Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10073

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
- ☐ CBIT
- ☐ NGI

Project Title
Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China

Countries
China

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s):
National Forest and Grassland Administration

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy
Influencing models, Stakeholders, Focal Areas, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Indigenous Peoples, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Tourism, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Biomes, Mangroves, Wetlands, Rivers, Lakes, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Species, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Development, Targeted Research, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date
5/22/2020

Expected Implementation Start
12/28/2020

Expected Completion Date
12/28/2026

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
848,580.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	B.Manage biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes	GET	1,990,559.00	17,624,228.00
BD-2-7	F.Enhance the effectiveness of protected area systems	GET	6,941,861.00	69,430,304.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420.00**	**87,054,532.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

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.

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

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1.Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming	Technical Assistance	1: Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing, target of 204,974 ha of new terrestrial and marine PAs 2: Systematic and adaptive PA legislation, planning and mainstreaming at national, provincial levels with the engagement of relevant sectors	1.1 Critical sites for migratory waterbirds added to the PA system, informed by the development of a systematic PA master plan for the EAAF in China 1.2 Flyway conservation strategy and business plan developed, setting out innovative funding opportunities for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China 2.1 National and provincial policy and legislation for wetland conservation strengthened, including an adopted national Wetland Conservation Act and national management policy for wetlands of national importance 2.2 Wetland conservation integrated into 14th Five-Year plan and technical guidelines adopted on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use by different sectors	GET	1,300,000.00	11,500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2.Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory waterbird conservation	Technical Assistance	3: Increased management effectiveness over 305,505 ha of wetland PAs (marine and terrestrial sites) 4: Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha	3.1 Four model PAs for migratory waterbirds established, with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms 3.2 Wetland and migratory waterbird conservation strengthened through capacity development, introduction of professional competence standards and provision of training modules 3.3 Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use demonstrated at the four model PAs, in surrounding landscapes, and at critical breeding, staging and wintering sites outside the PA network 4.1 Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices, achieving livelihood improvement and reduction of threats to critical wetlands for migratory waterbirds 4.2 Sustainable use of flyway wetlands in EAAF	GET	6,000,000.00	56,434,532.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3.Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E	Technical Assistance	5: Strong public support for wetland and migratory bird conservation – as indicated by improvements in KAP surveys 6: Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership	5.1 Public awareness on wetland and migratory waterbird conservation raised through targeted outreach and education campaigns 6.1 Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in unified database for waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF in China 6.2 Knowledge management coordinated effectively between project sites, across China and with the EAAF Partnership 6.3 M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming developed and implemented for adaptive project management	GET	1,212,000.00	16,200,000.00
				Sub Total ($)	**8,512,000.00**	**84,134,532.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET	420,420.00	2,920,000.00
	Sub Total($)	**420,420.00**	**2,920,000.00**
	Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420.00**	**87,054,532.00**

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,680,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	65,320,000.00
Civil Society Organization	EAAF Partnership	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Donor Agency	WWF	In-kind	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	International Crane Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	International Crane Foundation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Wetlands International	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,554,532.00
Civil Society Organization	SEE Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,800,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**87,054,532.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note: Civil Society Organization Wetlands International In-kind Investment Mobilized 1,554,532 1,400,000 Euros as of 25 October 2019: 1 USD = 0.900 EUR On 3 June 2020, China unveiled a plan that includes major projects to protect and restore key ecosystems from 2021 to 2035 . In an effort to strengthen the shields for ecological security and protect biodiversity, nine major projects and 47 key tasks have been underlined in the plan, which was jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The plan clearly proposes the overall layout of major national ecosystem protection and restoration projects with “three zones and four belts” as the core. The Coastal Area is one of the four belts. In recent years, the central government has carefully implemented these strategic decisions of the Party Central Committee and the State Council

on wetland protection, and has invested nearly US$300 million a year through the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) on wetland conservation and restoration programmes, construction of protected area infrastructure and wetland eco-compensation, etc. The $65.32 million grant committed by China through NFGA (see Annex 12 of the ProDoc for a detailed breakdown of NFGA's and affiliated agencies co-financing commitment) is part and parcel of this planned -and budgeted- government investment and will be executed in a coordinated fashion between the GEF7 China Flyway project, the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Programme and the Nature Reserve Development Programme with the objective of establishing a well-managed and resilient wetland protection network involving all provinces along the EAAF route in China to jointly protect globally threatened migratory waterbirds. It is worth noting that this commitment from NFGA does not include recurrent expenditures as per GEF's definition of investment mobilized (see page 8 of the Guidelines on Co-Financing - policy FI/GN/01). The portion of Government of China co-financing that is Investment Mobilized represents anticipated additional budgetary provisions to the NFGA for the implementation of the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Programme, the Nature Reserve Development Programme, and the newly announced Master Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Important National Ecosystems (2021-2035). For co-financing from other partners, definitions have been applied conservatively. The term Recurrent Expenditure has been used to reflect existing aligned efforts/activities that are expected to continue during the project implementation timeframe. The term Investment Mobilized has been used to reflect potential increased efforts and investment that will be leveraged alongside the GEF grant. The amounts and types of cofinancing have been confirmed in the cofinancing letters provided by each source.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	8,932,420	848,580
				Total Grant Resources($)	**8,932,420.00**	**848,580.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount ($)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	200,000	19,000
				Total Project Costs($)	**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
172,200.00	192,100.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	19,900.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Chongming North Lake	**125689**	**Select**		2,200.00		
Akula National Park Dalianzi Lake	**125689**	**Select**		2,646.00		
Akula National Park Hanchi Lake	**125689**	**Select**		5,778.00		
Akula National Park Helong Reservoir	**125689**	**Select**		8,600.00		
Akula National Park Sizaopu Reservoir	**125689**	**Select**		676.00		

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)
172,200.00	172,200.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve	**125689** 902683	**Select**	19,200.00	19,200.00			37.00			
Akula National Park Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve	**125689** 555558392	**Select**	153,000.00	153,000.00			52.00			

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
204,155.00	324,439.00	0.00	0.00

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)
100,000.00	191,134.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park	**125689**	**Select**	100,000.00				
Akula National Park Beidaihe Coasts- Beidaihe-Geziwo / Xinhe Estuary	**125689**	**Select**		7,887.00			
Akula National Park Beidaihe Coasts- Shihe River Estuary	**125689**	**Select**		127.00			
Akula National Park Coastal Wetlands around Chongming Dao Island- Tidal Flat in North Chongming	**125689**	**Select**		6,060.00			

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park Dalian Jinzhou Bay	**125689**	**Select**		31,040.00			
Akula National Park Dongtai-Rudong Coasts-Dongtai-Rudong Tidal Flat (incl. Xiaoyangkou & Dongling & Tiaozini)	**125689**	**Select**		21,548.00			
Akula National Park Hangu Coasts- Hangu Tidal Flat & Saltworks	**125689**	**Select**		11,458.00			
Akula National Park Laoting Coasts- Caofeidian Wetland	**125689**	**Select**		5,007.00			
Akula National Park Lianyungang Coasts-Qingkouhekou in Ganyu (Linhongkou-liezikou)	**125689**	**Select**		7,000.00			
Akula National Park LingKun Island	**125689**	**Select**		2,276.00			

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park Luannan Coasts- Luannan-Zuidong Wetland	**125689**	**Select**		6,806.00			
Akula National Park Nanhui Dongtan- Eastern Tidal Flat of Nanhui	**125689**	**Select**		170.00			
Akula National Park Qingdao-Rizhao Coasts	**125689**	**Select**		20,011.00			
Akula National Park Xinghua Bay	**125689**	**Select**		49,674.00			
Akula National Park Zhuanghe Coasts	**125689**	**Select**		22,070.00			

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)
104,155.00	133,305.00	0.00	0.00

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

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park Chongming Dongtan Birds National Nature Reserve	**125689** 900673	**Select**	24,155.00	24,155.00			61.00			
Akula National Park Liohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve	**125689** 902689	**Select**	80,000.00	109,150.00			49.00			

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	60000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	60,000.00		

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)
600000.00	600000.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
550,000.00	600,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50,000.00			

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

TBD during PPG phase, standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council will be explored

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 Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

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

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	0	16999522	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)		16,999,522		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
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 CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	4,000	4,150		
Male	4,000	4,350		
Total	8000	8500	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on:

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

No significant change in substance from PIF stage, but the section has been substantially elaborated.

The key threats impacting East Asian – Australasian Flyway migratory waterbird populations in China can be summarized as: loss and degradation of habitat, unsustainable fishing, mariculture and aquaculture, water pollution, invasive alien species, hunting, utilization and trade of birds, and climate change. These threats are elaborated in the project document Development Challenge section.

The root causes and drivers of these threats can be summarised as a combination of intense and rapid economic development and exploitation of wetland resources pursued by local governments and developers, combined with weak and inefficient mechanisms for the protection of important ecological and biological sites and resources. In total, these changes have drastically reduced the area, connectivity and quality of habitats suitable for migratory birds and other significant wildlife, causing dramatic drops in the numbers and population viability of many species, and ultimately resulting in the high proportion of species now listed as globally threatened and near-threatened. Climate change adds further pressure on habitats and species populations whose resilience has already been weakened by the above-mentioned direct threats, through both short term (e.g. extreme weather events) and long term impacts (e.g. sea level rise).

Project conceptual model: The diversity of direct and indirect factors that threaten globally significant EAAF migratory waterbird populations in China is shown in **Figure 3**. This indicates the relationships between direct threats and various underlying factors (root causes and barriers) and the points of intervention where project intervention strategies (yellow hexagons) will contribute towards a reduction in the level of threats, and therefore contribute towards the long term vision of the project, namely to establish a connected, resilient and ecologically effective wetland PA system across the EAAF in China that supports globally significant species of migratory waterbirds and provides ecosystem services that support resilience, livelihoods and the economy. The outputs and outcomes of these strategies are summarized in the Project Intervention Logic Summary (**Figure 5A**) and Theory of Change diagram in the following section (**Figure 5B**).

Barriers: While the government has made significant efforts to reduce threats to wetland biodiversity including migratory waterbirds, these efforts have been impeded by a number of barriers. These are elaborated in the Prodoc Development Challenge section, with further detail in the situation analyses in Prodoc **Annexes 11** (METT), **17** (Landscape and PA Profiles), **19** (Baseline on EAAF-China Waterbird and Wetland Conservation, National Capacity Development Scorecard), **20** (Training Needs Analysis and Provincial Capacity Development Scorecards), **21A&B** (Analysis of Priorities for EAAF-China PA System Development), and **23A&B** (EAAF-China PA System Financing Analysis). The barriers are as follows:

Barrier 1: Absence of a strategic approach towards migratory waterbird conservation with inadequate representation of critical breeding, staging and wintering sites in the PA system, and insufficient sustainable financing for effective PA management and protection of waterbird habitats

Barrier 2: Limited integration of flyway wetland conservation priorities into the policies, plans and operations of other sectors, and a lack of technical mechanisms and skills to support wetland-compatible co-management at landscape and site levels.

Barrier 3: Lack of awareness of the value of wetland ecosystem services and management needs, and limited knowledge and information exchange on waterbird population status and best practice management techniques for key flyway sites

Project Theory of Change

The GEF-supported Project Alternative responds to the development challenge by systematically addressing the barriers described above. In doing so it takes full account of the substantial baseline summarized for each project component and will coordinate with ongoing initiatives described in the Results and Partnerships section. The connections between the threats, root causes, barriers and intervention strategies are indicated in the Project Conceptual Diagram in **Figure 1 below**.

The Project Objective is to secure the conservation of globally significant 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. To achieve this objective, the project will deploy three complementary strategies (Project Components) that address strengthened PA system planning, policy and mainstreaming at national and sub-national level (across the breadth of the EAAF in China and within the four demonstration provinces; site-based management effectiveness at four model PAs for migratory species and their surrounding landscapes; and knowledge management,

awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation. The project intervention logic is shown in **Figure 2** and the theory of change diagram in **Figure 3** below, with supporting assumptions and evidence for the flyway site network approach and individual project outcomes given in **Table 1**. These assumptions are also included in the Monitoring Plan in Annex 3, and will be regularly reviewed during project implementation as part of the PIR reporting, following sound adaptive management and risk management principles. These assumptions are also included in the Monitoring Plan in Annex 3, and will be regularly reviewed during project implementation as part of the PIR reporting, following sound adaptive management and risk management principles. The baseline situation, incremental reasoning and global environmental benefits are summarized in the Results Section.

Component 1 will apply at both national and sub-national levels (broadly covering the EAAF within China). At the national level, the project will support the expansion of the flyway wetland PA system through the addition of critical sites for migratory waterbirds across EAAF-China informed by gap analysis (see **Figure 4** and **Annex 21A,B**), a PA system master plan and a flyway conservation strategy and business plan that set out the funding needs and innovative funding opportunities for flyway conservation. National and provincial wetland policy and regulations will be strengthened, and flyway wetland conservation policies will be mainstreamed into the 14th Five-year Plan and associated sectoral policies, supported by technical guidelines for different sectors. A national coordination mechanism will be established to bring together government agencies and sectors with a mandate related to or impacting on wetland conservation. Overall, the project will assist NFGA, and the targeted provincial and local government authorities to incorporate and implement ongoing reform of the national PA system including wetland areas.

Component 2 will apply at the landscape and site levels, supporting the implementation of the national and sub-national activities through demonstration of integrated habitat and species management in and around four model sites, with the results used to identify project best practices that can be replicated across the EAAF within China. The four model sites are all recognized internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds (see **Figure 6, Table 4** and site profiles in **Annex 17**), for which the project will strengthen their management effectiveness through the development of management plans, business plans, stakeholder coordination mechanisms, capacity development measures based on professional competency standards, and pilot interventions that will demonstrate wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use in order to reduce threats and improve conditions for migratory waterbird populations. The project will also support sustainable use demonstrations in the wider landscapes around these demonstration sites as well as other unprotected flyway wetlands of importance for waterbirds across EAAF-China, and facilitate community co-management efforts to strengthen sustainability of livelihoods, land use and to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds.

Component 3 is cross-cutting, supporting Components 1 and 2 through knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation. The awareness campaigns will aim to strengthen public support for flyway wetland and migratory waterbird conservation among key target groups. The project will support the development and institutionalization of a standardized methodology for monitoring migratory waterbirds and their habitats and a unified database system to promote the availability of harmonized data to support conservation planning. Knowledge management will be coordinated between project sites, across the EAAF wetland site network in China and with the EAAF Partnership and other international partners to share the experiences, results and lessons of the project. Finally, the project gender mainstreaming action plan and monitoring and evaluation system will ensure that project implementation is inclusive, gender-positive and in line with UNDP and GEF standards.

