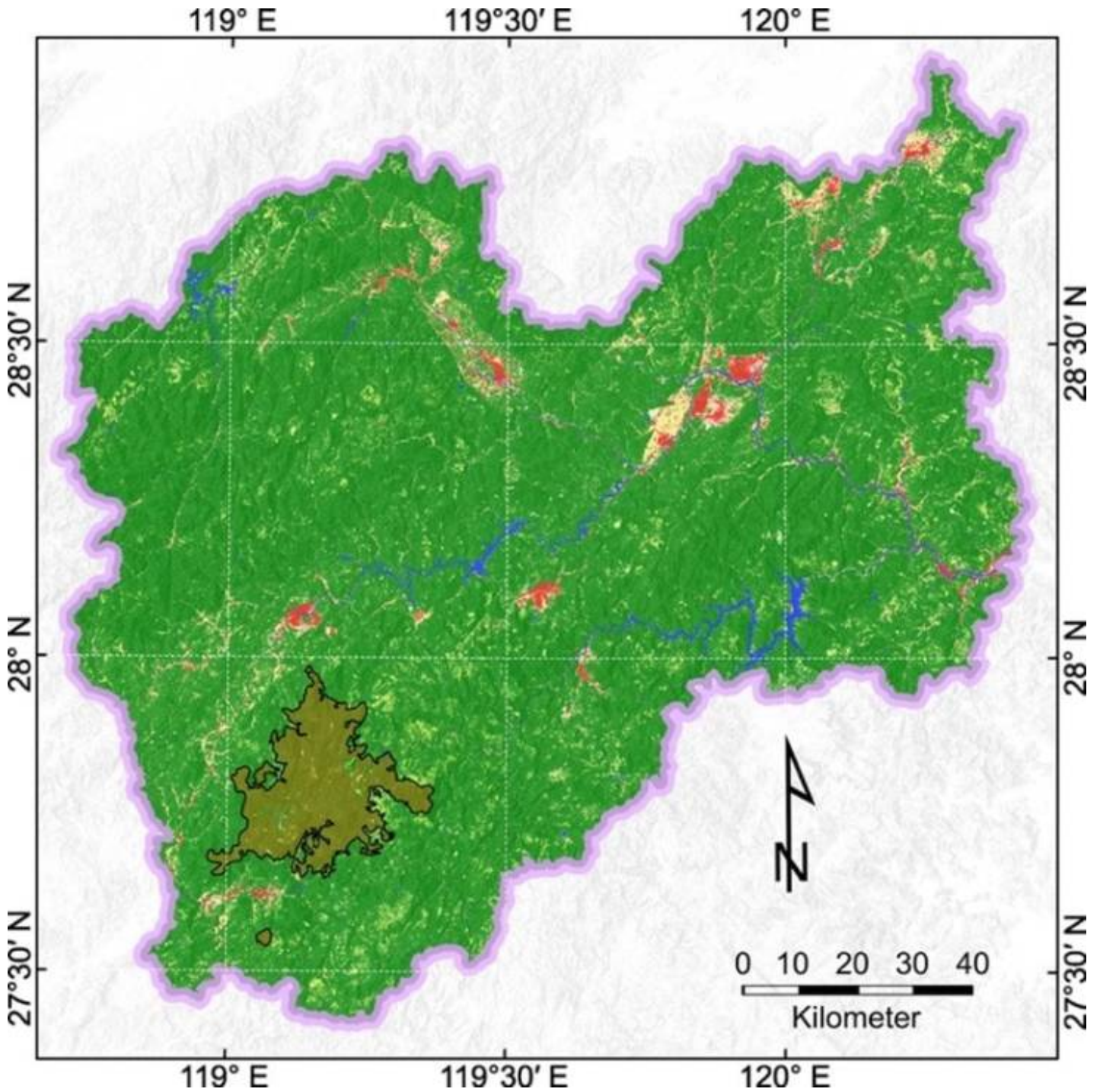


Table a. List of key species in the target areas

Target Areas	Species	IUCN Red List
Montane Subtropical Coniferous Forest	<i>Abies beshanzensis</i>	EN
Coastal ecosystem	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	EN
	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	CR
	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	CR
Alpine Peat Swamp Wetlands	<i>Rhinopithecus</i>	EN
	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>	VU
	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	VU
Plateau Lake	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>	VU

Table b. Land cover classification of the four target areas (unit: km²)

Location	Typical ecosystem	Forest (km ²)	Grassland (km ²)	Cropland (km ²)	Built-up (km ²)	Bare land (km ²)	Water (km ²)	Wetland (km ²)	SUM (km ²)
<i>Target areas</i>									
Yunnan	Plateau lake ecosystem	1186	453	435	115	113	262	1	2564
Zhejiang	Montane subtropical forest ecosystem	15297	663	401	277	431	195	0	17264
Jiangsu	Coastal ecosystem	1580	271	28728	3441	2434	4074	311	40838
Sichuan	Alpine peat swamp wetlands ecosystem	5614	29375	120	47	621	148	1161	37087