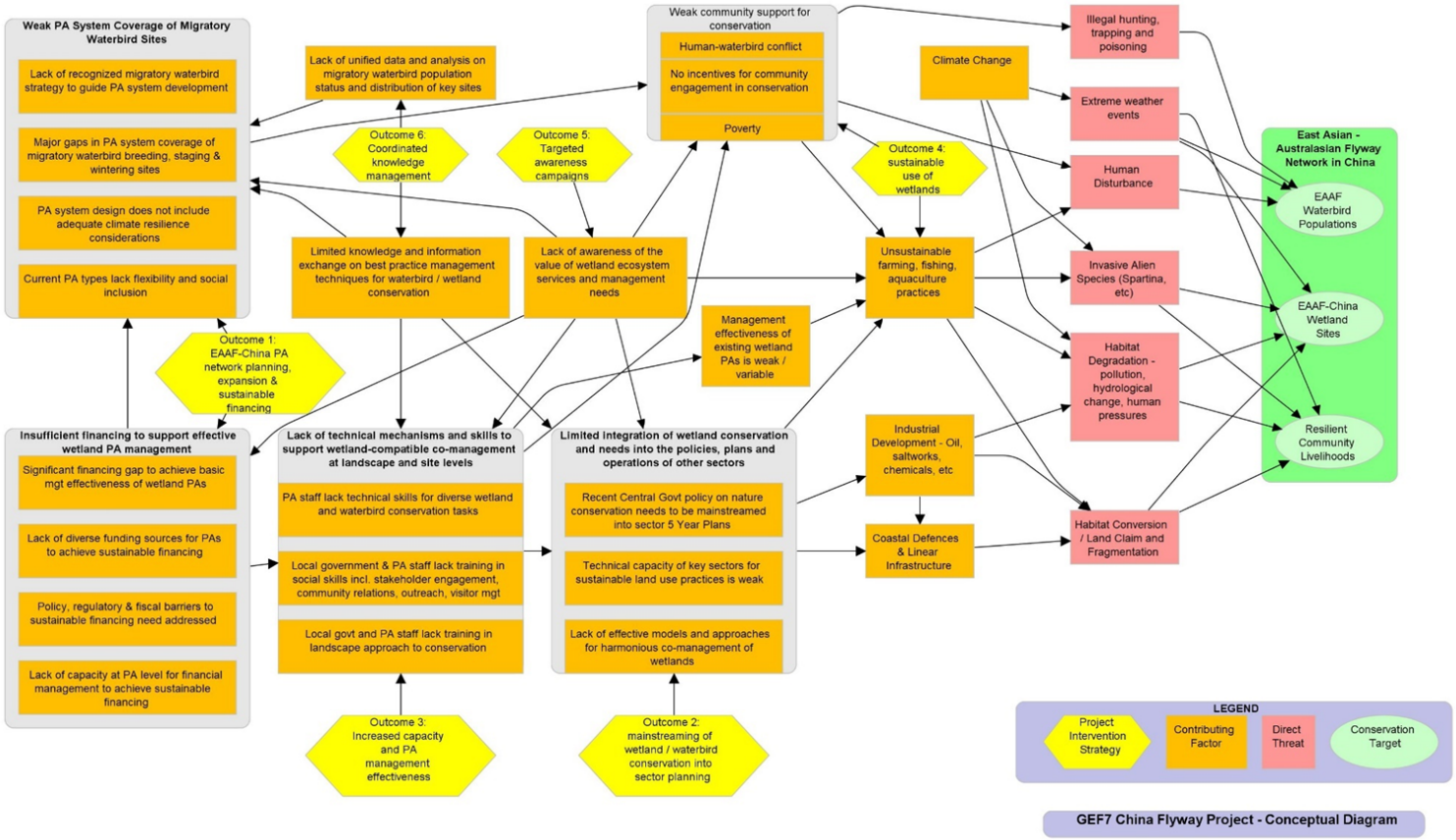

Figure 1. Conceptual Diagram for the Project

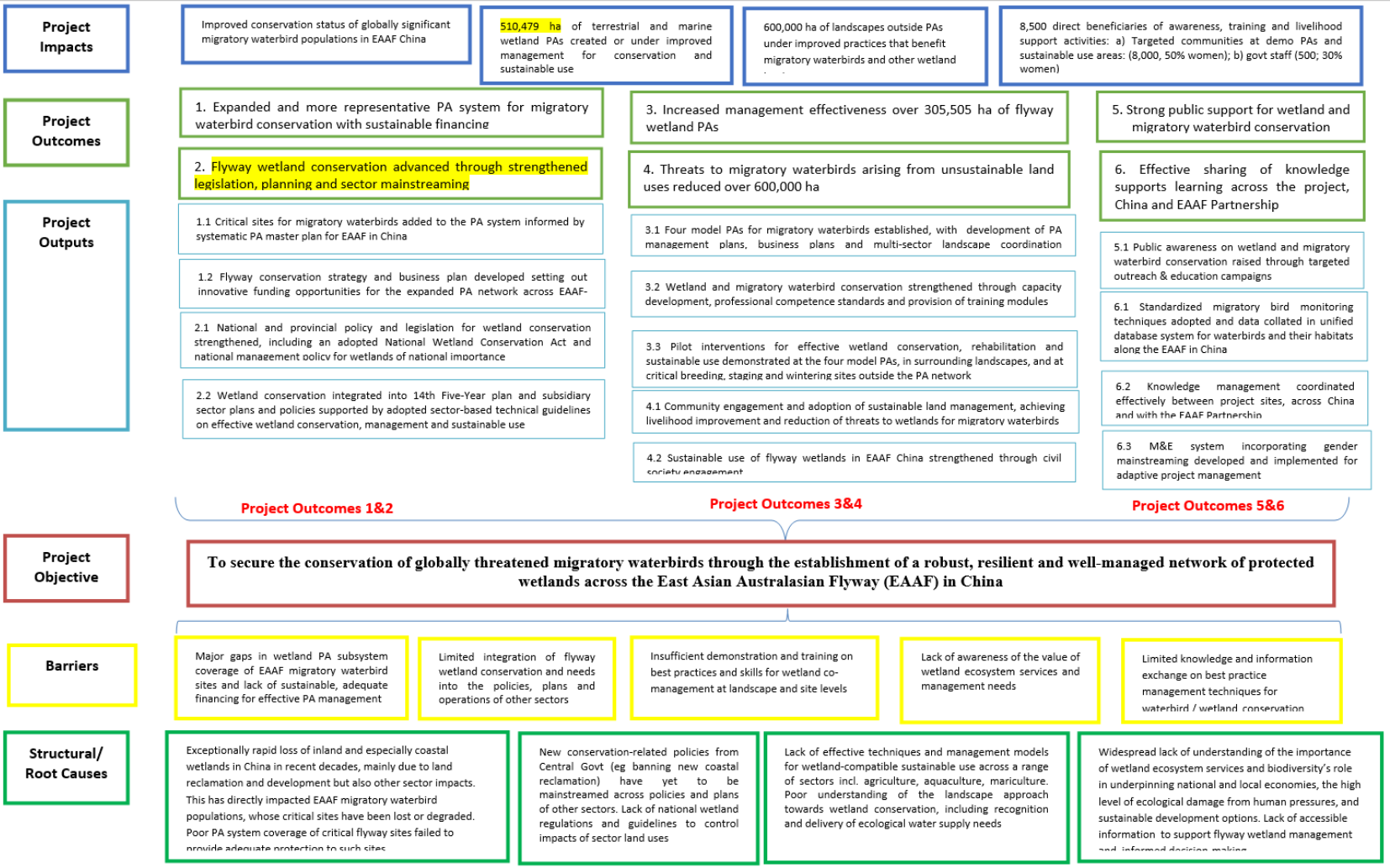

Figure 2. Project Intervention Logic Summary

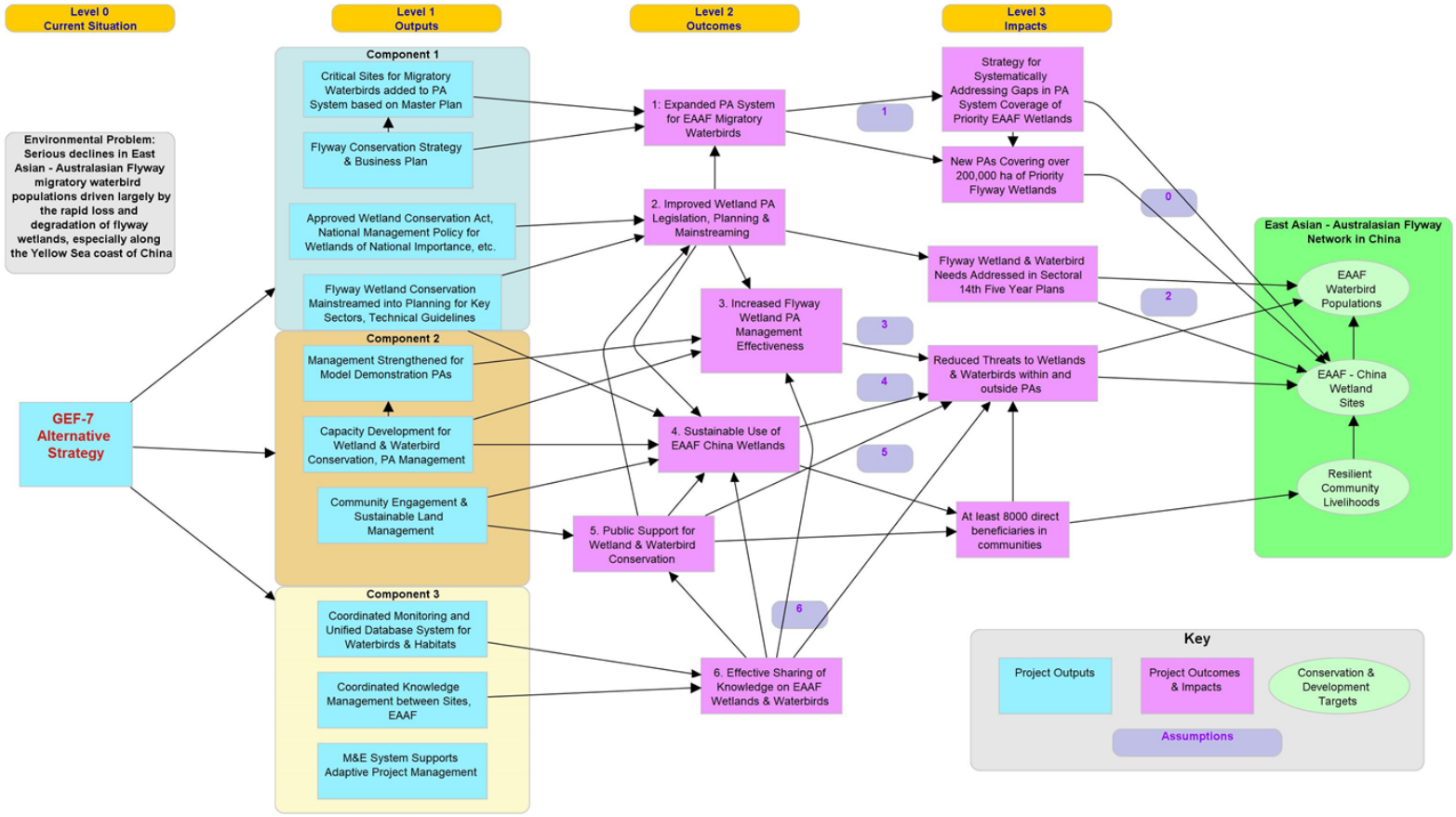

Figure 3. Project Theory of Change Diagram

Table 1. Assumptions and Evidence for the Project Theory of Change

Project Objective	Questions for Monitoring Assumptions	Assumption	Notes and References
0. Secure the conservation of globally significant 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	- Are critical sites for migratory waterbird populations being added to PA networks? - Do the waterbirds benefit from improved availability and quality of wetland habitats at flyway network sites? - Do the waterbirds enjoy improved protection through the flyway site network?	A flyway site network approach will benefit the conservation status of migratory waterbird populations	Situational analyses of migratory waterbird species in the EAAF indicate that the main driver of population declines is the reduction of the extent and quality of the primary waterbird habitats: coastal and inland wetlands[1][1]. Major threats to these habitats include land claim or drainage, reduced river flows, human disturbance, intensification of aquaculture practices and pollution[2][2] [3][3] [4][4]. The loss of coastal wetlands is currently the single greatest threat. In the Yellow Sea (including Bohai Bay), a loss of 35% of the intertidal habitat in the key areas for waterbirds since the 1980s has led to steep population declines; projected rates of on-going reclamation suggest a further 39% of those key areas will be lost by 2025[5][5]. The impact of Yellow Sea coastal site loss is likely to be of particular concern for Arctic-breeding shorebirds that rely on such sites as staging areas[6][6]. The conservation status of inland wetlands in the region is less well known, but there are serious concerns about their stability and persistence as well[7][7]. The application of a flyway conservation approach to safeguard a network of sites covering the full life cycle needs of migratory waterbirds for breeding, staging and non-breeding (northern over-wintering) sites was largely pioneered by the Ramsar Convention (1971), followed by the CMS and regional agreements including the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the EAAF Partnership[8][8]. It is difficult to assign evidence for success due to the complexity of issues involved across huge geographical ranges, but certain species targeted for conservation attention have benefited, such as the eastern population of the Siberian Crane[9][9] and Black-faced Spoonbill[10][10], although it should be noted that issues such as widespread hunting may still impact population status. Lessons from previous regional UNEP/GEF projects on waterbird flyway conservation[11][11] emphasized that while regional planning and cooperation are pre-requisites for effective flyway conservation, they need to be integrated with local programmes that cater for the existing shared interests of multiple stakeholders at the national and site levels: for example in managing water resources which sustain wetland ecosystem services for both waterbirds as well as economic functions such as fisheries, agriculture or hydropower supply. This is even more important in the face of the impacts of climate change on these systems and services. Promoting flyway conservation from a combination of local, regional or trans-boundary perspectives, with emphasis on multiple conservation and socio-economic benefits rather than purely on bird conservation needs, has demonstrated greater chances of success especially in terms of engaging politicians and decision makers in conservation-oriented decisions.
Project Outcomes		**Assumption**	**Notes and References**

1: Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing	-Have any changes occurred in political support for the flyway wetland PA network as reflected by statements from central government? -Have any changes in government financing for PA management been announced?	There is political support for the expanding the PA System to strengthen migratory waterbird conservation and to support its sustainable and adequate financing	A speech by President Xi Jinping during the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (18-24 October 2017) announced the state's intention to strengthen overall planning, organization and leadership for building an Ecological Civilization through new plans for major institutional and regulatory changes. The reform of the protected area system including development of the National Parks system is a key part of this initiative, which the individual provinces are directed to follow, including the task of "developing ecological corridors and biodiversity protection networks so as to strengthen the quality and stability of our ecosystems". The NFGA was given full mandate for management of the national PA system, and has announced wetland conservation as one of its priorities – the NFGA will be the Executing Partner for this project. Further relevant national policy announcements include: the *National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation System Plan* (November 2016) and provincial level implementation plans for all 31 provinces; and the *Central Government released the Guiding Opinions on Establishing a Natural Reserve System with National Parks as the Main Body*, which will build the foundation for the PA system management, including the wetland Nature Reserves (NRs) and wetland parks (June 2019); Circular on *Action Plan for Comprehensive Governance of the Bohai Sea (November 2018); Guiding Opinions of the State Oceanic Administration on Strengthening the Management and Protection of Coastal Wetlands (Office of the State Council) (2018);* and the draft *Wetland Conservation Law* was submitted by NFGA to the Environmental Resources Committee of the National People's Congress in July 2019, and listed as the key work of the Environmental Resources Committee in 2020. The law is expected to be issued by the end of 2021. Finally, on July 5, 2019, the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe *"the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I)"* into the World Heritage List, at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Convention in 2019, which marked the significant progress on EAAF flyway conservation. **See Annex 19.** An assessment of priorities and identification of expansion sites for EAAF migratory waterbirds in China is presented in **Annex 21A,B.** While a significant financing gap exists to achieve a basic level of management effectiveness in the wetland PA system, and while local government financing is still the most important investment channel among wetland protection agencies at all levels, financing from the central government is growing steadily. **See Annexes 23A&B**

2: Flyway wetland conservation advanced through strengthened legislation, planning and sector mainstreaming	-What challenges have been experienced in working with different sectors to mainstream flyway wetland conservation? - To what extent has flyway wetland conservation been reflected in the 14th Five Year Plan for targeted sectors?	The project is able to provide integral support to national and provincial planning and the development of the 14th Five Year Plan across relevant sectors	The GEF-5 MSL National Project achieved significant success in mainstreaming wetland conservation, including: the National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation Systems Plan, approved by the SFA (NFGA) in November 2016 was a significant achievement, and each of the 31 provinces since developed implementation plans accordingly. Another important governmental decision during the course of that project was the national standard on establishing wetlands as an official land use category (National Standard GB/T21010-2017) by the Ministry of Land Resources. This standard has far-reaching benefits, as wetlands are now officially represented on land use plans and local governments will be better enabled to protect wetland ecosystems, e.g., through redlining[12][12]. The current project is well poised to build on this success, with central government policy continuing to emphasize its goal of developing an Ecological Civilization with strong attention to biodiversity conservation, and the GEF-6 C-PAR Programme also working towards strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity in China. The integration of wetland conservation considerations that fully reflect the new national policies mentioned above into the upcoming Five Year Plans at national and provincial levels is an effective mechanism for ensuring that these are addressed by key sectors including the Land Resources, Natural Resources, Water Resources, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and Transport. These will be further supported by guidelines and demonstration actions to show how flyway wetland conservation can be integrated into the practices of the key sectors. **See Annex 19**
3: Increased management effectiveness over 305,505 ha of wetland PAs (marine and terrestrial sites)	-What changes have occurred in terms of Central, Provincial and Local Government Policy towards flyway wetland PAs in general, and the project sites in particular? -What changes in financing have occurred at these levels for flyway wetland PAs and for the project sites in particular?	Central, Provincial and Local Government agencies provide the political support and adequate financing to sustain improvements in management effectiveness at targeted PAs	This GEF project aims to strengthen management effectiveness at four demonstration sites. However, the success of certain actions (eg increased provision of freshwater flows to support essential wetland ecosystem functions) is dependent on government support at different levels, and the overall management effectiveness will only be sustainable if the demonstration PAs receive adequate, sustainable financing. Other GEF projects such as the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project Chinese sites successfully achieved an increase in management effectiveness[13][13], as for the GEF 6 MSL Hainan project, supported by the introduction of a professional competency standard for Hainan NRs' staff and numerous training activities[14][14], as the current project intends to do (see **Annexes 11, 17, 20, 22**).

4: Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha	-What tangible examples of sector agencies and land users taking on sustainable use practices have occurred? -What examples of CSO-led interventions have occurred that benefit sustainable use of wetlands? -What reduction in threats to waterbirds has occurred in targeted areas?	Sector agencies and local land owners and users integrate the GEF alternative measures into their plans, procedures and practices	Likely the most challenging aspect of wetland management is the positive engagement of production sectors and land users, especially in the eastern China context where competition for land and resources is at its most intense. However, the project is well aligned with an unprecedented flow of central policy support for nature conservation and environmental protection (see #1 above) that provides opportunity for mainstreaming the sustainable use of wetland resources (including human-made wetlands such as ricefields and aquaculture ponds) into sector plans, procedures and practices. The availability of eco-compensation to support some such practices provides an incentive opportunity (eg at Dashanbao, where it has supported restoration of wetlands and grasslands – see **Annex 17**). The sustainability of new wetland use practices that reduce threats to waterbirds remains challenging, although where there is a nexus with human health (eg reduced pesticide use, other pollutants) the combined benefits could provide stronger incentive, and stronger regulatory requirements (eg the draft Wetland Conservation Law) may provide the necessary push. This was the case in the MSL Hainan Project, where Environmental Health Index scores for all 12 sites made significant advance over the 4 years of the project, with improved legal status and enforcement derived from revisions and new legislation for protection of wetlands at national, provincial and local levels[15][15].
5: Strong public support for wetland and migratory bird conservation – as indicated by improvements in Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys	-Has increased civil engagement in migratory waterbird conservation taken place at locations where awareness campaigns have been conducted?	Awareness campaigns targeted at specific stakeholder groups are able to achieve tangible change in terms of real conservation impacts, not just improved understanding	Awareness activities are an integral part of most biodiversity conservation projects, and are most effective when targeted at specific issues and stakeholder groups through a systematic process supported by adequate resources (e.g. the Change Wildlife Consumers Community of Practice[16][16]). In the case of relevant wetland / migratory waterbird projects, the GEF 5 MSL Hainan Project had mixed impacts on awareness changes due to strategic weaknesses during implementation, but it did engage NGOs effectively and was well supported by the media, with significant successes including the declaration of Haikou City as a Ramsar International Wetland City in 2018 and a 'Likely' sustainability rating that was partially due to the awareness generated by the project[17][17] [18][18]. The UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project also had a substantial programme of wetland awareness and education activities that supported its conservation goals and were highly rated during its Terminal Evaluation[19][19] [20][20]. The EAAFP, Ramsar Convention, CMS and various NGOs concerned with wetlands and migratory bird conservation also support considerable awareness programmes, that this project will coordinate with and add to[21][21]. See **Annex 24**.

6: Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership	-What examples are there of increased access to knowledge on wetlands and waterbirds at targeted locations? -How has increased access to knowledge informed conservation planning and local action?	Improved knowledge management will increase capacity for more effective conservation management and threat reduction	This is hard to demonstrate, however the unprecedented national level priority being given towards reform of the PA system and attention to wetland conservation (see #1 above) will require a level of inter-agency coordination and information sharing that has not been seen before in China. In addition, this project's close relationship to the GEF-6 C-PAR program (led by C-PAR National Project) will facilitate information-sharing, capacity development and M&E at a national level that will facilitate the transfer of technology and information at all levels of the PA system. The GEF Global Wildlife Program (9071)[22][22] and its second phase launched in June 2019 (10200)[23][23] exemplify a GEF programmatic framework facilitating coordinated knowledge management and cross-fertilisation of the individual projects under its scope, through webinars and sharing of documents, etc. At flyway level, the EAAFP and several national and NGO partners has been consistently raising awareness through its website , resources and programmes.

Project Document Annexes Referred to above:

Annex 11A GEF-7 Tracking Tools- METT for pilot sites

Annex 17 Demonstration Site Profiles

Annex 19 Baseline Analysis Report on Migratory Bird Conservation in China including Capacity Development Scorecard for NFGA

Annex 20 Training Needs Analysis and Capacity Development Scorecards for four Provinces

Annex 21A,B Assessment of priorities and identification of expansion sites for EAAF wetlands in China

Annex 22 Mapping of Demonstration Landscapes and Sites

Annex 23A Analysis of the Baseline for Financing of Wetland Conservation and Partnerships

Annex 23B Adapted Sustainable Financing Scorecard Baseline Assessment for the Wetland PA System

Annex 24 KAP methodology

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

The baseline scenario has been elaborated for the three project components in the Project Document, with key points as follows:

Component 1. Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming

Inadequate PA Network coverage: In the baseline situation (see **Annex 19**), by the end of 2017, protection of wetland ecosystems reached 49.03% of the national target of 800 million mu (53.33 million ha) total wetland area; equating to 26.15 million ha of wetland PA's. During the period 2013 to 2018, 600 new national wetland parks and 16 new Ramsar sites were declared, including three among the provincial MSL projects. China now has 57 Ramsar sites covering a total area of 6.94 million hectares. Despite these significant efforts, China's PA system has evolved on an *ad hoc* basis without the benefit of gap analysis, systematic planning or considerations of landscape connectivity, ecological needs or resilience to climate change. The result is an unbalanced system with many gaps in coverage and this is particularly evident in the case of migratory waterbirds. There remains a much lower level of ecosystem coverage in the eastern, marine and coastal areas, including key habitats for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF, thus the existing PA system in China is clearly inadequate to safeguard EAAF migratory waterbird populations that depend on chains of sites to complete their migration cycles.

The '*Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China'* jointly supported by the China Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Paulson Institute identified 107 important waterbird stopover sites that are still lacking protection, with 11 sites highlighted as priorities for urgent protection, and an analysis conducted for this project (see Prodoc **Annex 21A&B**) highlighted major gaps in coverage of the PA system for globally significant migratory waterbirds.

Inadequate funding to support the effective management of wetland Protected Areas: According to analyses in Prodoc Annex 23A&B, the annual financing gap is 709,549,332 USD to meet the needs for basic management and 1,419,098,663 USD for optimal management.

The estimated financing needs to expand the wetland PA system to meet the planned conservation target of the National Wetland Conservation Plan (2002-2030) approved by the State Council of the P.R.C. is about 850,011,132 USD annually. The annual financing gap for basic management of an expanded PA system (current network costs plus annual costs of adding more PAs) is about 1,984,566,030 USD. Therefore, the financing gap to achieve fully ecologically representative wetland conservation is of this scale. Consequently, it is necessary to diversify financing sources and enrich the financing channels to scale up the financing towards this goal. The total baseline score for the financial sustainability of wetland PA system in China is 81, some 36% of the total possible score. Thus, there is significant room for improving all aspects, especially regarding the tools for revenue generation. See **Annex 23A&B** for further details on the policy, fiscal and legal barriers to sustainable financing of the wetland PA sub-system.

Weak regulatory support for wetland management at the national level: The development of national legislation for wetland conservation has been a long and challenging process, with the proposed *Wetland Conservation Regulation* postponed repeatedly since the early 2000s, largely due to conflicting interests among different government agencies. Consequently, the emphasis was shifted towards developing Wetland Conservation Regulations at provincial level, which now cover most provinces (except Shanghai). However, due to the lack of a Wetland Conservation Regulation at national level, the effectiveness and impact of the provincial legislation on wetland conservation remain problematic.

The *Wetland Conservation Law (Draft)* and supporting document is now under review by the NPC for review. Since 2016 (when the project concept for this GEF-7 project was formulated), some new policies on wetland conservation, PA system reform and coastal wetland protection have been enacted, providing new opportunities for waterbird and wetland habitat conservation along EAAF (see below).

Institutional restructuring facilitates mainstreamed planning: In March 2018, the Chinese central government implemented institutional restructuring, according to which all the PAs in China are now under the administration of the National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA). This provides an excellent opportunity to achieve stronger coordination, develop harmonized regulations, and achieve better integration of wetland conservation across other sectors. In 2020, the NGFA will start next round of wetland conservation planning for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), providing a timely opportunity for this project to support the planning process. The assignment of consolidated PA management responsibility to the NFGA has mitigated some of the risks associated with having PA's previously managed by several different ministries. However, there are no clear pathways for mainstreaming some of the existing guidelines, including pollution control for wetland ecosystems.

Component 2. Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory waterbird conservation

To conserve wetlands including coastal habitats in eastern China, all levels of the Chinese government have put in increased conservation effort in recent decades, in close conjunction with CSOs. These efforts have included designating new wetland reserves and Ramsar sites, restoring wetlands, monitoring waterbirds, exploring approaches for controlling invasive alien species such as *Spartina* and combatting poaching and illegal exploitation of wetlands.

Recent policy commitments from the central government including the announcement of tough controls on coastal reclamation, ecological protection of the Yellow River Basin and a ban on Yangtze River Basin fisheries provide a strong baseline for this project. However, more effort is needed to ensure that new policies for wetland conservation are effectively mainstreamed across the policies and plans of other sectors – from strategic sector policies through to operational guidelines and policies that dictate the activities of other sectors at site level. There is also a lack of effective techniques and management models for wetland-compatible sustainable uses across a range of sectors that exploit wetland resources (e.g. mariculture, aquaculture, fishing, farming) and limited technical skills and understanding among PA managers and industry to adopt more sustainable practices.

Most recently, The National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources jointly issued "the Master Plan on National Major Projects for Ecosystem Protection and Restoration (2021-2035)" on June 11 2020. The overall goal of the plan is, by 2035, through the implementation of the key/major projects for ecosystem protection and restoration, to step up efforts to protect and restore ecosystems in China. In this case the activities proposed under this project are consistent with the focused work in the key ecological areas and will play a very important role towards the conservation of migratory waterbirds in China.

PA and Wetland Management Capacity: While the demonstration PAs are well established with a moderate baseline level of management effectiveness (see **Annexes 11 – METT, 17 – Landscape and PA Profiles, 22 - Demonstration Site Maps**) and most have worked with NGOs, the assessment of training needs for PA management and capacity development for related provincial and local government agencies (**Annex 20)** has highlighted the need for stronger technical skills across a range of subjects and various levels of staffing to deal with the complex requirements of wetland habitat management and restoration to meet the ecological needs of specific waterbirds and to address key threats. Analysis of the financing status for these PAs has indicated that additional funding is needed, in most cases to support operational management including adequate staffing, and all require a more systematic approach towards business planning and securing a diversified funding base to ensure sustainable financing (see Annexes **23A&B).**

At the local level there is *weak understanding of the landscape approach towards the conservation of wetlands*, including recognition of ecological water supply needs and delivery mechanisms through allocations in river basin planning, the sustainability of land uses (such as fishing, aquaculture, reed farms, agriculture) in adjacent production areas,

maintenance of other wetland areas across the landscape to sustain habitat connectivity and increase the resilience of local waterbird populations, and the engagement of diverse local stakeholders to obtain their cooperation and support.

While *site networks for various waterbird groups* such as shorebirds, Anatidae and cranes are being promoted through the EAAFP Working Groups[24][24], and systematic actions for individual species such as the Black-faced Spoonbill[25][25] and Siberian Crane[26][26] have been quite effective, the needs of globally threatened waterbird species are not being addressed systematically across the wetland PA system, at unprotected sites and in wider landscapes through developing and/or implementing species conservation action plans[27][27].

Component 3. Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E

*There remains a widespread **lack of awareness** of the importance of wetlands and their biodiversity as the basis for sustainable development across all sectors and at multiple levels*. Such low awareness is restricting investment in wetland conservation and the uptake of more sustainable behaviours such as wetland-sensitive coastal development, agriculture with reduced chemical use, and sustainable fishing methods. While previous projects such as the GEF-5 MSL Program child projects and CSOs have achieved some success in raising awareness, there is still a long way to go to ensure that environmental values receive serious consideration in development and sectoral planning.

Waterbird monitoring and data management needs to be streamlined and coordinated: Over recent years, the amount of data on waterbirds and their habitats has increased dramatically and the sources of data have become more diversified, providing the enabling conditions to integrate and develop a **database on waterbirds and their habitats** in China's coastal areas (see **Annexes 19 and 21**). There have been many efforts towards developing systematic waterbird surveys in China, including the WWF waterbird surveys in the Central and Lower Yangtze Basin, Wetlands International supported Yellow Sea Coastal waterbird surveys; and ICF have coordinated Synchronized Counts for Migratory Cranes and Waterbirds regularly with nature reserve staff during the migration season since 2015. China Bird Record also collected citizen scientist waterbird records. Government supported efforts have included species monitoring and research by the National Bird Banding Centre, and some wetland nature reserves have carried out annual systematic waterbird surveys. Some academic institutions and universities have collected millions of bird records using GPS trackers. The Paulson Institute (US) and the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences jointly implemented the Project of Developing Waterbirds and Habitats Database of China's Coasts, providing a strong baseline for **Output 6.1**.

At the international level, **these efforts feed into larger scale monitoring and assessments** such as the Asian Waterbird Census[28][28] coordinated by Wetlands International, which contributes to the Waterbird Population Estimates online database[29][29] and publications that inform global conservation status assessments; and targeted monitoring for waterbird groups and species coordinated by EAAFP Working Groups[30][30]. The BirdLife International network also monitors the status of globally threatened bird species and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), all of which qualify as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)[31][31]. In addition, GIS and remote sensing analysis have allowed the migration of waterbirds and changes of their habitats to be spatially mapped and simulated, and to assess the impact of habitat changes on waterbird populations and their

migration (eg see **Annex 21**). Unfortunately, most bird records except China Bird Records and a few databases are still fragmented and unconsolidated, and have not been widely shared with the public. It is urgently needed to expand and diversify the available information base on waterbirds, with the need for a centralized system that can utilize diverse sources. Some information on waterbirds and habitats exist in different government agencies, academies, PAs, NGOs, etc., but *the data are not collected systematically based on common protocols*.

Beyond the above experience on data collection and management, the baseline for **knowledge management** concerning the conservation of flyway wetlands and migratory waterbirds includes the experience of the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life Wetland Programme (closed in December 2019), the related GEF-6 C-PAR programme and the EAAFP, which this project will coordinate with.

Since PIF development (end of 2018), the Chinese government's rapid progress in reforming the institutional structure for nature conservation has continued, as well as advances in environmental policy and legislation. Recent changes since PIF stage are as follows:

In March 2018, the **machinery of government reforms** brought together previously disparate functions and responsibilities for PA management under the one Ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources. The new Ministry is responsible for overseeing the development and protection of China's natural resources, setting up a spatial planning system, establishing a system for payment of ecosystem services, and is mandated with responsibility over the national PA system, which is managed by the subordinate **National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA)** / National Park Authority (two titles for the one entity). The lead mandate for wetland conservation and PA management sits with the newly-strengthened NFGA. The NFGA has announced wetland conservation as one of its priorities and will be the Executing Partner for this project. The Ministry of Natural Resources also includes the functions of the State Oceanic Administration, responsible for managing coastal lands and who made the January 2018 announcement of enhanced regulations on land reclamation along the country's coastline, vowing to demolish illegally reclaimed land and stop approving general reclamation projects. The amalgamation of responsibilities within the new Ministry of Natural Resources provides an excellent opportunity for strong engagement in this project from the relevant parts of the Ministry to work together on coastal wetland conservation. As part of this institutional restructuring, the Department of Wetland Management (DWM) was created under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), thus elevating wetland management to a government level function, as compared to the former Office of Wetland Management which was under the now defunct State Forestry Administration.

Significantly for this project, in September 2018, the National People's Congress (NPC) included the national *Wetland Conservation Law* in the 13th Five Year Plan of Legislative Plan of NPC Standing Committee. In November 2018, the NPC Committee of Resources and Environment issued an official letter to NFGA and delegated NFGA to draft the Wetland Conservation Law. According to NFGA's plan, the *Wetland Conservation Law (Draft)* and supporting document will submitted to NPC for review and the new law is expected to be issued by the end of 2021.

In terms of recent nature conservation policy advances, the following has taken place:

In November 2018, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources issued a Circular on ***Action Plan for Comprehensive Governance of the Bohai Sea***. The Plan covers Liaoning, Hebei, Shandong and Tianjin, with 4 core action areas: Land Source Pollution Control, Marine Pollution Control, Ecological Conservation and Restoration, and Environmental Risk Prevention Action. In which, the action of Ecological Conservation and Restoration is closely linked with this GEF Flyway Project.

On 23 January 2019, the Sixth Meeting of the Central Committee for Comprehensive and Deepening Reform deliberated and adopted the ***Guiding Opinions on the Establishment of Natural Protected Areas System with National Parks as the Main Body***, Nature Reserves as the basis and various types of Ecological Parks (i.e., wetland parks, forest parks) as supplements.

On 26 June 2019, the ***Central Government released the Guiding Opinions on Establishing a Natural Reserve System with National Parks as the Main Body*****,** which will build the foundation for the PA system management, including the wetland NRs and wetland parks.

In September 2018, the State Council issued ***Opinions on the Protection of Aquatic Organisms in the Yangtze River***. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security together issued an ***Implementation Plan*** for prohibition of catching and establishment of compensation system in key waters of the Yangtze River Basin in January 2019. Starting from 01 January 2020, the fishing ban will be observed in 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin, which will also be expanded to all natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries from no later than January 1, 2021.

On the government / academic side, there is also a long history of research by the CAF / National Bird Banding Centre on cranes, Saunders gulls, monitoring network for avian influenza, and so on. Recent baseline projects include:

l NFGA Department of Wetland Management carries out routine monitoring of the Ramsar sites, including bird surveys, with annual budget of around 1 million USD.

l NFGA Department of Wildlife Conservation carries out routine monitoring of the biodiversity of threatened species, in which bird surveys and national bird studies are carried out by the National Bird Banding Centre on cranes and Saunders gull with annual budget of around 100,000 USD, monitoring network for avian influenza with annual budget of 500,000 USD.

l Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MEE) started an umbrella project on national biodiversity assessment through a bidding process with a budget of 15 million USD during 2019-2020, in which about 2 million USD was allocated for the waterbird or flyway surveys and assessments.

l Ministry of Science and Technology launched the national key programme of fragile ecosystem areas, including 7 key projects along the coastal areas, covering Yellow River Delta, Yangtze River Delta, Liaohe River Estuary, and other coastal wetlands, for the restoration of degraded wetland restoration, *Spartina* control, with a budget of about 10 million USD during 2018-2021.

1 Chinese Academy of Sciences launched the biodiversity monitoring network for systematic monitoring key species, including a project on migratory birding monitoring with GPS trackers with a budget of around 1.2 million USD during 2019-2022.

GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) Program. China's reform of its national protected area system to introduce national parks and align to international standards is also supported by GEF. The GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) program contains six child projects (US$21 million GEF investment) supported by UNDP, Conservation International and FECO (See **Table 1 below**). The program is supporting the reform of China's protected area system at national and provincial levels in line with international best practice standards for protected areas, across a range of ecosystem types. The C-PAR Program activities to strengthen national planning, policy and financing for the PA system will provide baseline efforts for this current project to coordinate with, build upon and adapt for migratory waterbird conservation. The program also includes a marine PA network child project, covering the coastal areas in Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi, that will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and best practices that can be replicated along the EAAF in China. Moreover, the marine PA network child project will be also implemented by NFGA, and will be directly managed by same Project team with GEF Flyway Project, some demonstration sites, such as Sanniang Bay wetlands, are also waterbird habitats, which will bridge the gaps of current GEF Flyway project in Southern China Coastal Areas.

Table 1. GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) program

Project Title	GEF IA	GEF EA	Project Start and End Dates	GEF Budget (USD)
1. China's Protected Area Reform (C-PAR) for Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity (with coordination functions)	UNDP	FECO	1 Feb 2019 to 30 Jan 2025	7,000,000
2 Enhancing endangered species conservation through reducing threats and PA system strengthening in Gansu	UNDP	Gansu Forest Department	1 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2024	3,000,000
3. Strengthening the PA system in the Qilian Mountains-Qinghai Lake landscape	UNDP	Qinghai Forest Department	19 Jan 2019 to 18 Jan 2024	3,000,000
4. Strengthening Marine Protected Areas for Chinese White Dolphin Conservation	UNDP	NFGA	Dec 2019 to Dec 2024	3,000,000

5. Expanding the coverage and strengthening the management of wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province	CI	Sichuan Forest Department	May 2019 - May 2024	3,000,000
6. Building Sustainability into PA reforms to Conserve Globally significant Biodiversity in China	FECO	Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences	24 Oct 2019 -30 Sept 2024	2,000,000
Total				**21,000,000**

The PRC-GEF-6 *Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP)* includes the child project *Strengthening coordinated approaches to reduce invasive alien species (IAS) threats to globally significant agrobiodiversity and agroecosystems in China (R-IAST)*. This will strengthen the policy and regulatory framework for the prevention, control and management of IAS, the institutional capacities and interagency response mechanisms for IAS detection, quarantine, disposal, monitoring, early warning and rapid response, demonstrate IAS threat reduction in agroecosystems, and create Increased awareness and knowledge management concerning IAS in China, their impact on agroecosystems and increased support for IAS management. The current project will coordinate with this child project on countering IAS threats at the project demonstration sites and more broadly for national policy and strategy formulation for flyway wetland conservation.

There has also been increasing interest in private sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments in wetland conservation. For example, The SEE Foundation (a Beijing enterprise-based NGO, consisting of 650 members from private companies) has launched a 10-year bird project to support grassroots NGOs to carry out protection actions in non-protected coastal wetlands, with funding of two million yuan (around US$291,300) in 2017-2018. SEE Foundation would fund 50 to 90 local NGOs (average 60 NGOs per year) to carry out wetland patrols, waterbird monitoring and science popularization and education. The main outputs include a waterbird and wetland database, and mobilizing more people around wetlands to participate in wetland conservation. SEE Foundation also committed to co-finance 5.8 million USD to the GEF Flyway Project over 5 years. During the period from September 2018 to August 2019, SEE Foundation operated the Free Flying Wings (FFW), a civil conservation network that aims to preserve China’s most endangered waterbirds and their critical habitats, and has supported 41 organizations in protecting 50 key wetland sites.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The project's GEF Alternative remains consistent with the PIF, with no major change in project outcomes. A full description of elaborated alternative scenario is provided below. The following changes have been made since PIF stage:

A minor wording change has been made to the Project Objective for greater clarity, replacing **To secure the conservation of *endangered* migratory waterbirds,** with ***globally threatened*** **migratory waterbirds.**

The most significant change has been the removal of the project demonstration site at Zhanjiang NNR in Guangdong Province, and its replacement with Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve. The rationale and justification for this change is as follows, supported in the attached letter from NFGA (**Annex H**).

Zhanjiang NNR was included in the PIF in view of its importance for migratory waterbird conservation, and to provide diversity in the selection of demonstration sites. However during the PPG, it became clear that Guangdong provincial government did not fully support the project, thus compromising the likelihood of effective implementation of proposed project activities at Zhanjiang NNR.

Secondly, in April 2019 the PPG team became aware of a multi-billion dollar chemical manufacturing complex development involving the chemical company BASF immediately adjacent to Zhanjiang NNR headquarters, that was given the go-ahead in early 2019[32][32], after GEF approval of the PIF. This posed a significant environmental risk that could have adversely affected achievement of the project goals at Zhanjiang.

The main implication of the withdrawal of this demonstration site is that the original Component 2 coverage of sites for improved management effectiveness totalling 296,633 ha (PIF target) is reduced by 20,278 ha. NFGA has worked with UNDP to provide an alternative, which has been agreed as the inclusion of Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve in Liaoning Province totalling 29,150 ha, bringing the total coverage of sites for improved management effectiveness to 305,505 ha, and representing an increase of 8,872 ha (GEF Core Indicators 1 & 2).

Original PIF targets for the area of wetlands under sustainable use benefiting waterbirds outside the PA system (600,000 ha) (GEF Core Indicator 4) and number of direct beneficiaries (8,000/50% women) (GEF Core Indicator 11) will not be affected by this change.

The inclusion of Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve (PNR) is strategically advantageous for the following reasons:

a. Panjin Municipal Government is in the process of planning a more unified management approach for the Liao River Estuary through combining the existing NNR and PNR into one large NNR (of some 109,000 ha). Project support will greatly facilitate this process, including specific attention towards management of the PNR portion of the area.

b. Overall, according to the analysis of sites of importance for East Asian – Australasian Flyway priority waterbird species in China (Prodoc Annex 22, Appendix 1), Liao River Estuary NNR was rated No 7 out of 176 sites, while Zhanjiang NNR was rated below 170 (mangrove forests in Leizhou Peninsula).

c. Liao River Estuary PNR aims to protect the freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystem, and diverse internationally important waterbirds, Spotted Seal, and Finless Porpoise that roost in the reserve. It supports one Critically Endangered (Siberian Crane), three Endangered (Red-crowned Crane, Oriental Stork, Spotted Greenshank) and at least eight vulnerable migratory waterbird species, including Saunder's Gull breeding colonies. KBA mapping in China is incomplete and existing KBAs largely follow NNR boundaries therefore in this case it is not helpful to compare. However, the above biodiversity values clearly indicate that Liao River Estuary PNR would qualify as a KBA.

In operational terms, the reduction of the number of demonstration sites from five to four (through consolidation of Liao River Estuary NNR and PNR) will allow more substantial GEF resources to be allocated to each site (proportionately distributed among the remaining 4 sites) which will strengthen impact and sustainability of outcomes, as well as more efficient project management with fewer implementation units to coordinate.

Co-financing inputs will not be reduced, as NFGA has committed to provide any additional co-financing required to ensure that the full total amount of government co-financing stated in the PIF is fully committed at CEO Endorsement. In addition, during the PPG stakeholder workshop on 16 January 2020, key NGO's (i.e. International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF China, SEE Foundation and East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership) have indicated their interest in partnering with the project and have provided co-financing letters. This has resulted in higher levels of co-financing than was earmarked at PIF stage.

Finally, it is recognized that the removal of Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR from the project will result in the omission of sub-tropical coastal ecosystem representation from the demonstration sites in Component 2, specifically the mangrove ecosystem that is the key feature of Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR. The project will seek to compensate for this by including a PA system expansion site in Component 1 that is both a top priority for migratory waterbird conservation and a mangrove site – namely Xinghua Bay in Fujian Province (49,674 ha). This site is of global significance for threatened species: Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull and Spotted Greenshank, and supporting internationally significant numbers of Dunlin and Kentish Plover, as well as conservation and restoration of mangrove forest. Finally, it is worth noting that this project will draw on the results of the UNDP/GEF 5 MSL Hainan project[33][33] (successfully completed in late 2018) which networked key mangrove reserves, and will be coordinated closely with the CPAR Programme Project 4 on MPAs for Chinese White Dolphins, which also includes coastal areas in Xiamen Bay, Guangdong and Guangxi (implementation started up recently, led by NFGA).

A comparison of the main characteristics of the original proposed demonstration site – Zhanjiang NNR, and its proposed replacement – Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve – is provided in the table below.

	Zhanjiang NNR	**Liao River Estuary PNR**
Area	20,278 ha	29,150 ha
National protection status	National Nature Reserve	Provincial Nature Reserve – in the process of consolidation with adjacent Liao River Estuary National Nature Reserve (so it will be upgraded)
International designations	Ramsar Site	No - Adjacent to the Shuangtai Estuary Nature Reserve Ramsar Site (which follows the Liao River Estuary NNR boundaries) – the project would propose expansion of the Ramsar site boundaries to cover the whole proposed unified NNR, covering both the existing NNR and PNR. Likely to be proposed as part of WHC Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf Phase II nomination
KBA status (Note – KBA mapping in China is very incomplete)	No – but aligns with globally threatened species and habitat conservation criteria	No – but aligns with globally threatened species and habitat conservation criteria

Migratory Waterbird Values	Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR) Black-faced Spoonbill (EN) Saunders Gull (VU)	Siberian Crane (CR) Red-crowned Crane (EN) Oriental Stork (EN) Spotted Greenshank (EN) Saunders Gull (VU) – breeding At least 7 other VU migratory waterbird species Also supports Spotted Seal and Finless Porpoise (VU) populations
Habitat Values	The largest mangrove natural reserve with the highest mangrove species diversity and the largest density on the Chinese mainland (over 7,000 ha of mangrove forest dispersed over some 37 patches)	Liao river estuary ecosystem, including intertidal flats, Suaeda marshes (Panjin Red Coast tourism attraction), extensive reedbeds and freshwater wetlands
Connectivity	Zhanjiang NNR is unusual in being dispersed over the Leizhou Peninsula in numerous small patches. As such it is difficult to manage and the future viability of some patches will be difficult to sustain in the face of rapid development pressures	Liao River Estuary PNR is contiguous with the adjacent NNR and is in the process of being consolidated into one large NNR covering nearly all of the estuarine ecosystem and associated wetland habitats. Some parts of the PNR that were impacted by aquaculture are now being restored with aquaculture operations having been ceased. Overall, the consolidated reserve will provide a sound management basis for one of the most ecologically important estuaries on China's Yellow Sea Coast.

During the PPG, the project components, outputs and activities were elaborated as follows:

Expected Results*:*

The Long-Term Impacts of the project, namely improved protection and management of critical habitats for migratory waterbirds and improved conservation status of globally significant migratory waterbird populations in EAAF-China will be realized through the achievement of the **Project Objective**: to secure the conservation of globally significant migratory waterbirds through the establishment of a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the EAAF in China. The reduction of threats to wetland habitats and globally significant migratory waterbirds as well as benefits to project stakeholders will be reflected through the Project Objective indicators (see Results Framework for details), showing the number of direct and indirect project beneficiaries; the area of terrestrial flyway wetland PAs created (c.19,900 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (172,200 ha); the area of marine flyway wetland PAs created (c.185,074 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (133,305 ha); and the local population status of targeted globally threatened migratory waterbird species at the pilot sites based on annual peak counts.

To achieve this objective, the project will deploy three complementary strategies (Project Components) that address strengthened PA system planning, policy and mainstreaming at national and sub-national level (across the breadth of the EAAF in China and within the four demonstration provinces; site-based management effectiveness at four model PAs for migratory species and their surrounding landscapes; and knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation.

Component 1 will apply at both national and sub-national levels (broadly covering the EAAF within China). At the national level, the project will support the expansion of the flyway wetland PA system through the addition of critical sites for migratory waterbirds across EAAF-China informed by gap analysis (see **Annex E** and prodoc **Annex 21A,B**), a PA system master plan and a flyway conservation strategy and business plan that set out the funding needs and innovative funding opportunities for flyway conservation. National and provincial wetland policy and regulations will be strengthened, and flyway wetland conservation policies will be mainstreamed into the 14th Five-year Plan and associated sectoral policies, supported by technical guidelines for different sectors. A national coordination mechanism will be established to bring together government agencies and sectors with a mandate related to or impacting on wetland conservation. Overall, the project will assist NFGA, and the targeted provincial and local government authorities to incorporate and implement ongoing reform of the national PA system including wetland areas.

Component 2 will apply at the landscape and site levels, supporting the implementation of the national and sub-national activities through demonstration of integrated habitat and species management in and around four model sites, with the results used to identify project best practices that can be replicated across the EAAF within China. The four model sites are all recognized internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds (see **Annex E,** prodoc **Table 4** and site profiles in prodoc **Annex 17**), for which the project will strengthen their management effectiveness through the development of management plans, business plans, stakeholder coordination mechanisms, capacity development measures based on professional competency standards, and pilot interventions that will demonstrate wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use in order to reduce threats and improve conditions for migratory waterbird populations. The project will also support sustainable use demonstrations in the wider landscapes around these demonstration sites as well as other unprotected flyway wetlands of importance for waterbirds across EAAF-China, and facilitate community co-management efforts to strengthen sustainability of livelihoods, land use and to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds.

Component 3 is cross-cutting, supporting Components 1 and 2 through knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation. The awareness campaigns will aim to strengthen public support for flyway wetland and migratory waterbird conservation among key target groups. The project will support the development and institutionalization of a standardized methodology for monitoring migratory waterbirds and their habitats and a unified database system to promote the availability of harmonized data to support conservation planning. Knowledge management will be coordinated between project sites, across the EAAF wetland site network in China and with the EAAF Partnership and other international partners to share the experiences, results and lessons of the project. Finally, the project gender mainstreaming action plan and monitoring and evaluation system will ensure that project implementation is inclusive, gender-positive and in line with UNDP and GEF standards.

The above-mentioned Component strategies (see below for full details of components, outputs and indicative activities) are expected to deliver the following **Outcomes and results:**

Outcome 1: Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing

· Legal gazettement of 18 new PAs (of any relevant type) for priority sites for migratory waterbirds across the breadth of the EAAF in China, meeting Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) criteria and totalling some 204,974 ha (See **Annex 11B** for METTs), supported by baseline inventories of biodiversity, PA Master Plans and Site Management Plans, nominations of new PAs as Ramsar Sites and EAAF Network Sites, and a flyway conservation strategy and business plan for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China;

· Strengthened financial sustainability and resource allocation for the expanded national wetland PA system for migratory waterbird conservation based on the financial sustainability scorecard (Adapted GEF-6 Biodiversity-1 Tracking Tool, Part III – prodoc **Annex 23B**) in terms of an increase in Financial Scorecard score, and a decrease in wetland PA system financing gap (for basic management); establishment of a national donor alliance for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation with investment strategy.

Outcome 2: Flyway wetland conservation advanced through strengthened legislation, planning and sector mainstreaming

· Migratory waterbird conservation needs integrated in the 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for key sectors – provisionally: Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Water Resources, (includes – fisheries, aquaculture, farming, oil extraction and production, coastal development)

· Sector specific guidelines finalized for biodiversity-friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, ecological restoration of ex-oil production areas, and grazing of livestock (6)

· State Council Circular on Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands implemented with more emphasis on the conservation and restoration of wetland habitats of national priority for migratory waterbirds, and supported by adoption of Provincial-level Circulars in the three coastal demonstration provinces (Liaoning, Shandong and Shanghai)

· Technical concept and implementation strategy developed, reviewed and adopted for a multi-sector coordination 'China flyway partnership network' for the breadth of the EAAF in China, including site and international level connections.