Table C. GHG mitigation estimates for the target geography

Province	Climate	Forest Type	Degradation Level				GHG tCO ₂ mitigated	Note
			Start	BAU	Project	Area ha		
Yunnan (YN)	Warm Temperature Moist	subtropical mountain systems	low	low	Very low	54,000	3,190,658	PA area (CI1)
Yunnan (YN)	Warm Temperature Moist	subtropical mountain systems	low	low	Very low	40,000	2,363,451	OECM (CI4)
Yunnan (YN)	Warm Temperature Moist	Planted subtropical mountain systems	moderate	moderate	low	50,000	2,402,437	Outside redline (CI4)
Zhejiang (ZJ)	Warm Temperature Moist	subtropical humid forest	low	low	Very low	64,838	5,017,613	PA area (CI1)
Zhejiang (ZJ)	Warm Temperature Moist	subtropical humid forest	low	low	Very low	40,000	3,095,477	OECM (CI4)
Zhejiang (ZJ)	Warm Temperature Moist	Planted subtropical humid forest	moderate	moderate	low	50,000	3,794,707	Outside redline (CI4)
Sichuan (SC)	Cool Temperature Moist	temperate mountain system	low	low	Very low	40,000	1,517,492	OECM (CI4)
Sichuan (SC)	Cool Temperature Moist	temperate continental forest	moderate	moderate	low	50,000	4,694,270	Outside redline (CI4)
Jiangsu (JS)	Warm Temperature Dry	subtropical dry forest	low	low	Very low	40,000	1,648,315	OECM (CI4)
Jiangsu (JS)	Warm Temperature Dry	Planted subtropical dry forest	moderate	moderate	low	50,000	5,365,620	Outside redline (CI4)
Total GHG Mitigation Target							33,090,041	

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

China 9715-PIF-Annex D-SESP

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influencing models			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Transform policy and regulatory environments</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Convene multi-stakeholder alliances</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Demonstrate innovative approaches</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Deploy innovative financial instruments</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Private Sector</i>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital providers</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Financial intermediaries and market facilitators</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Large corporations</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>SMEs</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Individuals/Entrepreneurs</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Non-Grant Pilot</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Project Reflow</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Beneficiaries</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Local Communities</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Civil Society</i>		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Community Based Organization</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Academia</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Trade Unions and Workers Unions</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Type of Engagement</i>		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Information Dissemination</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Partnership</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Consultation</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Participation</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Communications</i>		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Awareness Raising</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Education</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Public Campaigns</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Behavior Change</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity, Knowledge and Research			

	<input type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Research		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theory of Change	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicators to Measure Change	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women groups	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Gender-sensitive indicators	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender results areas		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access and control over natural resources	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation and leadership	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to benefits and services	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness raising	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge generation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focal Areas/Theme	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programs		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commodity Supply Chains (³⁶ Good Growth Partnership)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodities Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Screening Tools
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Conservation Value Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Carbon Stocks Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oil Palm Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Beef Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience (climate and shocks)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Production Systems

			<input type="checkbox"/> Agroecosystems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land and Soil Health
			<input type="checkbox"/> Diversified Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Land and Water Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small and Medium Enterprises
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Genetic Diversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Dimensions
			<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Restoration
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodity Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Landscapes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Cities	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated urban planning
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban sustainability framework
			<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and Mobility
			<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal waste management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Green space
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Biodiversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Resilience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Protected Areas
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Productive Landscapes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Productive Seascapes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Based Natural Resource Management
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism

			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure
			<input type="checkbox"/> Certification (National Standards)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Certification (International Standards)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Wildlife Trade
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened Species
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Wild Relatives
			<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Wild Relatives
			<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mangroves
			<input type="checkbox"/> Coral Reefs
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sea Grasses
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rivers
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lakes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Rain Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Dry Forests
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate Forests
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grasslands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Paramo
			<input type="checkbox"/> Desert
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial and Accounting	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment for Ecosystem Services
			<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Trust Funds
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Finance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Biosafety
			<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forests		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			<input type="checkbox"/> REDD/REDD+
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Amazon
			<input type="checkbox"/> Congo
			<input type="checkbox"/> Drylands
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Land Management	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Approach

			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Community-Based NRM</i>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Sustainable Livelihoods</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Income Generating Activities</i>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Sustainable Agriculture</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sustainable Pasture Management</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sustainable Fire Management</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Drought Mitigation/Early Warning</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Degradation Neutrality</i>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Productivity</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Cover and Land cover change</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carbon stocks above or below ground</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food Security</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>International Waters</i>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ship</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coastal</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Freshwater</i>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Aquifer</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>River Basin</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lake Basin</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Learning</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Fisheries</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Persistent toxic substances</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>SIDS : Small Island Dev States</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Targeted Research</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pollution</i>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Persistent toxic substances</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Plastics</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nutrient pollution from Wastewater</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Strategic Action Plan Implementation</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Large Marine Ecosystems</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Private Sector</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Aquaculture</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Marine Protected Area</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Biomes</i>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mangrove</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coral Reefs</i>

			<input type="checkbox"/> Seagrasses
			<input type="checkbox"/> Polar Ecosystems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Constructed Wetlands
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals and Waste		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mercury	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Power Plants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cement	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ozone	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Waste
			<input type="checkbox"/> e-Waste
		<input type="checkbox"/> Emissions	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Disposal	
		<input type="checkbox"/> New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Eco-Efficiency	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides	
		<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Vector Management	
		<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Other	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Emissions	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Open Burning	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Green Chemistry	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Finance
			<input type="checkbox"/> Least Developed Countries
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small Island Developing States
			<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Risk Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sea-level rise
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Resilience
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate information
			<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation program of Action
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation Plan
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector
			<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Complementarity

			<input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Livelihoods
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities
		<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Poznan Strategic program on Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Endogenous technology
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Needs Assessment
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Nations Framework on Climate Change	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Nationally Determined Contribution
			<input type="checkbox"/> Paris Agreement
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Development Goals
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Finance (Rio Markers)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 0
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 1
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 2
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 0
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 1
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 2