· National wetland conservation law and a national policy for management of wetlands of national importance adopted

· Improved institutional capacity to administer the national and provincial PA System for migratory waterbird conservation and globally threatened species conservation, indicated by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecards (see prodoc **Annex 19** for NFGA, and prodoc **Annex 20** for provincial/local agencies) for: Wetland Management Department of the National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA); Yunnan Forestry Bureau; Zhaotong Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Yunnan; Shanghai Forestry Bureau; Shandong Department of Natural Resources; and Liaoning Forestry and Grassland Bureau.

Outcome 3: Increased management effectiveness over 305,505 ha of wetland PAs (marine and terrestrial sites)

· Increased management effectiveness of targeted PAs covering approx. 305,505 ha indicate "sound" management (as measured by the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) – see prodoc **Annex 11A**), covering Liaohe River Estuary NNR & PNR; Yellow River Delta NNR; Chongming Dongtan NNR and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR

· Threats to migratory waterbirds and other biodiversity reduced at project demonstration sites (see Table A of METT forms in prodoc **Annex 11A** for details)

· Restoration of degraded wetlands in the project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas in order to increase their value for globally significant migratory waterbird populations

Mitigation of GHG emissions of an estimated 16,999,522 tCO2e (direct) and 38,248,924 tCO2e (indirect) as a result of this wetland restoration

· Guideline / handbook for the development of PA management plans that takes into account climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards, and PA management plans updated in order to pilot test the guidelines / handbook

· Climate change vulnerability assessments completed for the conservation targets (key species and habitats) at each site to inform the identification of adaptive management priorities
· Site business plans completed that support site management plan priority actions
· Updated Ramsar Information Sheets, EAAF Partnership Site Information Sheets and GIS maps completed
· Local stakeholder coordination mechanisms strengthened for model PAs and landscapes
· Increased management and technical capacity of model PA, local and provincial government agency staff based on training needs assessments and aligned to PA competency standards

Outcome 4: Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha

· Piloting completed and evaluated and human-waterbird conflict guidelines finalized and adopted by local government for at least 20,000 ha outside PAs in target landscapes
· Guidelines applied to at least 600,000 ha for sustainable use of flyway wetlands addressing biodiversity friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, and grazing of livestock have been applied outside the protected area system in order to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds
· Targeted interventions completed within and outside the pilot sites to address specific threats, documented and disseminated
· Restoration of degraded wetlands in the project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas in order to increase their value for globally significant migratory waterbird populations

· Wetland-compatible practices for agriculture, reed-farming, grazing, fishing and aquaculture activities demonstrated in the project model PAs and landscapes
· Unsustainable economic pressures on wetlands reduced through diversification of livelihoods
· Community support and engagement through targeted outreach and awareness raising campaigns and school education partnerships

Outcome 5: Strong public support for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation – as indicated by improvements in KAP surveys

· Improved awareness of the value of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation among key target groups including: a) national government decision makers, b) provincial and local government agencies, and c) local communities at project sites, indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys conducted at the start and end of the project (see prodoc **Annex 24**)

Outcome 6: Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership

· Standardized results from migratory waterbird counts and wetland habitats available online for public access through a unified database and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the EAAF in China

· At least 15 project best practices and lessons documented and disseminated[34]

The full intervention strategy is as follows:

Component 1. Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming
Note – Baseline descriptions for each component are presented in the above section of the CEO ER document
At the national level, the project will support the development of a strategic framework for the improved representation of critical EAAF-China flyway wetland sites in the national wetland PA system informed by a systematic process of gap analysis for globally significant EAAF migratory waterbird populations (see **Annex E** and **Prodoc Annexes 21A,B**), the development of a PA system master plan to guide plans for expansion, and a flyway conservation strategy, action plan and business plan that set out the national priorities for migratory waterbird conservation, the associated funding needs and innovative funding opportunities. The project will support the process for establishing 204,974 ha of new PAs for unprotected wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds, including those for inclusion in Phase 2 of the recent WHC serial site listing for the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Coast[35][35]. The project will support the strengthening and finalization of key national and provincial wetland policy and regulations including the draft Wetland Conservation Law, and their application in the demonstration PAs and landscapes. Flyway wetland conservation policies will be mainstreamed into the 14th Five-year Plan and associated sectoral policies, supported by the review of existing technical guidelines for key sectors developed under the GEF-5 MSL programme, development of new guidelines as needed, and their piloting under Component 2.

A more integrated approach towards wetland conservation and restoration will be promoted through the existing national coordination mechanism for wetland conservation led by NFGA that brings together government agencies and sectors with relevant mandates. Approved by the State Council, China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention was established in 2007 with 16 member agencies, chaired by the former State Forestry Administration and co-chaired by five ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Environmental Protection Administration and the State Oceanic Administration[36][36]. This Committee holds annual meetings to review the achievement and problems in fulfilling the Ramsar Convention in addition to routine communications among the member agencies to coordinate related work. This project would aim to promote migratory waterbird conservation as one of the priorities of the Committee. In its annual meetings, an update on progress of this project would be included in the agenda, and Committee members organized to conduct field inspections of the project sites during implementation so that the Committee can facilitate the upscaling and replication of the project results to other sites and regions in China. As part of its mandate, this body will facilitate the implementation of new central government policies that have particular relevance to wetland conservation, such as the MNR Circular on *Action Plan for Comprehensive Governance of the Bohai Sea (Nov 2018), Guiding Opinions of the State Oceanic Administration on Strengthening the Management and Protection of Coastal Wetlands (Office of the State Council, 2018), the Ministry of Land Resources (now MNR) new land use category for wetlands in the third national land resource survey (2017), and the National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation System Plan (Office of the State Council) that set a target of 53 million ha of wetlands, of which 50% will be under protection.*

Outcome 1: Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing

Output 1.1: Critical sites for migratory waterbirds added to the PA system[37][37], informed by the development of a systematic PA master plan for the breadth of the EAAF in China[38][38].

The project will complete a comprehensive analysis to identify critical sites for globally significant populations of migratory waterbirds across the EAAF in China (extending the analysis in Prodoc **Annex 21A&B**), and support the systematic addition of priority flyway wetland sites to the PA network[39][39] across the whole scope of the EAAF in China. This will be captured in a PA system master plan for the EAAF in China that will include strategic consideration of all breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory waterbirds in the future planning of the wetland PA network, rather than the current focus on individual sites. The project will support the addition of 204,974 ha of priority flyway wetland sites for globally significant migratory waterbirds meeting KBA criteria to the PA network spanning EAAF-China (including all relevant types of PAs) through a range of measures including support for stakeholder consultations, safeguard screening and FPIC concerning the creation of new PAs; technical support for the gazettal of PAs and the nomination of these sites for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance; the completion of PA master plans and biodiversity assessments (including flyway-wide conservation benefits); and the submission of sites for inclusion in the EAAFP's Flyway Site Network. All proposed new PAs will meet KBA criteria related to the conservation of globally significant species[40][40], fulfilling GEF requirements for globally significant sites for biodiversity conservation. As far as possible, the project will support the process for establishing new PAs for unprotected wetlands to be included in Phase II of the recent WHC serial listing for the Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf Coast. The characteristics of the 18 proposed new protected area sites of global significance for EAAF migratory waterbird conservation are summarized in the table below, and the criteria and procedures used to identify the proposed new protected areas are as follows. For further details, see Annex 21B.

i) The proposed sites are of international importance for waterbird conservation, meeting the Ramsar criteria, Important Bird Areas (a subset of the global system of Key Biodiversity Areas) as well as the EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria. The sites' importance was evaluated by the importance index in **Annex 21B**. It should be mentioned that the process of KBA identification in China is very incomplete, therefore many sites that would meet internationally accepted KBA criteria are not yet listed in China and therefore do not appear in **Appendix 1 of Annex 21B**.

ii)

Details of the criteria used are as follows:

1. Regular presence of a single individual for Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) species; presence of 30 individuals for Vulnerable species (VU) according to IUCN red list category

Source: Criterion 2 for identifying Ramsar sites (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2010); Criterion A1 to determine Important Bird Area (Fishpool and Evans, 2001)

2. Population exceeds 1% of flyway population (hereafter Ramsar 1% criterion)

Source: Criterion 6 for identifying Ramsar sites (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2010); Criterion A4 to determine Important Bird Area (Fishpool and Evans, 2001)

3. Supports 5,000 or more waterbirds

Source: Staging criteria for East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) Partnership (http://www.eaaflyway.net)

ii) The sites represent existing conservation gaps or are not well protected;

We overlaid the priority sites with the existing protection areas distribution maps and got the potential list of new Protected Areas extension.

iii) The sites will be considered or related with the government's ongoing planning for wetland conservation strategy.

Among the potential list of new Protected Areas, we have fully consulted the National Forestry and Grassland Bureau and the demonstration provinces. Sites for compliance with the relevant ongoing planning in wetland conservation strategy were taken into consideration firstly. Such as the National or Provincial Important Wetland in China which issued by NFGA, as well as the Ecological Redline of Wetlands Mapping by China Central Government. Therefore, the list of potential PAs was reviewed and checked with the list mentioned above in order to obtain the final list of sites for this project.

It should be noted that the GoC is currently undertaking the PA Integration and Optimization Action Plan as mandated by the official "Guidance Document on Establishing Natural PA System Taking National Park as the Main Body" issued by the General Office of the Central Party Committee and the State Council in June 2019. The Action Plan aims to address structural issues that hinder effectiveness in the management of the existing PA system, including acute overlapping of PAs, inconsistency and duplication of PA categorization, and lack of clarity about PA management responsibilities between government agencies and/or levels, amongst other critical issues. The expected date of completion of the Action Plan is December 2020. Therefore, a more detailed site level screening of PA expansion sites can only begin after the Action Plan is concluded and structural issues of the PA system described above are addressed. Consequently, it is possible that some adjustments to the proposed sites may be necessary during project implementation in view of this ongoing process. In addition, the PA system reform regulations determine that proposals to establish new PAs must originate from the Provincial Government. This process involves extensive government-led multi-stakeholder consultations that typically would take up to two years. The consultations under this new regime have not yet taken place and can only be initiated once the PA Optimization Action Plan is concluded.

Preliminary baseline METTs for the proposed 18 new sites are given in **Annex 11B**, noting that none of these sites are existing protected areas at the current time, therefore only partial baseline information is possible. A summary of the METT scores is given in the following table:

#	Province	Proposed PA names	Project Start-up	Midterm	Project Completion
1	Liaoning	Liaoning Donggang Helong	13	39	57
2	Liaoning	Liaoning Zhuanghe	5	31	56
3	Liaoning	Liaoning Jinzhou Bay	5	29	54
4	Hebei	Hebei Shihe Estuary	7	33	60
5	Hebei	Hebei Beidaihe Coast	6	32	55
6	Hebei	Hebei Luannan Coast	6	32	57
7	Hebei	Hebei Laoting Coast	5	31	55
8	Tianjin	Tianjin Hangu Coast	6	32	56
9	Shandong	Shandong Qingdao	6	32	57
10	Jiangsu	Jiangsu Lianyungang	4	31	50
11	Jiangsu	Jiangsu Dongtai-Rudong	6	31	60
12	Shanghai	Shanghai Chongming Beitan	6	32	56
13	Shanghai	Shanghai Nanhui Dongtan	4	31	56
14	Zhejiang	Zhejiang Sizaopu	13	37	55
15	Zhejiang	Zhejiang Linkun Island	6	32	57

16	Jiangxi	Jiangxi Hanchi Lake	7	33	58
17	Jiangxi	Jiangxi Dalianzi Lake	7	33	58
18	Fujian	Fujian Xinghua Bay	6	32	57

Indicative Activities:

1.1.1 Compile an integrated analysis of all breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF in China using all available data from governmental and non-governmental sources such as ICF, TNC, WI and WWF (see also database in Output 6.1). This activity would extend the analysis in Prodoc **Annex 21A&B** so that it is comprehensive for the EAAF in China, including important inland wetland regions such as Yangtze valley, SongNen Plain and Sanjiang Plain);

1.1.2 Develop a PA sub-system Master Plan covering EAAF flyway wetlands in China based on the integrated analysis that takes account of all significant breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory waterbirds in the future planning of the wetland PA network;

1.1.3 Facilitate proposals for the legal gazettement of some 18 new PAs (of relevant types, and considering various options for conservation management) for identified sites that meet KBA criteria for migratory waterbirds totaling an estimated 204,974 ha across the EAAF in China (see Prodoc **Annex 21B)**;

1.1.4 Support the implementation of baseline inventories of biodiversity and socio-economic surveys of the proposed new PAs, including safeguards assessments and Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) consultations as necessary (see ESMF in Prodoc **Annex 8** for details);

1.1.5 Support participatory processes for the development of Master Plans and Site Management Plans for the proposed new PAs;

1.1.6 Compile Ramsar Information Sheets, GIS site maps and EAAF Flyway Site Network information Sheets and facilitate the nomination of the new PAs as Ramsar Sites and EAAF Network Sites;

1.1.7 Support the development of guidelines for NFGA regarding the inclusion of management plans as an obligation for Ramsar Sites, EAAF Network Sites, and PAs at national level taking into account the lessons learned from past and ongoing GEF projects.

1.1.8 Provide technical support for the nomination of sites for inclusion in the *Coast of the Bohai Gulf and Yellow Sea Phase II* natural heritage listing under the World Heritage Convention

1.1.9 Facilitate the presentation of updates on project progress at annual meetings of the National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention led by NFGA, and field inspections of the project sites by Committee members during implementation so that the Committee can facilitate the upscaling and replication of the project results to other sites and regions in China.

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[21] https://www.eaaflyway.net/activities/eaafp-campaigns/

[22] https://www.thegef.org/publications/combatting-illegal-wildlife-trade-2015

[23] https://www.thegef.org/project/global-wildlife-program

[24] https://www.eaaflyway.net/working-groups/

[25] Supported by an international single species action plan under CMS in this case: https://eaaflyway.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ts22_black_faced_spoonbill.pdf

[26] https://www.cms.int/siberian-crane/en/page/species-conservation-0

[27] The global Crane Conservation Strategy has just been published by ICF in 2019: https://www.savingcranes.org/crane-conservation-strategy-now-available/

[28] https://www.eaaflyway.net/activities/asian-waterbird-census/

[29] http://wpe.wetlands.org/

[30] https://www.eaaflyway.net/working-groups/

[31] http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programmes/sites-habitats-ibas-and-kbas

[32] https://www.basf.com/global/en/media/news-releases/2019/01/p-19-107.html ; https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-basf-petrochemical-guangdong/germanys-basf-chooses-southern-chinese-port-as-site-for-10-bln-petchem-complex-idUSKCN1P408N

[33] CBPF-MSL: Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Wetland Protected Area System in Hainan for Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity – GEF ID 4811

[34] Note: knowledge management and communication platforms with worldwide reach such as PANORAMA and EXPOSURE will be used, in addition to other Flyway specific platforms as well as GEF and UNDP's corporate communication channels

[35] Phase I of the WHC nomination Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China was approved in July 2019

[36] Note - the members of the National Ramsar Committee have not yet been updated following government structural reforms. The NFGA Department of Wetland Management will start the updating process in July 2020, which will take a few months.

[37] PIF: Potential new PA sites were tentatively identified as including Dagang (Tianjin Province), Nanpu and Huanghua (Hebei), Rudong (Jiangsu), Dongshan (Fujian), and Dapeng Bay (Guangdong).

[38] The geographical scope of the EAAF in China is left open to the Chinese Government to decide based on scientific evidence

[39] Note – this will include all types of PAs, not only 'wetland PAs'

[40] Note - existing KBA coverage in China is incomplete, largely reflecting the boundaries of NNRs. Therefore many new PAs will lie outside the existing mapped KBAs – but in the case of this project are supported by the analysis of global significance for migratory waterbirds based on internationally recognized criteria in Annexes 21A and B.

Proposed new protected area sites of global significance for EAAF migratory waterbird conservation

#	Province	Wetland name	Wetland area (ha)	Wetland type	Sites that meet Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria	KBA code / Proposed WHC sites	Globally threatened waterbirds recorded	Migratory waterbird species that meet the Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network 1% criteria
1	Liaoning	Helong Reservoir	8,600	Artificial wetland (T)	Donggang Helong Reservoir	-	-	Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Grey Plover
2	Liaoning	Zhuanghe Coast	22,070	Coastal wetland (M)	Zhuanghe Coasts	CN059	Black-faced Spoonbill, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot	Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-faced Spoonbill, Dunlin, Eurasian Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot
3	Liaoning	Dalian Jinzhou Bay	31,040	Coastal wetland (M)	Dalian Jinzhou Bay	-	-	Bar-tailed Godwit
4	Hebei	Beidaihe Coasts	127	Coastal wetland (M)	Shihe River Estuary	CN311; YSII	Relict Gull, Chinese Egret	-
5	Hebei	Beidaihe Coasts	7,887	Coastal wetland (M)	Beidaihe-Geziwo / Xinhe Estuary	CN311; YSII	Great Knot, Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Black-headed Gull
6	Hebei	Luannan Coasts	6,806	Coastal wetland (M)	Luannan-Zuidong Wetland	YSII	Black-faced Spoonbill, Great Knot, Far Eastern Curlew, Oriental Stork, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Spotted Greenshank	Asian Dowitcher, Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin, Eurasian Curlew, Great Knot, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover, Oriental Stork, Pied Avocet, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Spotted Greenshank, Spotted Redshank
7	Hebei	Laoting Coasts	5,007	Coastal wetland (M)	Caofeidian Wetland	YSII	Great Knot, Oriental Stork	Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper
8	Tianjin	Hangu Coasts	11,458	Coastal wetland (M))	Hangu Tidal Flat & Saltworks	-	Great Knot, Saunders Gull	Asian Dowitcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, Saunders Gull

#	Province	Wetland name	Wetland area (ha)	Wetland type	Sites that meet Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria	KBA code / Proposed WHC sites	Globally threatened waterbirds recorded	Migratory waterbird species that meet the Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network 1% criteria
9	Shandong	Qingdao-Rizhao Coasts	20,011	Coastal wetland (M)	Qingdao-Rizhao Coasts	CN332	-	Eurasian Curlew, Grey Plover
10	Jiangsu	Lianyungang Coasts	7,000	Coastal wetland (M)	Qingkouhekou in Ganyu (Linhongkou-liezikou)	CN365	Great Knot, Far Eastern Curlew, Red-crowned Crane, Saunders Gull	Asian Dowitcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin, Eurasian Curlew, Great Knot, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover, Pied Avocet, Red Knot, Red-crowned Crane, Saunders Gull, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank
11	Jiangsu	Dongtai-Rudong Coasts	21,548	Coastal wetland (M)	Dongtai-Rudong Tidal Flat (incl. Xiaoyangkou & Dongling & Tiaozini)	YSI&II	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Spotted Greenshank, Saunders Gull, Great Knot, Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane, Black-faced Spoonbill, Far Eastern Curlew	Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Eurasian Curlew ,Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover, Red Knot, Saunders Gull, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, spotted greenshank, Spotted Redshank
12	Shanghai	Chongming North Lake	2,200	Riverine & lacustrine wetland (T)	Chongming North Lake	CN374	Black-faced Spoonbill,	Black-necked Crane, Kentish Plover, Saunders Gull,
13	Shanghai	Nanhui Dongtan	170	Coastal wetland (M)	Nanhui Dongtan Chifenggang Wetland Park	CN377	Black-faced Spoonbill,	Black-faced Spoonbill, Kentish Plover, Saunders Gull
14	Zhejiang	Sizaopu Reservoir	676	Artificial wetland (T)	Sizaopu Reservoir	-	Swan Goose, Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull, Relict Gull	Dunlin, Kentish Plover
15	Zhejiang	LingKun Island	2,276	Coastal wetland (M)	Lingkun Island	-	Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull	Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull

#	Province	Wetland name	Wetland area (ha)	Wetland type	Sites that meet Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria	KBA code / Proposed WHC sites	Globally threatened waterbirds recorded	Migratory waterbird species that meet the Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network 1% criteria
16	Jiangxi	Hanchi Lake	5,778	Riverine and lacustrine wetland (T)	Hanchi Lake	-	Siberian Crane, Hooded Crane, White-naped Crane, Oriental Stork, Saunders's Gull, Swan Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose	Greater White-fronted Goose, Siberian Crane, Hooded Crane, Eurasian Curlew, White-naped Crane, Oriental Stork, Bean Goose, Swan Goose
17	Jiangxi	Dalianzi Lake	2,646	Riverine & lacustrine wetland (T)	Dalianzi Lake	-	Siberian Crane, Hooded Crane, White-naped Crane, Far Eastern Curlew, Oriental Stork, Saunders's Gull, Swan Goose, Baer's Pochard	Siberian Crane, Hooded Crane, White-naped Crane, Oriental Stork, Bean Goose, Spotted Redshank, Saunders's Gull, Swan Goose, Baer's Pochard
18	Fujian	Xinghua Bay	49,674	Coastal wetland (M)	Xinghua bay	-	Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull, Spotted Greenshank	Black-faced Spoonbill, Dunlin, Kentish Plover, Saunders Gull

Notes
See Annex 21B for further information
The list of sites is arranged by province, not by conservation priority; KBA code is the code of Key Biodiversity Area in China mainland (note - KBA survey in China is incomplete);
YS I= Yellow sea-Bohai Gulf of China for World Heritage Phase I; YS II= Yellow sea-Bohai Gulf of China for World Heritage Phase II; Wetland Type - M =sites classified as coastal wetlands (GEF marine PA category); T = sites classified as terrestrial freshwater wetland types (GEF terrestrial PA category).

Output 1.2: Flyway conservation strategy, action plan and business plan developed, setting out innovative funding opportunities for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China.

To support the effective management and financing of the expanded PA system, the project will facilitate the development of a flyway conservation strategy and business plan that identify flyway conservation priorities, financing needs and potential new financing opportunities for wetland conservation in China including social investment. Parallel mainstreaming activities will help support enhanced government investment in wetland PAs across the EAAF, although the business plan will also focus on expanding private sector investment. The project will support the establishment of a national donor alliance for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation (mirroring the flyway donor alliance established at the 2018 Global Flyway Summit) to bring together emerging philanthropic and private sector interest in China and align it to the priority actions identified and costed in the business plan. This Output will also seek to address the financing gap concerning the wetland PA subsystem through addressing policy, regulatory and fiscal barriers identified during the PPG analysis (See Prodoc **Annexes 23A&B**). For example, the current wetland conservation legislative process should be integrated with reform of the administrative system of protected areas which is being implemented by Chinese government and mainly focuses on national parks. In the draft legislation for wetlands or protected areas, measures should be taken to change the vague and in principle investment liability provisions for central and local government related to wetland conservation in the Provisions on Wetland Conservation and Management and Regulations of the PRC on Nature Reserves. The financial and expenditure responsibilities for wetland conservation of respective governments at all levels should be clarified **(Section 6, Prodoc Annex 23A**).

Indicative Activities:

1.2.1 Facilitate the development of a flyway conservation strategy and business plan for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China, including national workshops to design and approve the strategy, and annual meetings to review its implementation progress;

1.2.2 Facilitate the systematic removal of remaining policy and fiscal barriers to the sustainable financing of the national wetland PA system (as described in Prodoc **Annex 23A**) in coordination with CPAR Project 6 (*Building Sustainability into PA reforms to Conserve Globally significant Biodiversity in China*) through a Task Force on Sustainable Financing for flyway wetland PAs, including:

- The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves – to clarify the accountability of government finance at each level for funding allocation in wetland legislation;
- Provisions of the NFGA on Wetland Conservation and Management – to promote the adoption of the provisions into the laws or regulations of the P.R.C.;
- Guidelines of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Establishing the System of Natural Reserves with National Parks as the Main Body – to clarify the details of the reform scheme regarding wetland PAs financial sustainability; and
- The Guidelines of the General Office of the CPC Committee and the State Council to Coordinate in Promoting the Reform of Property Rights System of Nature Resource Assets – to clarify the details of the reform scheme regarding wetland PAs financial sustainability, such as concessions.

1.2.3 Develop a budgeting handbook / guidelines for wetland PAs, taking into account the lessons learned from past and ongoing GEF projects;

1.2.4 Support the development of a national donor alliance/round table with an investment strategy for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation, building on existing donor / NGO investments and private sector interests.

Outcome 2: Flyway wetland conservation advanced through strengthened legislation, planning and sector mainstreaming

Output 2.1: National and provincial policy and regulations for wetland conservation strengthened, including an adopted national Wetland Conservation Act and National Management Policy for Wetlands of National Importance

National and sub-national policies and regulations on wetland conservation will be strengthened with support from the project**.** The recent Ministerial reform in China and new policy on regulating coastal reclamation provide new opportunities for the adoption of integrated approaches on wetland conservation, including the long-proposed draft *Wetland Conservation Act* and the development of a national management policy for wetlands of national importance. The project will also support the implementation of the *State Council Circular on Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands* to place more emphasis on the conservation and restoration of waterbird habitats, and the development of provincial-level Circulars in the three coastal demonstration provinces of Component 2 (Guangzhou, Liaoning and Shandong) to support the implementation of this pivotal government policy on coastal wetland conservation and strict control of reclamation of coastal land. The project can actively promote the promulgation of Shanghai Wetland Conservation Regulation and Shandong Wetland Conservation Regulation. The project also can promote the revision of wetland conservation regulations of Liaoning and Yunnan provinces. It should be noted that risks arising from restrictions of access to wetland resources may occur from both "upstream" and "downstream" project activities, in that the activities in this Output will strengthen regulations and policies at national and provincial level. Safeguards assessment (see ESMF in Prodoc **Annex 8**) should therefore consider including a high-level strategic assessment approach, targeted at the potential impacts of policy-level activities, to integrate social and environmental considerations into policies and plans. Guidance on strategic environmental and social assessment can be found in the SES Procedure guidance.

Indicative Activities:
2.1.1 Facilitate the development and consultation process for adoption of the draft *Wetland Conservation Act* at national level[1];
2.1.2 Facilitate the development and consultation process for adoption of a national management policy for wetlands of national importance;
2.1.3 Support implementation of the *State Council Circular on Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands* to place more emphasis on the conservation and restoration of waterbird habitats;
2.1.4 Facilitate the development and consultation process for adoption of provincial-level Circulars in the three coastal demonstration provinces of Component 2 (Liaoning, Shandong and Shanghai) to support the implementation of the State Council Circular on Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands and strict control of reclamation of coastal land;
2.1.5 Support the development of provincial wetland conservation regulations for Shanghai and Shandong provinces and the revision of regulations for Liaoning and Yunnan provinces.

Output 2.2: Wetland conservation integrated into 14th Five-Year plan and technical guidelines adopted on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use by different sectors
Building off the strong commitments of the Government of China to protect wetlands, this Output will support the mainstreaming of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation into the plans and policies of other sectors. Child projects under the GEF-5 'Main Streams of Life' (MSL) wetlands program achieved notable successes with mainstreaming at national and provincial levels[2]. The proposed project will support the integration of the recently-adopted and GEF-5 MSL program-supported 'Wetland Conservation and Restoration Plan' and associated policies into the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and associated sector plans. The project will provide policy support and studies for the planning process including the setting of targets for wetland PA expansion, and policy and technical guidance for the translation of such targets across provincial/local and sectoral 5-year plans to inform the next phase of planning for China's social and economic development. As for the previous Output, risks arising from restrictions of access to wetland resources may occur from both "upstream" and "downstream" project activities, in that the activities in this Output will development guidelines for sustainable use of wetlands outside PAs. The safeguards assessment (see ESMF in Prodoc **Annex 8**) should therefore consider including a high level strategic assessment approach, targeted at the potential impacts of policy-level activities, to integrate social and environmental considerations into policies and plans. Guidance on strategic environmental and social assessment can be found in the SES Procedure guidance.

Mainstreaming across sectors at an operational level will be supported by the review and adoption of technical guidelines on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use developed for different sectors[3]. These will include wetland-compatible practices for agriculture, reed-farming, aquaculture, capture fisheries, grazing, ecological restoration of former oilfields, and eco-labelling of practices and products (e.g. bird-friendly rice). These demonstrations will aim to reduce specific threats to waterbirds such as

the toxicity of seed treatments in agriculture, use of agrochemicals such as pesticides, and the deliberate and incidental trapping of waterbirds in nets. These guidelines will be piloted in the demonstration landscapes and other key flyway wetland areas in EAAF-China under Component 2 (see **Outputs 3.3 and 4.1**), prior to finalization and adoption at a national level for replication across China and the EAAF Partnership. NGOs such as ICF, WI and WWF have experience both within China and internationally of sector mainstreaming for wetland management and are well positioned to provide technical support for this Output[4].

Indicative Activities:
2.2.1 Provide policy support and studies for the planning process for mainstreaming of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation into the plans and policies of other sectors, including the setting of targets for wetland PA expansion, and policy and technical guidance for the translation of such targets across provincial/local and sectoral 5-year plans;
2.2.2 Facilitate the development of technical guidelines on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use for relevant key sectors in support of mainstreaming at operational level (for pilot testing / outroll in the project demonstration landscapes and other key flyway wetland areas in EAAF-China in **Outputs 3.3 and 4.1**);
2.2.3 Facilitate the participatory evaluation, finalization and adoption at national level of the technical guidelines, and their replication in key wetland regions across China and internationally through the EAAF Partnership;
2.2.4 Support multi-sector coordination for the EAAF in China linked to national flyway strategy implementation (see 1.2.1).

Component 2. Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory waterbird conservation
Component 2 will operate at the site and landscape level in four provinces of China (Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, Yunnan), to enhance the protection and management of key breeding, staging and wintering sites for globally significant migratory waterbirds. For all sites, the project will involve the preparation of PA management plans supported by technical training on how to prepare PA management plans carried out in the four project provinces, and the development of management plans promoted for other protected areas. It will also support wetland restoration in the project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland sites. The final selection of restoration sites will be made using criteria that align with GEF STAP's LDN guidelines and all management actions/plans laid out in the project's ESMF (**Annex 8**) will be duly fulfilled. The vast majority of the restoration work will be carried out mostly through co-financing and in total alignment with national policy, specifically the National Wetland Conservation Programme (2002-2030).

For the **Liao River Estuary** demonstration site and landscape, the project strategy will be to support the integrated management of the overall wetland ecosystem, through supporting planning and building management capacity for unified management of the NNR and PNR, and embedding them in a landscape conservation approach that engages key stakeholders in the more sustainable use of wetlands in surrounding areas within Panjin Municipality (applying for Ramsar Wetland City status). The management zoning for the whole area will be rationalized, and stakeholders integrated into the management of the area (co-management) as appropriate. A key part of this approach will be the restoration of wetlands through increased provision of freshwater flows in order to meet their ecological function needs, as has been done successfully at other wetlands in NE China for example, and the restoration of intertidal habitats for Saunders Gulls and shorebirds on former mariculture farm sites in collaboration with partner organizations. There are 2,750 oil wells inside the NNR, and 600 in the PNR that are being progressively removed, opening the way for wetland restoration efforts supported by the related oil companies. On the reed farm side, the project will aim to engage the reed farms in more biodiversity-friendly practices through various options in order to develop a model that balances reed production, fisheries and the needs of migratory waterbirds and key breeding species that depend on reed habitats such as Red-crowned Cranes. This would align well with the WI-supported Flyway Bottleneck Yellow Sea project, that aims to restore coastal wetlands[5].

For the **Yellow River Delta**, the project strategy will be similar to the Liao River Estuary in that it will support a landscape conservation approach for the Yellow River Delta region within Dongying Municipality (a Ramsar Wetland City). This will assist the local government to contribute towards the major national strategy to promote the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin including the delta, as recently emphasised by President Xi Jinping[6]. The project will support ongoing wetland restoration efforts within the NNR, including sustainable mechanisms for the delivery of river water to freshwater habitats, and the control of invasive *Spartina* spp. on intertidal flats. Support for water transfer from the Yellow River for wetland restoration and hydrological management of habitats for key species such as Oriental Stork, Saunders

Gull, Red-crowned Crane and shorebirds is a priority that is well supported by CAS and could provide a model for wetland restoration at other sites on the Yellow Sea coast. The Sheng Li oilfield plans to remove all production facilities in the NNR core, buffer and some from the experimental zone by 2020 in order to support biodiversity conservation (600 wells removed already). Further to this the oil company will also provide financial support to the NNR to restore vegetation around the well sites over a longer period. In the wider landscape, the project will support the identification of other key wetland areas that could be included in the Phase II Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf WHC nomination, and support sustainable land use management involving local farming communities and other land users supported by a stakeholder platform and education / awareness programmes. The project will help to improve and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms at demonstration level, for example, at Yellow River Delta NNR, there are oil wells in the NNR, while for the agriculture fields adjacent to the NNR, there is a committee organized by Dongying Municipal Government composed of the NNR Management Administration, the Agricultural Bureau, the Water Resources Bureau, and petroleum companies, etc. The CSR of the companies and the resources supply and relocation all will be coordinated by this committee, while project can contribute towards improving the coordination mechanism and increase the involvement of other interested parties.

Chongming Dongtan (CD NNR) is an advanced and well-financed nature reserve, thus project intervention here would serve to further strengthen its management capacity, but more significantly focus on developing its role in supporting other flyway network sites. Consequently, CD NNR will be developed as a national and international hub for coastal wetland / waterbird conservation training and technical assistance, with support from Shanghai Province (e.g. similar to the Ramsar Centre Korea) and in partnership with WWF - building on WWF supported wetland management training courses for Chinese nature reserve staff here in recent years[7]. Potential subjects include: coastal wetland management and restoration, *Spartina* control, migratory waterbird monitoring and research, visitor interpretation and environmental education. Plans to develop an ecological research centre here within two years will boost its role as a centre of excellence for coastal wetland management.

In terms of local context, Chongming Dongtan is located in the Yangtze River Delta, which is influenced by large scale human interventions: the sediment load from the Yangtze river has been reduced from 500MT/year to 100MT due to 3 Gorges Dam; climate change-induced sea level rise will reduce the area of intertidal flats (coastal squeeze); coastal reclamation along the East Coast may impact sediment supply at the mouth; and there are local impacts of hard structures on coastal geomorphology processes – bridges, seawalls, port developments, river dredging, etc. Consequently, a strategic approach towards the identification, management and monitoring of a network of sites for migratory waterbirds in the Yangtze River Delta is needed – with Chongming Dongtan well positioned to act as a hub for such a local site network. This would be consistent with interest from Shanghai Provincial Government to support the development of four PAs within its jurisdiction with assistance from this project. It would also align well with the WWF supported Yangtze Basin Protected Area Network[8] and former State Forestry Administration (now NFGA) – WWF initiative for developing a network of coastal hotspots for migratory waterbirds[9]. A new central government plan for a 10 year ban on fishing activities in the Yangtze River Basin starting from January 2020-January 2021 will reduce fishing-related threats to waterbirds[10].

For **Dashanbao**, the project will focus on developing and implementing a strategy for sustainable land management that positively engages local communities within the NNR in order to reverse land degradation problems and conflict between the Black-necked Cranes and local agricultural practices. This strategy will provide a basis for applying to NFGA for funds to support grassland management in order to benefit the cranes, maintain the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, and the overall ecological security of the area, thus constituting an important part of the sustainable financing for the overall NNR. Potential demonstration actions include piloting a seasonal managed grazing regime based on scientific management principles, and alternative livelihoods to reduce the pressure on land, informed by experiences at Cao Hai and Ruoergai where long term efforts have been made with some success (supported by ICF and WI). This could be through conservation agreements for community co-management. The project will also aim to support the development of the site network for the Black-necked Crane in in adjacent counties in NE Yunnan Province, in order to safeguard and restore wetland roost sites and investigate the movement of individual cranes between different sites. Dashanbao forms part of a short-range migration route for the Black-necked Cranes – with some support and partnerships it could become a monitoring and conservation hub for cranes using other wintering and staging areas in Yunnan.

Capacity development and training programmes will address needs identified during PPG assessments (see Prodoc **Annex 20**) and raise PA staff competency standards in line with the C-PAR programme's systematic process. This will be addressed through a comprehensive training programme based on the training needs and competence standards for the PAs along EAAF covering the full range of the skills needed, such as bird survey, habitat restoration, nature education, new technology applications. Training will address specific needs for conservation capacity development in each of the four project provinces.

Outcome 3: Increased management effectiveness over 305,505 ha of flyway wetland protected areas

Output 3.1: Four model PAs for migratory waterbirds established, with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms

Four model PAs for migratory species will be established at the following demonstration sites for enhanced site-level protection and habitat management: Liao River Estuary National and Provincial Nature Reserves (Liaoning), Yellow River Delta NNR (Shandong), Chongming Dongtan NNR (Shanghai), and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR (Yunnan) (See **Annex E**). All of these PAs are critical sites for globally significant migratory waterbird populations and are designated Ramsar sites and EAAF Network Sites (see profiles in **Prodoc Annex 17**). Project support will enhance PA management effectiveness at the four sites that cover 305,505 ha of globally significant wetland habitats, encompassing terrestrial and marine PA categories. Project support will include the development of PA management plans including business plans, the preparation of updated Ramsar Information Sheets and EAAF Partnership Site Information Sheets, and the strengthening of local coordination mechanisms that bring together different stakeholders and link the PAs with land and water users in the surrounding landscapes to ensure the sustainable management and use of these critical wetlands for migratory birds. In view of upcoming changes to the management and functional zoning system of PAs, the project will also assist with the incorporation of such changes into master plans, management plans and any other relevant planning documents[11]. The proposed activities below will be tailored to the specific needs of each site, based on the current status of their management operations[12].

Indicative Activities:

3.1.1 Strengthen the functioning of local stakeholder coordination mechanisms to promote cross-sectoral coordination (e.g. on water management) to achieve the mainstreaming of wetland conservation in landscapes surrounding nature reserves and improve the sustainability of project results[13]. This should be facilitated through the provision of technical experts and convening of special meetings to address cross-sectoral issues;

3.1.2 Prepare guidelines / handbook for the development of PA management plans that take into account climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards (including control of IAS like *Spartina*), taking account of plans and guidelines developed during the GEF-5 MSL wetland program, and in coordination with the GEF-6 C-PAR program, GEF 6 R-IAST project and NGOs such as ICF, Wetlands International and WWF that have advanced international capacity for best practices in wetland management, including Nature-Based Solutions to Address Climate Change[14];

3.1.3 Conduct climate change vulnerability assessments for the conservation targets (key species and habitats) at each site in order to inform the identification of climate-adaptive management priorities;

3.1.4 Facilitate the participatory development/updating/revision of PA management plans in line with the above guidelines and supported by training for site staff;

3.1.5 Develop site business plans to increase cost-efficiency, diversify income streams and support management plan implementation, in coordination with GEF-6 C-PAR Project 6 on sustainable financing[15];

3.1.6 Review the Ramsar Site boundaries (as needed), facilitate the preparation and submission of updated Ramsar Information Sheets, EAAF Partnership Site Information Sheets and GIS maps of each site.

Output 3.2: Wetland and migratory waterbird conservation strengthened through capacity development, introduction of professional competence standards and provision of training modules

Efforts at the demonstration sites and landscapes will include the enhancement of institutional capacity for site-level management of wetlands. Capacity development will be based on training needs identified during the PPG phase (see Prodoc **Annex 20**) and align with the competency-based approach promoted by the GEF-5 MSL program and GEF-6 C-PAR program. The project will develop a comprehensive training programme based on the training needs and competence standards for the PAs along EAAF covering the full range of the skills needed, such as bird survey, habitat restoration, nature education, new technology applications, etc. This will go beyond business as usual by introducing international best practices and experience through the project's international partners, convening technical workshops to advance best practices on key themes, and strengthening cooperation between China and other countries in the EAAF. It will include short term study visits to other countries for small groups, and overseas training for selected key staff to develop vision, knowledge and advanced technology. Delivery of the training programme will be based on a training plan that will be developed by a Task Force, which will also coordinate implementation of the programme and conduct annual reviews in order to learn from experience and fine-tune delivery in the coming year. The Task Force will

also oversee the evaluation of training activities, and review related capacity development support needs such as equipment for information management, monitoring and patrolling.

Indicative Activities:
3.2.1. Develop a training plan for the project based upon the PPG baseline training needs assessment and capacity development scorecard assessments, in close consultation with the related target groups. This will specify the target groups, training subjects, methods of delivery, institutional basis for implementation and coherence with the system of PA competence standards being developed under the C-PAR Programme; it will also set out training plans for each demonstration PA / landscape, including personnel hired from the local communities (eg at Dashanbao);
3.2.2 Develop the training modules and materials on the selected subjects, drawing on experience and materials from the GEF-6 MSL wetland program and other local experience (eg WWF wetland management training) and international experience (eg related to the Ramsar Convention, EAAFP and collaborating NGOs, such as the Flyway Training Kit developed by WI and partners), and evaluate them for inclusion in systematized training;
3.2.3 Deliver the training courses in partnership with relevant sources of expertise (academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) and with attention to co-benefits such as developing the role of Chongming Dongtan as a centre for wetland management training; female trainees will be prioritized for certain types of training;
3.2.4 Make training provision available online to facilitate access to training audiences dispersed across the scope of the EAAF in China (as for C-PAR program training delivery);
3.2.5 Organize site exchanges and study visits both within China and overseas to strengthen vision and understanding of wetland management, restoration and other subjects through examples of best practices and operational systems[16]; overseas learning experiences for PA managers and technical staff include short courses, bilateral exchanges and knowledge sharing in South Korea and Australia in the EAAF, and with other countries via partnerships with EAAFP and NGOs such as ICF, Wetlands International and WWF.
3.2.6 Evaluate training activities using a questionnaire for all trainees at the end of each training activity and a second online assessment six months later to assess its usefulness on the job;
3.2.7 Address priority equipment requirements and improve technical capacity for information management, monitoring and patrolling.

Output 3.3: Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use demonstrated at the four model PAs, in surrounding landscapes, and at critical breeding, staging and wintering sites outside the PA network[17]
This Output will aim to reduce threats to targeted wetlands and migratory waterbirds including those arising from unsustainable or inappropriate land and water management and resource use in the surrounding landscapes, including the consideration of wetland ecosystem needs in water allocation plans and mechanisms for related river basins. It will support enhanced habitat management of wetlands and demonstrate effective technical methodologies for wetland conservation and sustainable use within the targeted PAs and landscapes. In coordination with GEF6 R-IAST project, demonstrations will cover wetland rehabilitation in different wetland systems including effective control of key IAS threatening wetlands and models for sustainable use of aquatic resources in coastal wetlands. The results of these pilot interventions will be documented and inform the development of national technical guidelines on wetland sustainable use and management (see **Output 2.2**). The project will conduct targeted interventions within the model PAs, in surrounding landscapes and at critical staging and wintering sites outside the PA network, as follows:

Indicative Activities:
a. Liao River Estuary Landscape
3.3.1 Planning, technical trials and pilots for restoration and recreation of waterbird habitats (Saunders' Gull, and high-tide roost sites for shorebirds), especially in restored former aquaculture areas
3.3.2 Provide technical support and pilot development of waterbird habitat restoration especially the for the breeding site of Saunders' Gull through the natural vegetation rehabilitation and water level control in Liaohe NNR and PNR;
3.3.3 Support application and construction of Ramsar Wetland City status for Panjin City
3.3.4 Conduct survey and monitoring of waterbirds and other species.

3.3.5 Support the identification and inventory of key wetland areas In the wider landscape of the Liaohe Estuary that could be included in the Phase II Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf WHC nomination, through conducting surveys of wetlands, hydrological conditions, waterbirds and other biodiversity and making technical reports and recommendations to government

b. Yellow River Delta Landscape

3.3.6 Develop and implement a water management and wetland restoration plan that defines the water supply requirements of wetlands to restore degraded wetlands through freshwater flows from the Yellow River to restore habitats for Oriental Stork, Saunders Gull, Red-crowned Crane and shorebirds (note: water is free of charge because the sub-branches of Yellow River are in the NNR)

3.3.7 Provide technical support and pilot development of waterbird habitat restoration especially for natural vegetation rehabilitation (mainly *Suaeda salsa (L.) Pall.*) and seagrass beds on intertidal flats in the Yellow River Delta NNR, and monitoring, documenting and sharing the results;

3.3.8 Provide technical advice for piloting experimental control methods for *Spartina alterniflora*, and monitoring, documenting and sharing the results. The aim would be to stabilize existing areas of *Spartina* during the project period (i.e. prevent further spread)

3.3.9 In the wider landscape, the project will support the identification and inventory of other key wetland areas that could be included in the Phase II Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf WHC nomination, through conducting surveys of wetlands, hydrological conditions, waterbirds and other biodiversity and making technical reports and recommendations to government.

c. Chongming Dongtan Landscape and Local Site Network

3.3.10 Build the role of Chongming Dongtan as a hub for supporting other flyway network sites in China and the EAAF by providing training and technical assistance on key subjects including Spartina control, wetland restoration, waterbird monitoring and public education in collaboration with WWF[18]

3.3.11 Build capacity for Chongming Dongtan NNR to act as a hub from which the identification, monitoring and protection of a network of sites for migratory waterbirds in the Yangtze River Delta[19] will be conducted with support from the Shanghai Provincial Government and WWF

3.3.12 Conduct a technical study and facilitate the engagement of Chongming Dongtan District Government to address control of *Spartina* in areas surrounding the NNR, which are undermining the NNRs efforts to eradicate it within the NNR – a collaborative approach is required

d. Dashanbao Landscape and Local Site Network

3.3.13 Develop and support the implementation of a strategy for sustainable land management that engages local communities within the NNR to reverse land degradation and conflict between the Black-necked Cranes and agricultural practices, as a basis for applying to NFGA for funds to support grassland management in order to benefit the cranes, maintain the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, and the overall ecological security of the area, thus constituting an important part of the sustainable financing for the overall NNR. Optimize the management of the eco-compensation area so as to improve its ecological quality, diversity of food resources for birds and to prevent the degradation of grassland and loss of natural habitats. Learn from extensive experience of grazing management and livelihood diversification at Caohai in Guizhou and Ruoergai in Sichuan / Gansu provinces (led by ICF and WI) through exchange visits.

3.3.14 Pilot a seasonally managed grazing regime based on scientific management principles, and alternative livelihoods to reduce the pressure on land (informed by experiences at Cao Hai and Ruoergai supported by ICF and WI), and using modern scientific and technical means to define the livestock carrying capacity of each grassland area. Consider conservation agreements for community co-management.

3.3.15 Support a hydrological / water management study to clarify the current water management system for wetlands used by cranes, evaluate risks and recommend actions for improving the ecological condition of the wetlands, and for establishing a mechanism for integrated management of the water resources for human and ecological needs.

3.3.16 Support further development of the Site Network for the Black-necked Crane in in adjacent counties in NE Yunnan Province and possibly other provinces (Guizhou, Sichuan, Gansu and Tibet, etc.), safeguard and restore wetland roost sites and support tracking of cranes in collaboration with researchers (NBBC, ICF, Kunming Zoological Institute, etc), and support education efforts across the network.

e. Across all sites / landscapes and other EAAF-China areas

3.3.17 Document the results of the demonstration activities in the form of technical reports and convene local (4) and national (1) technical workshops to present the results to relevant stakeholders and technical experts. Technical reports from the review workshops are to include recommendations for consideration in developing or revising technical guidelines on various aspects of the sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems (see **Output 2.2**).

Outcome 4: Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha

Output 4.1: Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices, achieving livelihood improvement and reduction of threats to critical wetlands for migratory waterbirds

Further to the strengthening of the legislative and planning framework for wetland conservation in Component 1 and the development of technical guidelines for sectors in Output 2.2, under Output 4.1 the project will work with provincial and local governments as well as engaging communities and users of wetland resources to pilot these guidelines and apply them over significant areas to promote the adoption of sustainable practices that support local livelihoods while reducing threats to flyway wetlands and waterbirds across the EAAF in China. Project support will include technical assistance and incentives to encourage the adoption of wise use practices. The project will provide technical support and demonstration of wetland-compatible practices for agriculture, reed-farming, aquaculture, capture fisheries, grazing, and eco-labelling of practices and products (e.g. bird-friendly rice[20]). The potential for eco-compensation will also be explored where appropriate. These demonstrations will aim to reduce specific threats to waterbirds such as the toxicity of seed treatments in agriculture, use of agrochemicals such as pesticides, and both illegal and incidental trapping of waterbirds in nets[21]. The project will focus on piloting best practices in line with project-supported national guidelines, but stop short of full certification of products in line with globally accepted standards in view of the significant ongoing technical extension support required to achieve and retain such certification standards, which would not be feasible over such large areas with the resources available.

The project strategy for community engagement and sustainable use of wetland resources in the four targeted provinces of Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai and Yunnan will be to focus on outrolling these guidelines in the landscapes surrounding the model PAs and local networks of unprotected sites that are of recognized importance for migratory waterbirds. However, the scope of these sustainable use activities extends to the whole extent of EAAF-China, not only these four provinces. It should also be noted that there are large areas of ricefields, aquaculture ponds, saltworks, oilfields and reed farms within the buffer and experimental zones of the PAs[22], therefore some sustainable use and land management practices will be improved within occupied zones of the model PAs that can assist the application of these reforms in PA management. The project activities will be closely aligned with national, provincial and local government policies and initiatives and will build on the baseline programmes of government, NGOs and private sector partners in targeting specific areas and land uses.

The project will also support the diversification of livelihoods at community level in order to reduce exploitation pressures on wetlands that can no longer be sustained. Community engagement in project approaches will be facilitated through technical assistance, co-management agreements for sustainable resource use, micro-credit opportunities linked to eco-compensation mechanisms, and outreach and awareness-raising activities, including partnerships on nature-based education with local schools at each demonstration PA (see Component 3). Financial support will be provided for community engagement, with proactive encouragement of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in selection, orientation and training provided to recipients, and knowledge management requirements included in financial support procedures (eg reporting on success stories, photographs, videos).

The proposed interventions for the four project demonstration landscapes are as follows, recognizing that detailed implementation plans will need to be worked out during the first year of implementation. These will be supplemented by interventions in other key flyway wetland areas in EAAF-China that apply the guidelines for sector mainstreaming in **Output 2.2**.

Indicative Activities:

Liao River Estuary Landscape: Interventions will take place within the project landscape (Panjin Municipality, a candidate Ramsar Wetland City) focusing on improving and expanding rice polyculture farming, biodiversity friendly - farming of reeds (often combined with aquaculture practices) and nature tourism. Currently, about 57,000 farmer households with 20,000 people live on the periphery of the Liaohe Estuary NNR and PNR, of which 49.1% are women. Proposed activities include:

4.1.1 *Provide technical support for improved farming methods to reduce chemical inputs with full participation of women farmers*, to support standard farming policy and to develop ecologically-sound agriculture, especially for ricefield areas taking account of international experience on waterbird-friendly rice farming[23]. The project can also help with labelling and marketing of organic products;
4.1.2 *Waterbird-friendly reed-farming* – strengthen water management, and pilot experimental areas to integrate biodiversity / waterbird conservation into reed management in order to develop a model that integrates conservation and livelihood goals;
4.1.3 *Sustainable tourism - support integration of Red Coast tourism planning into wider sustainable development planning for Panjin Municipality*, including management of the environmental impacts of tourism, support for nature interpretation, and potential financial support for conservation.

Yellow River Delta Landscape: Interventions will take place within the project landscape (Dongying Municipality – an accredited Ramsar Wetland City) with the aim of implementing central government policy for the Eco-protection and High-quality Development of the Yellow River Basin in line with its vision for establishing an Ecological Civilization. Proposed activities include:

4.1.4 *Support the demonstration of reduced-chemical farming practices and the branding and marketing of high quality "green" rice from Yellow River Delta* to reduce threats to waterbirds and benefit human health in the Experimental Zone, state-owned farm and smallholder farms outside the NNR. As a major part of the labor-force, women will be targeted for applying these improved land management practices. Practices such as leaving fallow fields flooded for waterbirds, vegetated buffer strips around field edges to increase invertebrate and bird diversity, and participatory monitoring of birds (eg by schoolchildren) will be supported.

Chongming Dongtan Landscape and Local Site Network: No farmers are living within Chongming Dongtan NNR, while on Chongming island there are two communities surrounding the NNR, with many retired people. The recent 10 year ban on fishing activities within the Yangtze River Basin provides an opportunity to work with fishing communities to support alternative livelihoods. Proposed activities:

4.1.5 *Support efforts by the NNR to remove solid waste from the coast and recycle it* by engaging local stakeholders in collaboration with SEE Foundation – this can provide a form of alternative livelihood for local fishermen in response to the official 10 year fishing ban coming into force across the Yangtze River Basin in 2020;
4.1.6 *Facilitate eco-labelling of local rice (e.g. Hooded Crane Rice)* through collaboration with Shanghai Industrial Investment (Holdings) Company Ltd and Bright Food (Group) Co. Ltd. which own farmland on Chongming Island which is used by the Hooded Cranes;
4.1.7 Train women on making reed-related handicrafts using reeds - Chongming Dongtan NNR is going to be developed as an international tourist site, therefore the training of local women on use of reeds to make handicrafts for sale and cultivation of mushrooms using the reeds as bedding material, will both contribute towards reed management and generate income, in cooperation with Alashan SEE NGO. The project will also investigate whether larger scale commercial processing of reed is possible at this site, as an option for generating local employment (especially for women) and as a means of removing larger quantities of reed from the site.

Dashanbao Landscape and Local Site Network: Of the total land in the Dashanbao NNR, 34.4% is natural grassland, 30.1% cultivated land, 23.3% forestland, 1.8% water area, with the remainder comprising homesteads, roads, etc. Major crops cultivated by the farmers are potato, oat, and buckwheat, which are also favoured food of the black-necked cranes and the main livestock are cattle and sheep. Most Yi men have migrated outside for non-farming activities, while the Yi women have remained at home and are engaged in crop farming, animal raising and taking care of their kids. Both wives and husbands of most Miao families stay at home for farming. The project will support community-based livelihood activities that are compatible with conservation goals. These include:

4.1.8 Provide potato-farming technical trainings targeting women farmers in targeted villages - train especially women farmers, including Yi and Miao women farmers, to grow the local varieties of potato to be used as seed potatoes, as these are of good quality and have advantages compared with other varieties. This will increase income generation and through conservation agreements with the NNR, can also benefit the cranes (for example, by leaving part of the harvest for the birds). Dashanbao Township is willing to facilitate

the development of local varieties of potato. Training activities can be organized with support of the farmers' cooperatives that are already present in many villages. This activity could also extend to surrounding areas, linked to awareness raising on crane conservation.
4.1.9 Pilot eco-compensation with women as major decision makers - when the Black-necked Cranes arrive at Dashanbao NNR in autumn, all crops including potatoes, oats and buckwheat have already been harvested, therefore farmers will not lose any crops to bird damage. Therefore, to pilot eco-compensation mechanisms, farmers will be requested to leave part of the crop for the birds. Han, Yi and Miao women farmers are currently the major labour-force, and should be the main decision-makers on development of the eco-compensation mechanisms. The project will facilitate and technically and financially support these farmers and the relevant local governments, to discuss and design eco-compensation mechanisms for crops left for the cranes.
4.1.10 Train women farmers as monitors of the cranes - Currently, monitoring of the cranes is mainly done by staff of the Dashanbao NNR. Based on the example of one local woman whose monitoring work is much appreciated by the NNR, the project will provide training to women farmers as monitors of the cranes to build awareness and support for conservation of the cranes. The women monitors will further communicate their knowledge to their families, spreading awareness among the communities.
4.1.11 Address threats from incompatible land uses at unprotected sites used by Black-necked Cranes in NE Yunnan through the Black-necked Crane Site Network, eg other sites in Ludian County. The project will therefore review the situation at such sites and work with provincial and local government authorities and communities to promote sustainable land uses and resolve any conflicts between agricultural practices and the cranes. This could also involve community-based support for upland roost site protection and restoration of former roost sites in the lowlands.

Output 4.2 : Sustainable use of flyway wetlands in EAAF China strengthened through civil society engagement
Further to the sustainable use of wetland resources led mainly by government in cooperation with communities in Output 4.1, the engagement of local CSOs can provide great support for facilitation, mobilization, technical support, awareness raising and public education in support of sustainable wetland management and migratory waterbird conservation, including significant cofinanced inputs. Project support will therefore include a financial support scheme to encourage the engagement of local CSOs in such activities in the project demonstration landscapes and other key flyway wetland areas throughout EAAF China, in support of civil society engagement and developing the long term sustainability of the project's conservation outcomes.

Indicative Activities:
4.2.1 Develop criteria for operational guidelines for the provision of financial support for local CSO engagement in the wise use and conservation of flyway wetlands and migratory waterbirds, including gender mainstreaming
4.2.2 Provide orientation / training for applicants and recipients of financial support, including guidance on communicating results, photos and lessons learned from supported activities
4.2.3 Implement the financial support scheme, monitor and evaluate results and share experiences through local level stakeholder forum meetings and other project communications tools (see Component 3)

Component 3. Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E
Component 3 will respond to the low levels of awareness and understanding of technical and management approaches for sustainable use of wetlands through targeted awareness-raising and knowledge management, helping to pull together the strengthened enabling framework in Component 1 and the site-based demonstrations in Component 2, and supporting the documentation, replication and uptake of project approaches. The project will target awareness raising campaigns at specific stakeholder groups in order to support the effectiveness of other project activities that seek to achieve changes in policy and legislation, the mainstreaming of wetland conservation in sectoral planning and practices, and in addressing threats and unsustainable wetland management at the landscape and site levels. Therefore this will be an integrated approach requiring coordination between related Outputs. Outreach will be informed by the development of a communications strategy for the proposed China flyway partnership, and communications, awareness and educational activities will focus on the PAs and landscapes in Component 2; Ramsar sites along the breadth of the EAAF in China; and partnerships with coastal wetland conservation networks in China.

The project will put in place an integrated framework for the long-term monitoring of migratory waterbirds and EAAF flyway wetland habitats, with the development of standardized monitoring protocols and a unified database and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the EAAF in China. This aims to harmonize existing datasets from a variety of sources, including nature reserves and national wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks and NGOs. The project's approach to knowledge management will focus on knowledge exchange and transfer at multiple levels: between project demonstration sites, between this project and other GEF-financed initiatives underway in China, particularly the child projects of the C-PAR program and the IAS child project of the C-SAP program, and across other wetland PAs in China that fall within the EAAF or other flyways. Sharing knowledge internationally through the EAAF Partnership (currently with 18 countries and NGO and private sector partners) is an important opportunity that the project will embrace.

Outcome 5: Strong public support for wetland and migratory bird conservation

Output 5.1 : Public awareness on wetland and migratory waterbird conservation raised through targeted outreach and education campaigns

Targeted outreach and education campaigns will help raise awareness of land managers, resource users and the public on the value of wetlands in ecological, social and economic terms, and the value of migratory waterbirds as indicators of wetland condition, integrity and decline. Outreach will be informed by the development of a communications strategy for the China flyway partnership established under **Output 1.5**. Activities will focus on: the four model PAs and landscapes in Component 2; Ramsar sites along the breadth of the EAAF in China; and partnerships with coastal wetland conservation networks in China. Partnerships on nature-based conservation will be developed with local primary and middle schools in the vicinity of demonstration PAs to engage youth support for wetland conservation. The awareness and education interventions at the project sites and landscapes will be linked with other interventions to increase the effectiveness of the project and to integrate with women's employment and income generation opportunities (see Gender Action Plan in Prodoc **Annex 9**).

The Yellow River Delta NNR has set up several education bases that have been recognized as national environmental education bases for primary and middle school students since 2016, and as the national ecological civilization base since 2013. Therefore, more students will come to the NNR for ecological education, field experiences, etc. While the NNR currently has education textbooks, these are inadequate and they have a plan to improve and to develop new textbooks. The project will provide advice and support to develop these ecological textbooks in a gender sensitive manner in order to contribute towards the gender awareness of local schools, the public, and PAs in conducting public education on the conservation of wetlands and the migratory waterbirds. This will encourage female students' participation in public education in the area (see Prodoc **Annex 9**). The impact of the project's awareness interventions will be monitored using the methodology for KAP assessments given in Prodoc **Annex 24**.

Indicative Activities:

5.1.1 Develop and facilitate the implementation of a communications strategy for the proposed China flyway partnership (**Output 1.5**) that is aligned with the EAAFP Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021[24];

5.1.2 Support the development and implementation of partnerships on nature-based education with local primary and middle schools at the model PAs / landscapes;

5.1.3 Develop and implement targeted outreach and awareness programmes for the four pilot sites that integrate with and support site interventions such a training female farmers at Dashanbao to monitor cranes;

5.1.4 Provide technical advice for the development of a gender-sensitive textbook on waterbirds for 1,000 primary and middle schools in the Yellow River Delta for use at the education centre in line with provincial government efforts for Dongying District;

5.1.5 Develop and implement a targeted outreach and education programme for Ramsar sites along the breadth of the EAAF in China in coordination with the Ramsar CEPA Programme[25];

5.1.6 Compile an identification guide covering all Chinese waterbird species in printed and online versions in support of awareness raising, waterbird monitoring and site conservation;

5.1.7 Facilitate and provide financial support for the development of partnerships with coastal wetland conservation networks in China[26] and other NGOs with strong experience of conducting awareness and education activities.

Outcome 6: Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership

Output 6.1: Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in a unified database system for waterbirds and their habitats along the EAAF in China

At the flyway/regional level, there are some gaps in database coverage of waterbirds and their habitats. The EAAF partnership is the appropriate platform for this GEF-7 flyway project to work with on this matter. The Science Unit of the EAAF Partnership was established during the MOP meeting in Dec 2018 in Hainan, China (https://www.eaaflyway.net/eaafp-science-unit-set-up-in-beijing/), to promote waterbird monitoring and database development.

At the global level, the *eBird Project* based in Cornell University is an appropriate partner for this GEF-7 Flyway Project to work with. The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), CAS has developed an *iBirding* APP and Database, in cooperation with the *eBird* project, to coordinate the comparable taxonomy, data structure and protocol for bird survey.

At present, waterbird monitoring in China is conducted by a variety of actors using different approaches. Some of this already contributes towards the EAAFP and other international programmes, but this is not consistent and much of the data is not easily accessible. The main issues regarding waterbirds and their habitats are: a) the waterbird surveys are not consistent with some technical protocols; (2) waterbird data collected by citizen scientists (mainly birdwatchers, photographers) are not integrated into the governmental waterbird database, and could not be accepted for decision-making; (3) the waterbird data collected by PAs and other governmental agencies are not openly accessible for general public, and sometimes not ready to share with regional and global waterbird databases due to various reasons, including lack of capacity and funding of English translation.

Consequently, the waterbird and habitats data need to be shared transparently throughout the EAAF/globally with the intervention of GEF Flyway Project, by working with regional and global database platforms, undertaking some activities to bridge the gaps and develop the database along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway in China, and sharing data transparently throughout the EAAF/globally. An additional activity (6.1.9) on international data sharing has been added to Output 6.1, and activities 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 modified (See CER page numbers 53-54 and ProDoc page numbers 59-60).

This Outcome aims to develop a monitoring and database system that can receive data from a variety of sources and make the data available to different users including international monitoring programmes. Output 6.1 will be led by a group that includes the leading international players in waterbird monitoring in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway including the EAAFP Secretariat (the EAAFP Science Unit is based in Beijing), as well as Wetlands International (who have been running the Asian Waterbird Census and International Waterbird Census for more than 20 years), International Crane Foundation, WWF, as well as IGSNRR and other Chinese national organizations. Both the Chinese government and these INGOs have been members of the EAAFP initiative since its early days and continue to play major roles in its overall direction as well as its technical working groups. In addition, the requirements of EAAFP's Flyway Site Network and the Ramsar Convention provide the foundation for harmonized data and reporting.

Through a series of technical reviews and workshops, the project will develop a concept for the technical framework for waterbird and wetland monitoring and unified database system development in China based on the recommendations of these consultations; and subsequently develop the monitoring protocols and technical and institutional basis for a unified database system for migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats, supported by a training programme. The international organizations mentioned will be involved in this process throughout, with the aim of filling this information gap in the monitoring of migratory waterbirds across the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. The data would primarily support the EAAFP Flyway Site Network, Ramsar Database and Waterbird Population Estimates database. The latter is the primary source of information for the IUCN Red List assessments on waterbird populations, and the site data would be accessible to support global databases on protected areas (WDPA), KBAs, etc.

The project will put in place an integrated framework for the long-term monitoring of migratory waterbirds and the conservation of China's flyway wetlands in the EAAF. Standardized monitoring protocols for migratory waterbird populations, wetlands and Ramsar sites will be established in cooperation with the EAAF Partnership and Ramsar Convention to raise understanding of the use of different breeding, staging and wintering sites across the flyway. This will be supported by the establishment of a unified database system and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats focusing on the EAAF in China, bringing together existing datasets from nature reserves and wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks and NGOs. The project's attention on developing and supporting the rollout of standardized monitoring techniques for migratory waterbirds, development of a unified database system for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats along with a smart-phone based application for online data entry and retrieval[27] will support the provision of additional data (e.g. citizen science) and encourage its use, along with providing a platform to share data and knowledge generated by the project. The monitoring and database protocols will take full account of existing global and regional schemes such as the *Asian Waterbird Census*[28] coordinated by Wetlands International in order to ensure that monitoring results can be incorporated into global and flyway level analyses of waterbird population status and wetland habitat status. The unified database system on waterbirds and wetlands may act as an information platform for wetland protected areas at all levels, including the demonstration sites and sustainable use areas covered in Component 2 of this project. In order to develop standardized monitoring protocols for migratory waterbird populations, wetlands and Ramsar sites across the EAAF in China, the following activities are proposed:

Indicative Activities:

6.1.1 Establish a small leading group to facilitate the process, involving key partners such as NFGA, NBBC, China Coastal Waterbird Census Group, Wetlands International, ICF, WWF, SEE Foundation, China e-Bird, etc. The requirements of EAAFP's Flyway Site Network, the Ramsar Convention and BirdLife International should also be taken into account to ensure harmonization of data and reporting;

6.1.2 Conduct a technical review of existing migratory waterbird and wetland habitat monitoring protocols and database systems in use in China, as well as relevant global systems that can provide best practice examples. This should take account of relevant experience (for example the Critical Site Network Tool developed by Wetlands International http://criticalsites.wetlands.org/en), including the above-mentioned organizations. It should also review existing constraints regarding data sharing at national and international levels in order to identify strategies towards addressing them.

6.1.3 Convene a national technical workshop to present the results of the review and develop key recommendations for a technical framework for harmonized waterbird and wetland habitat monitoring and unified database system development in China, defining the scope of the system (species, geographical area), requirements for being open access and online (including international data sharing), physical technical platform, and intended outputs that will support flyway conservation goals;

6.1.4 Develop a concept for the technical framework for waterbird and wetland monitoring and unified database system development in China based on the workshop recommendations;

6.1.5 Convene a series of technical workshops to develop the monitoring protocols and technical and institutional basis for a unified database system for migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats

6.1.6 Develop and dynamically update the unified database system and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the EAAF in China, bringing together existing datasets from nature reserves and national wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks, NGOs, project-supported monitoring results and climate change vulnerability assessments for key species;

6.1.7 Develop, pilot test and evaluate a smart-phone based application for data entry and retrieval in support of migratory waterbird monitoring that will facilitate use of the monitoring protocols and inputting of observations to the unified database;

6.1.8 Develop a training course module and run a series of training courses for site staff to support uptake of standardized monitoring and data management methodology across EAAF sites in China.

6.1.9 Facilitate discussions between national, regional and global partners with interests in the conservation of EAAF waterbird populations and their habitats, in order to progress collaboration and data-sharing along the EAAF within China, as well as throughout the whole EAAF and globally.

Output 6.2: Knowledge management coordinated effectively between project sites, across China and with the EAAF Partnership

The project's approach to knowledge management will focus on knowledge exchange and transfer at multiple levels: between project demonstration sites / landscapes, between this project and other GEF-financed initiatives underway in China, particularly the child projects of the C-PAR program and the IAS child project of the C-SAP program, across other wetland PAs in China that fall within the EAAF, and internationally through the EAAF Partnership. The project's knowledge management approach will include: formal and informal knowledge sharing channels, in-person knowledge exchange visits at project sites (and sites of related projects) and the development of knowledge products and reports including lessons learned and best practice case studies. The project will share its findings and experiences with the C-PAR program to ensure that the specific requirements of migratory waterbird sites will be adequately catered for in the overall national PA reform process. The project will provide technical inputs to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), provisionally scheduled for the second quarter of 2021 in Kunming as well as the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) to be hosted by China in 2021, representing an unprecedented opportunity for the sharing of knowledge on migratory waterbird and flyway wetland conservation and to leverage political support. The EAAFP MOP in Australia in 2021 also provides an opportunity for knowledge sharing.

Indicative Activities:

6.2.1 Develop a project communications plan to ensure that project news and results are shared with project stakeholders and related initiatives (e.g. the C-PAR and C-SAP programmes (as appropriate), EAAFP CEPA Working Group, Ramsar Convention CEPA Programme, CSO programmes); and updated annually

6.2.2 During project implementation, provide a platform to share experiences and engage communities that are financial support scheme recipients (Component 2), and collect project-related photographs, video and other materials for communications purposes (with attention to gender issues). The platform will be similar to *eBird* developed by Cornell University. The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS has developed an iBirding APP and Database, in cooperation with the eBird project, and jointly funded by Paulson Institute, Lao Niu Foundation and CAS Big Data of Earth Sciences, to coordinate the comparable taxonomy, data structure and protocol for bird surveys.

6.2.3 Post project information on the website www.shidi.org hosted by the China Wetland Conservation Association to share project news, results and information with stakeholders, the wider public in China and international audiences, and share technical reports, news articles and awareness materials arising from project activities with stakeholders at all levels through project website, public service advertising, other media, etc.

6.2.4 Develop case studies on key issues relating to migratory waterbird and wetland conservation, and publish them online as technical briefs, including positive examples of human-nature coexistence models at project sites and gender mainstreaming in flyway wetland conservation

6.2.5 Publish and disseminate the project terminal report in both hard copy and electronic formats

6.2.6 Coordinate with the EAAF Partnership on sharing knowledge through their platforms (website, working groups, events, etc), create active linkages with EAAFP Yellow Sea Task Force and the EAAF/Ramsar/IUCN Yellow Sea Working Group, and provide technical inputs to the CBD COP15 and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP14 Meeting to be hosted by China in 2021.

Output 6.3: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system incorporating gender mainstreaming developed and implemented for adaptive project management

The project will establish an effective M&E system that adheres to GEF requirements, enables effective evaluation of project progress and impact, and that is inclusive of the needs of women and gender mainstreaming. The project will ensure that knowledge accumulated within the project is codified and documented for sharing and upscaling efforts. It will do this through annual project implementation review exercises, mid-term and final project review. During project implementation, M&E will be closely coordinated with related initiatives, especially the C-PAR program. M&E activities will include the regular review and updating of the project M&E plan with indicators, baselines and targets, annual work plans and budgets, and comprehensive monitoring and progress reports. The project will ensure that gender mainstreaming and SESP/ESMF requirements are met as an integral part of the project planning, implementation and M&E cycle. The ESMF (Prodoc **Annex 8**) aims to assist in the assessment of potential environmental and social impacts, and its implementation will be supported by an M&E and safeguards specialist. The Framework forms the basis upon which Environmental and Social Management Plan(s) will be developed, so as to ensure full compliance with the requirements of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. The ESMP will implemented by the NFGA and overseen by the UNDP Project Manager and Project Officer and monitored throughout the duration of the project. Gender mainstreaming requirements include proactive

engagement of women in stakeholder meetings (target of 50% participation), and providing women decision-makers with the opportunity to visit, communicate and make decisions. At the community level, the project will seek to engage and benefit women, taking into account women's needs in the planning of activities, their involvement in decision-making, and hiring for project related work. Regular Project Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group meetings will enable key stakeholders to be actively involved in a participatory M&E process. Lastly, the project will conduct a Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation to take stock of progress and the implementation process, emerging constraints and (at mid-term stage) to formulate possible remedial measures or adaptive management to ensure optimal implementation efficiency and knowledge generation.

Indicative Activities:
6.3.1 Review and update the M&E plan including results framework baselines during the project inception phase
6.3.2 Coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of the ESMF and any required safeguards management plans
6.3.3 Conduct annual reflection meetings for project management staff to review implementation at the end of each year, and to inform annual work plan preparation as tools for adaptive management of project activities
6.3.4 Conduct annual stakeholder forum meetings for key stakeholders at national and demonstration landscape levels, proactively engaging women and minority groups representatives, in order to update on implementation progress, obtain feedback, and hold focused discussions on key issues
6.3.5 Conduct Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation in line with UNDP/GEF requirements, and incorporate recommendations of MTR into revised project plans (management response) following Project Steering Committee approval, and monitor their implementation
6.3.6 Project Manager to oversee implementation of the Gender Action Plan (Prodoc **Annex 9**), appoint Gender Focal Points for all project offices, and recruit a Gender Specialist to guide its implementation by training project management staff on gender equality, supporting the integration of gender into project implementation plans, such as bi/annual work plans, and providing advice on gender mainstreaming
6.3.7 Project Manager to develop the protocol for collecting detailed gender information/data including project-affected people, project beneficiaries, participants in project activities, etc., and subsequently be responsible for interpreting the information

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

There is no significant change from PIF stage. The alignment is described as follows:

The project aligns to GEF-7 biodiversity programming directions for PA management and mainstreaming. The project is primarily aligned with BD-2-7 to '*Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global projected area estate*'. The project will contribute to this GEF-7 programming priority in several ways: by improving funding of flyway wetland PAs and diversifying financing sources for ongoing management; by increasing the spatial extent of flyway wetland PAs in China, filling an important gap in PA system coverage – namely sites for globally significant migratory waterbird populations; by strengthening the enabling legal, planning and institutional framework for the management of the PA system for globally significant migratory waterbirds; and by strengthening institutional capacity (strategies, tools, mechanisms, knowledge, skills and resources) to support the operational management and financing of key PAs for migratory waterbirds at site level. These areas are fully consistent with the GEF-7 programming directions.

The project will also contribute to BD-1-1 to '*Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors*'. Building on the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life wetlands program and in parallel with the broader PA reform supported by the GEF-6 C-PAR program, the project will support the mainstreaming of wetland conservation and needs into central government plans and policies (e.g. integration into 14th Five-Year Plan and sectoral plans) and through strengthening of the national policy and regulatory framework for wetland conservation. Mainstreaming at an operational level will be supported by the adoption of technical guidelines on wetland sustainable use and rehabilitation that will be targeted to the key sectors that are impacting on wetland condition and extent. The project will facilitate the adoption of more biodiversity-friendly and wetland-compatible production practices across aquaculture, mariculture, fishing and agriculture industries – the industries that are having substantial negative impacts on wetlands significant for migratory birds along the EAAF in China. Project support will encompass technical assistance in parallel with the provision of both market- and non-market-based incentives, in alignment with the GEF-7 programming directions.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

The baseline analysis and GEF alternative scenario has been presented for each project component in the sections above, and the incremental reasoning for each component is summarized in the table below.

The project focuses on the coastal wetlands of eastern China, which provide wintering, breeding and stopover habitats for millions of migratory waterbirds of about 250 species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). However, populations of globally significant waterbird species in the EAAF are declining at alarming rates, and the evidence shows that rapid economic growth, incompatible use of natural resources and ongoing population increase have seriously impacted coastal ecosystems and species in China, where an estimated 1,361,200 ha of near-shore and coastal wetlands were lost from 2003 to 2013. As a result, this coastal region of East China is a critically threatened section of the entire flyway for migratory waterbirds, endangering the life-cycles of many species.

The Chinese government has invested substantially on the protection and restoration of the natural environment, including the protection of wetlands as a national priority. This has been significantly bolstered by recent supportive policy developments such as the development of an 'ecological civilization' framework for environmentally friendly policies that include eco-compensation, strict control of coastal reclamation and reform of protected area administration, among others. However, there remain critical gaps in the baseline concerning the coverage of key sites for migratory waterbirds in the PA network, chronic underfunding and limited capacity for effective management of flyway wetland PAs and the implementation of policies that ensure the wise use and management of wetlands across relevant sectors including agriculture, fisheries and water resource management. There persists a lack of technical mechanisms and skills to support wetland-compatible co-management at landscape and site levels, and operational partnerships to support them.

The GEF investment in the Project Alternative will support the Government of China to address these gaps and barriers through a collaborative approach that involves national experts, NGOs and international partners of the EAAF Partnership, through which the protection and management of flyway wetlands will be enabled to adopt international standards, take onboard lessons learned from international experiences, and benefit from the EAAFP's knowledge exchange networks. This investment in technical capacity, partnership development and sustainable management of PAs is significantly different from national investment, which focuses more on capital investment in infrastructure and strict law enforcement. The project will provide important momentum to rapidly advance the expansion of the flyway PA network and to strengthen the sustainable financing of flyway wetland PAs through removal of fiscal and regulatory barriers – all of which are unlikely to receive the priority they require in the baseline situation.

Through GEF investment, the threats impacting the targeted PAs including inadequate water provision to sustain wetland ecosystem services, unsustainable use of wetland resources, and loss of habitats to development pressures, invasive species, will be substantially addressed. The largely prevalent situation of non-involvement of local communities and other local stakeholders in nature reserve management will be shifted towards proactive engagement at the model sites, changing attitudes and showing that more socially progressive and just alternatives can work. These advances in the vision for nature reserve management that take in structured professional development for staff, engagement of local communities, NGOs and other sectors in the surrounding landscape, and networking with other sites will only take place with international involvement, as they are pushing forward the frontiers of the existing traditional approach that focuses on protection rather than collaborative management of natural resources.

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[1] In the first half of 2019, the proposal draft of the *Wetland Conservation Act* was completed. In early July 2019, NFGA reported the draft *Wetland Conservation Act* to the Environmental Resources Committee of the National People's Congress, and it was listed as the key work of the Environmental Resources Committee in 2020. The law is expected to be issued by the end of 2021.

[2] MSL National Project Terminal Evaluation Report: The National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation Systems Plan, approved by the SFA (NFGA) in November 2016 is a significant achievement, and each of the 31 provinces have since developed implementation plans accordingly. Another important governmental decision during the course of the project is the national standard on establishing wetlands as an official land use category (National Standard GB/T21010-2017) by the Ministry of Land Resources. This standard has far-reaching benefits, as wetlands will now be officially represented on land use plans and local governments will be better enabled to protect wetland ecosystems, e.g., through redlining.

[3] MSL National Project Terminal Evaluation Report: Wetland Dynamic Monitoring in Ningxia Autonomous Region provides valuable lessons for standardizing the technical approach for assessing wetland areas, including a combination of remote sensing based techniques with ground-truthing. Other guidelines were developed, including: Guideline on conducting fishing, aquaculture farming in wetland PAs and surrounding areas; and Guideline on pollution control for lakes, rivers, pools and ponds in China.

[4] For example, See: https://www.savingcranes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/cranes_and_agriculture_web_2018.pdf ; https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-04/161128_Yangtze_Aquaculture_CS_Final.pdf ; https://www.wetlands.org/publications/technical-guidelines-for-establishment-of-a-coastal-green-belt/

[5] https://www.wetlands.org/news/arcadia-fund-helps-us-support-restoration-management-critical-habitats-migratory-waterbirds-yellow-sea/

[6] https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201909/20/WS5d83df08a310cf3e3556c78a.html

[7] Note – WWF Hong Kong has run such courses for many years at Mai Po Marshes, but access restrictions for mainland Chinese nationals creates some difficulties for this role.

[8] With 252 member protected areas of the YBPAN, between them covering 29 million hectares in 2016. See: https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-04/170111_Yangtze_PA-network_CS_Final.pdf

[9] https://www.eaaflyway.net/wwf-and-china-sfas-mou-highlighted-coastal-wetland-protection/

[10] The State Council issued Opinions on the protection of aquatic organisms in the Yangtze River in Sep 2018. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security altogether issued Implementation plan for prohibition of catching and establishment of compensation system in key waters of the Yangtze River Basin in Jan 2019. Starting from 01 Jan 2020, the fishing ban will be observed in 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin, which will also be expanded to all natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries from no later than Jan 1, 2021.

[11] As of January 2020, NFGA had drafted and reported to the State Council the notice on the optimization and adjustment of the scope and functional zoning of PAs, which is waiting for release by the State Council. Under this notice, it will be required to comprehensively promote the adjustment of the scope and functional zones of the PAs, the integration and optimization of the PAs, and the implementation of the task of demarcation and marking of the PAs based on a comprehensive assessment of the PAs. The timeframe has not yet been determined.

[12] Note – Planning for the consolidation of Liaohe NNR and PNR is expected to be completed by mid 2020; also Chongming Dongtan NNR is in the process of being consolidated with the Chinese Sturgeon PNR – also expected to be completed by mid 2020.

[13] In line with the Site Partnerships envisaged under the EAAF Partnership

[14]See: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events/climate-action-summit-2019/nature-based-solutions and https://www.wetlands.org/publications/the-nature-based-solutions-for-climate-manifesto-developed-for-the-un-climate-action-summit-2019/

[15] Note that this will need to be coordinated with the national level actions to remove policy, fiscal, regulatory and institutional barriers to the sustainable financing of PAs

[16] Examples within China may include: water management for wetland restoration and reedbed management at Zhalong, Xianghai and Momoge NNRs in NE China; sustainable freshwater aquaculture in the Yangtze Basin (WWF); coastal wetland management at Mai Po Marshes (WWF Hong Kong); restoration of mangroves in aquaculture areas (Hainan); wetland restoration at Xixi Wetland Park

[17] Note – Outputs 3.3 and 4.1 both cover activities inside and outside the PAs. They differ in that 3.3 focuses on developing and testing methods for wetland management and restoration, and 4.1 focuses on community engagement, private sector engagement, and sustainable use of wetlands in production systems

[18] Note – Chongming Dongtan has started the establishment of an 8,000m2 ecological research centre with accommodation for 70 people that should be completed within two years

[19] Such as Jiuduansha Wetlands NNR, Shanghai

[20] Examples of this approach include: Ibis rice in Cambodia - https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/ibis-rice-bird-friendly-rice-scheme-boosting-livelihoods-cambodia ; biodiversity-friendly rice in Japan - https://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2014/08/15/environment/when-storks-arrive-youre-growing-good-rice-hyogo-farmers-discover/#.XjlV12j7RPY ; Crested Ibis rice in Japan - https://www.biodic.go.jp/biodiversity/shiraberu/policy/pes/en/satotisatoyama/satotisatoyama03.html; and crops for cranes in Korea - https://blog.lamresearch.com/caring-for-cranes-preserving-their-habitat-in-korea/

[21] NGOs including ICF and WI are working on these issues, providing scope for collaboration

[22] Note – the functional zoning system of Chinese nature reserves is in the process of being revised – as of January 2020, NFGA has drafted and reported to the State Council *the notice on the optimization and adjustment of the scope and functional zoning of PAs*, which is waiting for the release of the State Council. Under this notice, it will be required to comprehensively promote the adjustment of the scope and functional zones of the PAs, the integration and optimization of the PAs, and the implementation of the task of demarcation and marking of the PAs on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the PAs. The exact time has not been determined.

[23] For example, see: http://www.ig.zju.edu.cn/attachments/2011-09/01-1316159242-2187.pdf and http://www.airies.or.jp/attach.php/6a6f75726e616c5f31312d32656e67/save/0/0/11_2-07.pdf

[24] https://eaaflyway.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CEPA_Strategy_ActionPlan_2017-2021.pdf

[25] https://www.ramsar.org/activity/the-ramsar-cepa-programme

[26] Such as the Coastal Wetland Conservation Network launched by the Paulson Institute and the Wetland Conservation Management Center of the State Forestry Administration in June 2015 (“Fuzhou Declaration”)

[27] For example of similar Apps for bird citizen-science purposes, see eBird https://www.birdjournal.com/ and Bird Journal https://www.birdjournal.com/

[28] http://iwc.wetlands.org/index.php/awcsites; https://www.eaaflyway.net/activities/asian-waterbird-census/

Baseline Summary	Incremental Reasoning	Global Environmental Benefits
Component 1: Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming		

Inadequate PA Network coverage: by the end of 2017, protection of wetlands reached 49.03% of national target of 53.33 million ha total wetland area, at 26.15 million ha of wetland PA's. During 2013-18, 600 national wetland parks and 16 Ramsar sites were declared, including three among MSL projects. China now has 57 Ramsar sites covering 6.94 million hectares (see **Annex 19**). Despite this great progress, flyway wetlands for migratory waterbirds are seriously under-represented with important gaps in the network (see **Annex 21A&B**). *Inadequate funding to support management of wetland PAs*: the annual financing gap to meet the needs for basic management of wetland PAs is USD 709,549,332. The annual financing gap for basic management of an expanded PA system (current network costs plus annual costs of adding more PAs) is about 1,984,566,030 USD. This is a consequence of lack of diversified funding streams to support wetland PAs, as well as policy, fiscal and legal barriers towards their sustainable financing (see **Annexes 23A&B**). *Weak regulatory support for wetland management at the national level:* The development of national legislation for wetland conservation has been slow and challenging, while Wetland Conservation Regulations at provincial level now cover most provinces (except Shanghai). However, the effectiveness of provincial legislation is weakened due to the lack of a national law. The *Wetland Conservation Law (Draft)* and supporting document are now in final review stages. In addition, since 2016 (when the project concept for this GEF-7 project was formulated), some new policies on wetland conservation, PA system reform and coastal wetland protection have been enacted, providing opportunities for waterbird and wetland habitat conservation along EAAF. *Institutional restructuring facilitates mainstreamed planning*: In March 2018, the central govt implemented institutional restructuring, according to which all the PAs in China are now under the NFGA. This facilitates stronger coordination, development of harmonized regulations, and better integration of wetland conservation across other sectors. The NGFA is starting wetland conservation planning for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), providing an opportunity for this project to support the planning process. However, there are no clear pathways for mainstreaming some existing guidelines affecting wetlands (see **Annex 19**).	Development of a strategic framework for improved representation of critical EAAF-China flyway wetland sites in the national wetland PA system informed by gap analysis for globally significant EAAF migratory waterbird populations (see **Annex E and Prodoc Annexes 21A,B**), development of a PA system master plan, and a flyway conservation strategy, action plan and business plan that set out national priorities for migratory waterbird conservation, funding needs and innovative funding opportunities. Support for establishment of new PAs for wetlands of importance for migratory waterbirds meeting KBA criteria, including those for inclusion in Phase 2 of the recent WHC serial site listing for the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Coast. Financial sustainability of the PA system will be improved based on clear economic justifications for bigger investment and identified new opportunities for funding. GEF funds leverage high levels of co-finance. Financing gap for the the wetland PA subsystem reduced through addressing policy, regulatory and fiscal barriers identified during the PPG. Support strengthening and finalization of key national and provincial wetland policy and regulations including the draft Wetland Conservation Law, and their application in the demonstration PAs and landscapes. Flyway wetland conservation policies mainstreamed into the 14th Five-year Plan and associated sectoral policies. Sector specific guidelines finalized for biodiversity-friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, ecological restoration of ex-oil production areas, and grazing of livestock A more integrated approach towards wetland conservation and restoration promoted through a national coordination mechanism led by NFGA that will be established to bring together government agencies and sectors with relevant mandates.	Improved conservation status of some 33 globally significant migratory waterbird populations in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway occurring in China, primarily through improved protection and management of critical flyway wetland sites. PA system along EAAF expanded with fewer gaps, better design and enhanced connectivity, with some 204,974 ha of internationally important wetlands for migratory waterbirds meeting KBA criteria added to the PA system. All new flyway wetland PAs established with project support meet KBA, Ramsar and EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria. New PAs will include wetlands along the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea coastline, one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in the world, and contribute towards the establishment of China's serial World Heritage Site nomination. Management efficiency, financing and sustainability of PA system along EAAF significantly enhanced with measurable impacts on globally significant biodiversity and wetland ecosystems. Migratory waterbird conservation needs integrated in the 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for key sectors. National coordination of a multi-sector coordination 'China flyway partnership network' for the breadth of the EAAF in China, including site and international level connections strengthens effectiveness of conservation efforts for EAAF migratory waterbird populations. Improved national institutional capacity to administer the PA System for migratory waterbird conservation and globally threatened species conservation.

Component 2: Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory waterbird conservation

To conserve wetlands including coastal habitats in eastern China, all levels of the Chinese government have put in increased conservation effort in recent decades, in cooperation with CSOs. These efforts have included designating new wetland reserves and Ramsar sites, restoring wetlands, monitoring waterbirds, exploring approaches for controlling invasive alien species and combatting poaching and illegal exploitation of wetlands. *Recent policy commitments from the central government* have included tough controls on coastal reclamation, ecological protection of the Yellow River Basin and a ban on Yangtze River Basin fisheries. However, new policies for wetland conservation need to be mainstreamed across sector policies and plans and operational guidelines at site level. There is also a lack of effective techniques and management models for sustainable uses of wetland resources across relevant sectors and limited technical skills and understanding among PA managers and industry to adopt more sustainable practices. *PA and Wetland Management Capacity*: While the demonstration PAs are well established with moderate management effectiveness (see **Annexes 11, 17, 22**), PA management staff and related provincial and local government agency staff (see **Annex 20**). These PAs also need additional funding to support operational management including adequate staffing, and all require a more systematic approach towards business planning and sustainable financing (see **Annexes 23A&B**). *Weak understanding of the landscape approach towards the conservation of wetlands:* including recognition of ecological water supply needs and delivery mechanisms through allocations in river basin planning, the sustainability of land uses (eg fishing, aquaculture, reed farms, agriculture) in adjacent production areas, maintenance of other wetland areas across the landscape to sustain habitat connectivity and increase the resilience of local waterbird populations, and the engagement of local stakeholders. *The needs of globally threatened waterbird species are not being addressed systematically across the wetland PA system*, at unprotected sites and in wider landscapes through developing and/or implementing species conservation action plans. However, site networks for various waterbird groups are promoted through EAAFP Working Groups, and systematic actions for key species such as Black-faced Spoonbill and Siberian Crane have been effective.	Four model PAs for migratory waterbird conservation demonstrated, providing a replicable model for rollout across China and the migratory bird flyways with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms for enhanced site-level protection and habitat management: Liao River Estuary National and Provincial Nature Reserves (Liaoning), Yellow River Delta NNR (Shandong), Chongming Dongtan NNR (Shanghai), and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR (Yunnan) Increased management and technical capacity of model PA, local and provincial government agency staff based on training needs assessments and aligned to PA competency standards Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use demonstrated at the four model PAs, in surrounding landscapes, and at critical breeding, staging and wintering sites outside the PA network support enhanced wetland habitat management including effective control of key IAS Guidelines applied to at least 600,000 ha for sustainable use of flyway wetlands addressing biodiversity friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, and grazing of livestock have been applied outside the protected area system in order to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices achieve livelihood improvements and reduction of threats to critical wetlands for migratory waterbirds Better co-management and engagement in exchange for more sustainable use of natural resources by farmers and fisherman. Nature reserve friendly products in buffer areas around PAs reduces negative impacts on biodiversity and promotes greater sustainability of production. Local CSO engagement in conservation and sustainable use activities in the project demonstration landscapes and	Increased management effectiveness of targeted PAs covering approx. 305,505 ha indicate “sound” management covering Liaohe River Estuary NNR & PNR; Yellow River Delta NNR; Chongming Dongtan NNR and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR Increased or stable numbers of globally endangered migratory birds, including Critically Endangered species, in China, contributing to stable populations across the EAAF. Reduction of threats to migratory waterbirds, flyway wetlands and PAs from unsustainable use of natural resources, unsustainable fishing methods, hunting, and IAS. Improved land management/wetland use over 600,000 ha, in integrated whole-of-flyway approach to habitat and species management irrespective of conservation tenure and engaging CSOs and local communities Restoration of some 60,000 ha of degraded wetlands in the project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas in order to increase their value for globally significant migratory waterbird populations Mitigation of GHG emissions of an estimated *16,999,522 tCO2e (direct) and 38,248,924 tCO2e (indirect); as a result of this wetland restoration*

Component 3: Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E

There remains a widespread lack of awareness of the importance of wetlands and their biodiversity as the basis for sustainable development across all sectors and at multiple levels. Such low awareness is restricting investment in wetland conservation and the uptake of more sustainable behaviours such as wetland-sensitive coastal development, sustainable agriculture and fishing methods. While previous projects such as the GEF-5 MSL Program child projects and CSOs have made progress, environmental values receive inadequate consideration in development and sectoral planning. *Waterbird monitoring and data management needs to be streamlined and coordinated*: Over recent years, the amount of data on waterbirds and their habitats has increased dramatically and the sources of data have become more diversified, providing the enabling conditions to integrate and develop a database on waterbirds and their habitats in China's coastal areas (see **Annexes 19 & 21**). There have been many efforts towards developing systematic waterbird surveys in China by CSOs, government supported efforts (eg by the National Bird Banding Centre), and some wetland nature reserves have carried out annual systematic waterbird surveys. The Paulson Institute (US) and the CAS Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research implemented the Project *Developing Waterbirds and Habitats Database of China's Coasts*. *At the international level, these efforts feed into larger scale monitoring and assessments* such as the Asian Waterbird Census that contributes to the Waterbird Population Estimates database and publications that inform global conservation assessments; and targeted monitoring for waterbirds coordinated by EAAFP Working Groups. The BirdLife International network also monitors the status of globally threatened bird species and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), which qualify as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Unfortunately, most bird records except China Bird Records and a few databases are still fragmented and unconsolidated, and have not been widely shared with the public. It is urgently needed to expand and diversify the available information base on waterbirds, with the need for a centralized system that can utilize diverse sources. Beyond the above experience on data collection and management, *the baseline for knowledge management concerning the conservation of flyway wetlands and migratory waterbirds* includes the experience of the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life Wetland	Targeted outreach and education campaigns increase awareness of land managers, resource users and the public on the value of wetlands in ecological, social and economic terms, and the value of migratory waterbirds as indicators of wetland condition. Integrated framework established for the long-term monitoring of migratory waterbirds and the conservation of China's flyway wetlands in the EAAF. Standardized monitoring protocols for migratory waterbird populations, wetlands and Ramsar sites established in cooperation with the EAAF Partnership and Ramsar Convention to raise understanding of the use of different breeding, staging and wintering sites across the flyway. Unified database system and knowledge platform established for migratory waterbirds and their habitats focusing on the EAAF in China, bringing together existing datasets from nature reserves and wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks and NGOs, and enhancing access to knowledge for management decision-makers. Knowledge exchange takes place at multiple levels: between project demonstration sites / landscapes, between this project and other GEF-financed initiatives underway in China, particularly C-PAR program child projects and the IAS child project of the C-SAP program, across other wetland PAs within the EAAF - China, and internationally through the EAAF Partnership. Project technical inputs to international fora including CBD COP15 to be hosted by China, Ramsar COP14 hosted by China in 2021, EAAFP MOP 11 in March 2021	Improved awareness of the value of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation among key target groups including: a) national government decision makers, b) provincial and local government agencies, and c) local communities at project sites. Improved coordination of data management on globally significant migratory waterbirds and flyway wetlands as well as public access to data benefits domestic agencies, public and international programs, supporting management and conservation along the entire EAAF. Improved access to information about wetlands and migratory species leads to better appreciation by public as well as more informed decision making.

Baseline investments are described in detail in Prodoc **Annex 19**.

Co-financing Contributions

The overall amount of cofinancing for the project **has increased by USD 8,854,532** from USD 78,200,000 at PIF stage to 87,054,532 at CEO Endorsement (see **Table C** for breakdown). Of this total, the government cofinancing via NFGA has not changed (at USD 70 million), UNDP contribution of USD 200,000 is the same, while NGO contributions have increased overall, including SEE Foundation with USD 5.8 million, WWF with USD 5 million, Wetlands International with USD 1,554,532, International Crane Foundation with 1.5 million and the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership with USD 3 million.

The project duration has been extended by one year from five to six years in order to ensure adequate time for implementation processes to run through to achieve sustainable outcomes.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The project will contribute towards improving the conservation status of some 33 globally significant migratory waterbird populations in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway occurring in China, primarily through improved protection and management of critical flyway wetland sites that have been determined through systematic analysis (see prodoc **Annexes 19 and 21**). These populations include globally threatened species, and species meeting international criteria of the Ramsar Convention and EAAFP at individual flyway wetlands in China.

The project will increase the area of terrestrial flyway wetland PAs created (c.19,900 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (172,200 ha); as well as the area of marine flyway wetland PAs created (c.185,074 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (133,305 ha) across EAAF-China. These will include wetlands along the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea coastline, one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in the world, and contribute towards the establishment of China's serial World Heritage Site nomination. All new flyway wetland PAs established with support from the project will meet the criteria of the Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of International Importance as well as the EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria. In total, the project will improve the conservation management of 510,479 ha of terrestrial and marine flyway wetland PAs.

Some 60,000 ha of degraded wetlands will be restored across the four project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas in order to improve conditions for globally significant migratory waterbirds. The final selection of restoration sites will be made using criteria that align with GEF STAP's LDN guidelines and all management actions/plans laid out in the project's ESMF (**Annex 8**) will be duly fulfilled. The vast majority of the restoration work will be carried out mostly through co-financing and in total alignment with national policy, specifically the National Wetland Conservation Programme (2002-2030). This wetland restoration is expected to mitigate an estimated *16,999,522 tCO2e (direct) and 38,248,924 tCO2e (indirect)*; in GHG emissions.

The project will also support the improved management and sustainable use of some 600,000 ha of wetlands outside the existing PA system across EAAF-China in order to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds and benefit local communities.

Overall, the scale of global environmental benefits to be realized from the project alternative are consistent with the PIF. See also the Results Framework in **Annex A** and GEF Core Indicators Worksheet in **Annex F**. The main variations from PIF stage are a slight increase in the area of proposed new protected areas from an estimated 200,000 ha to 204,974 ha at CEO Endorsement; a slight increase in the area of demonstration protected areas from 296,633 ha to 305,505 ha; and a corresponding increase in the overall area under improved management for biodiversity from 1,096,633 ha to 1,170,479 ha. The number of direct beneficiaries has increased from 8,000 to 8,500. An additional target of 60,000 ha of degraded wetlands will be restored across the four project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas in order to improve conditions for globally significant migratory waterbirds.

According to Li, Yu *et al.* (2020)[1]. The total economic value of three of the project demonstration sites (Liaohe Estuary NNR, Yellow River NNR and Chongming Dongtan NNR) is US$ 7.978 billion/year, in which the direct value is US$ 2.234 billion /year, and indirect value is US$ 5.743 billion /year. See the table below:

PAs	Direct value US$ million	Indirect value US$ million
Liaohe Estuary NNR	943	2435
Yellow River Delta NNR	989	2843
Chongming Dongtan NNR	303	465
Total	2234	5743

Based on the same reference source, the PPG Team estimated that the economic value of increasing the PA system by at least 200,000 ha of wetland PAs is more than US$ 3 billion per year.

[1] *Source: Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 3131; doi:10.3390/su12083131

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project proposes the concept of integrated wetland management to support migratory waterbird populations at flyway level. While this approach was successfully tested in China for a single flagship species during the regional UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (2003-2009), the current project aims to strengthen the protection of China's network of key waterbird breeding, staging and wintering sites through their systematic inclusion in the PA system to maintain the integrity of a wide range of waterbird populations in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

The project will also develop the concept of model PAs for migratory waterbirds, putting in place a specific approach for managing PAs for the sensitive needs of migratory waterbirds. Overall, the conservation and restoration of PAs for migratory waterbirds needs more technical and policy support due to the sensitive needs of migratory waterbirds. The four project demonstration sites under this GEF-7 Flyway Project will showcase the model PAs for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, including waterbird monitoring, business planning, co-management with local communities, communication and education, and waterbird habitat restoration. The following considerations indicate how this approach will be institutionalized, scaled-up and applied beyond the model sites themselves:

(1) *Institutional aspects of NFGA:* The lessons learned from model PAs developed through the Project intervention will be integrated into national technical protocols, management planning and policies, and applied towards strengthened NFGA-led management of protected areas, including Ramsar sites, Wetlands of National and Provincial Importance, and wetland restoration projects under the National Wetland Conservation Programme.

(2) *Scaled-up to national and international level:* The model PAs for migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats will be scaled-up through the Coastal Wetland Conservation Network, Yangtze Wetland Conservation Network, Ramsar sites and Wetlands of National and Provincial Importance in China through training and knowledge sharing. The model PA approach in China will also be scaled-up to other PAs in the flyway and beyond through collaboration with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the International Crane Foundation, WWF, Wetlands International and other international partners.

(3) *Applied beyond the project model PAs:* The technical guidelines and tools developed in the model PAs will be applied to other Important Bird Areas / Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) including non-PAs through cooperation with NGOs (e.g. SEE Foundation, ICF, WWF and Wetlands International). For example, the guidelines developed and piloted for sustainable use of wetland habitats, the technical workshops to develop guidelines on various aspects of waterbird habitat management and restoration (eg reedbeds, *Spartina* control, etc) will benefit a wide range of sites; while the tools of smart mobile APP, database and bird identification software (i.e. iBirding) will be used by local NGOs, birdwatchers, photographers and other citizen scientists.

The project will support systematic monitoring of migratory waterbirds including the use of web-based citizen science platforms such as iBirding platform, comprising of a mobile app, a web database, a bird identification micro-program, and a visualization system of waterbirds migration routes – is a successful case for the application of big data and AI technologies in nature conservation[1]. iBirding has similar functions with *e-bird**[2]*** for the integration of data from different sources. Innovative forms of monitoring will be supported including the use of GPS transmitters to follow individual birds along migratory pathways and drones for surveillance and monitoring of intertidal habitats (eg for status of cordgrass invasion).

Sustainability: The different project components will collectively improve wetland conservation policy and legislation, extend the formal protected area estate to include new critical habitats, give wetland PA managers the tools and skills that they need to enhance management of critical wetland sites, facilitate the adoption of more sustainable land management/fishing practices that are threatening wetlands and migratory birds, and raise awareness among decision-makers and the public to build support for wetland conservation and migratory bird conservation beyond the life of the project. The proposed project builds on a strong and supportive government baseline for wetland conservation, including new policy announcements and ongoing PA system reform. The proposed project is strongly aligned to government policies and will further mainstream flyway wetland conservation within central policy and planning via integration into the 14th Five-Year Plan and associated sector plans.

Efforts at the demonstration sites and landscapes will include the enhancement of institutional capacity for site-level management of flyway wetlands, based on training needs identified during the PPG phase (see **Annex 20**) and aligning with the competency-based approach promoted by the GEF-5 MSL program and GEF-6 C-PAR program. Based on the PPG analysis, the project will develop a comprehensive training programme based on the training needs and competence standards for the PAs along EAAF covering the full range of the skills needed, such as bird survey, habitat restoration, nature education, new technology applications, etc. There is strong interest from the PA staff in such training, and previous GEF projects (eg the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project, MSL Hainan Mangrove PA Network project) have resulted in significant improvements in staff capacity through systematic training that brings PA staff from different reserves together, allowing for exchanges of experience and collective learning. The training programme will go beyond business as usual by introducing international best practices and experience through the project's international partners, convening technical workshops to advance best practices on key themes, and strengthening cooperation between China and other countries in the EAAF. The long term presence and relationships of the partner NGOs with specific wetland PAs in China (in some cases going back 10-20 years) supports the sustainability of this collaborative approach.

Chinese scientists and researchers are looking to big data and crowdsourcing to shore up bird conservation and interest along China's coast. The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Paulson Institute launched the *iBirding* app in Beijing on 5 June 2020, which will allow amateur birdwatchers, citizen scientists and professional researchers alike to contribute to science by recording their bird sightings. The application and database allow users to identify birds through comparing photos with the database, or through inputting a birds' shape and colour. It is currently available as a mini program on Chinese social media platform WeChat under a Chinese name that translates as "love birdwatching" http://english.cas.cn/newsroom/cas_media/202006/t20200612_238730.shtml .

The project will respond to the low levels of awareness and understanding of approaches for sustainable use of wetlands through targeted awareness-raising and knowledge management in Output 5.1. The project will target awareness raising campaigns at specific stakeholder groups in order to support the effectiveness of other project activities that seek to achieve changes in policy and legislation, the mainstreaming of wetland conservation in sectoral planning and practices, and in addressing threats and unsustainable wetland management at the landscape and site levels. Outreach will be informed by the development of a communications strategy for the proposed China flyway partnership, and communications, awareness and educational activities will focus on the PAs and landscapes in Component 2; Ramsar sites along the breadth of the EAAF in China; and partnerships with coastal wetland conservation networks in China. The sustainability of the awareness raising approach is underpinned by the strong baseline on this subject, especially by the partner NGOs, who are expected to play a significant role in delivering education and awareness raising inputs and in linking them to activities such as demonstrating sustainable use of wetland resources, sustainable livelihood options for local communities, as well as schools in the project landscapes. The EAAF Partnership and

Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programmes[3] (now expanded to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) are actively supporting activities in China and provide an ongoing framework for their continuation.

The sustainability and institutionalization of capacity building and training efforts relies on the following four elements: (1) good training facilities, including classrooms with multiple media, cafeteria, and open space; (2) good team with qualified trainers and resource persons; (3) good curriculum and training books and videos; (4) sustainable finance for training.

The curriculum of GEF Flyway project will be housed mainly in the following training centers or institutions, of which the Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR is the most important.

(1) **Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR**, which will be established and supported by the UNDP-GEF Flyway Project. In the Project, Chongming Dongtan NNR will developed as a national and international hub for coastal wetland /waterbird conservation training. The advantages include: (a)The Chongming Dongtan NNR owns excellent training facilities within the NR, good accommodation, classrooms, cafeteria and open space for group discussion and exercises, moreover, it has easy access to the NR for field excursions and tours; (b) Trainers and resource persons are available for the training courses, such as wetland nature education, wetland conservation for the Yangtze River Wetland Conservation Network, NNR has signed MOU with WWF China Shanghai Office and SEE Foundation Shanghai Project Office to jointly support the training center, and Fudan University and East China Normal University have resource persons to support the training, both universities also have some long-term monitoring and research programmes and facilities within the NR; (c) the GEF Flyway project will support curriculum development and training books and videos. The training centre could provide a cross-site training course for the Project, such as Training of Trainers, and PA co-management.

(2) College of Nature Conservation and Ecology, Beijing Forestry University (BFU), which has run training courses for PA staff for many years with a standard curriculum and training books. BFU hosts the Science Unit of the EAAFP and has actively participated in research and conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in China. BFU could provide training courses for the Project, such as wetland PA management policies, regulations and planning, as well as project implementation. BFU could provide training courses based on a bidding process and contracted services for the Project, and support the Flyway Training Center during and beyond the Project.

(3) Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), CAS, which hosts the Green Training Programme of China Ecological Forum. The Forum was established in 2005 and recognized as a Continuing Learning Base (on-job training) by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security in 2014. IGSNRR has carried out several studies on coastal wetland management, database and iBirding platform, and trained PA managers, NGO officers and researchers. IGSNRR could provide cross-site training courses for the Project, such as basic knowledge on wetland monitoring, conservation and habitat restoration. IGSNRR could provide training courses based on a bidding process and contracted services for the Project, and develop training books and materials for the Flyway Training Center during and beyond the Project.

(4) WWF China, SEE Foundation, Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation (MCF) and other NGOs, which are important partners for implementation of the Project. NGOs may provide training courses with specific interests, such as nature education, bird survey, mainly based on co-financed programmes. NGO staff may attend the training courses of the Project as trainees.

Training of Trainers approach will be applied in the Project, mainly based in the Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR, and mainly targeting PA managers, NGO leaders, researchers and teachers, covering the full range of the skills needed, such as bird survey, habitat restoration, nature education, and new technology applications along EAAF sites.

Based on the training courses of the Project, the training books, lecture videos, and successful case studies will be collected and managed using a portal for on-line web-based learning, targeting broad audiences of birdwatchers, photographers, and other general public. The on-line web-based learning could be combined with face-to-face training workshops, for example, the top rank of participants of on-line learning may rewarded with face-to-face training workshops.

Moreover, according to the draft Action Plan of Capacity Development of the China PA Reform Programme (C-PAR) , both the College of Nature Conservation and Ecology at Beijing Forestry University (BFU) and the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) at CAS would be important partners to provide training services. Thus, the best practices and lessons learned from C-PAR may contribute towards the capacity development efforts of the GEF Flyway Project.

More detailed information regarding training courses and examples of institutions are given in the following Table. These training courses could continue with the institutions' support during and beyond the Project.

Table - Training courses and examples of institutions

Training Courses/Competences	Examples of institutes, universities, NGOs offering training courses
Training of Trainers on PA conservation along EAAF (PA managers, NGO leaders, researchers and teachers)	Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR (to be established and supported by the UNDP-GEF Flyway Project)
Community-based PA co-management approaches	Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR (to be established and supported by the UNDP-GEF Flyway Project)
National policies and regulations related to wetland PAs; preparation of wetland PA master plan, management plan and financing plan (PA managers)	Management Cadre College of NFGA (International Training Centre) Paulson Institute; WWF China (Shanghai Office)
Application, implementation and management of wetland PA conservation programme and projects	College of Nature Conservation and Ecology, Beijing Forestry University
Endangered waterbird monitoring and survey along EAAF (NGOs and birdwatchers)	Science Unit of EAAFP, College of Nature Conservation and Ecology, Beijing Forestry University
Basic knowledge on wetland biodiversity monitoring and conservation for PA general staff and birdwatchers (including face-to-face training workshops and on-line web-based learning)	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS
Methods and models on habitats restoration and rehabilitation	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS
Application of new technologies (UAV, thermal infrared camera) in wetland conservation	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS
PA eco-tourism and tourist guide	WWF Hongkong (Mai Po Nature Reserve)
Bird survey, patrolling and threat monitoring of grassroot NGOs (incl. birdwatching societies)	SEE Foundation; Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS: Application of iBirding platform
Nature education on wetland PAs and Flyway conservation	Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation (MCF); WWF China (Shanghai Office)

Even though there is not a detailed financing plan being put in place to support the wetland PA training along EAAF, various financing mechanisms are available. For example, (1) within the National Wetland Conservation Programme (2002-2030), capacity development is a key element with financial support from the national government budget, (2) at PA level, the capacity building (training) is covered in PA operational budgets for staff training, meaning that the PAs could pay for the travel and training costs of staff to attend

certain training courses (such as those run by BFU, IGSNRR and WWF); (3) NGOs like SEE, Paulson Institute, WWF and MCF also regard capacity development as priorities, and organize training courses to grassroot NGO staff, PA staff along EAAF. International NGOs such as Wetlands International and International Crane Foundation also organize training courses and technical workshops for professional staff of PAs.

A detailed financing plan for the Flyway Training Center in Chongming Dongtan NNR will be included in the Project Training Plan, integrating the existing financing mechanisms at national, provincial and site levels, and integrating the existing financing mechanisms of governmental, non-governmental and commercial budgets, to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of capacity building and training efforts beyond the Project.

A number of technical interventions at the demonstration sites are supported by subcontracted services. The purpose, duration and nature of the services provided varies in each case, and in many cases the intention is to provide an avenue for involving NGOs in the project implementation process - noting that it was not possible to nominate them as Responsible Parties during the PPG due to the IP's requirements. Therefore, the intention is that many of these consultancies will be taken up by NGOs and academic institutions with suitable comparative advantage and technical capacity at each demonstration site, allowing for the development of technical partnerships that build on existing baseline relationships in many cases (eg potentially with the International Crane Foundation – China Programme at Dashanbao and Yellow River Delta, SEE Foundation and WWF China at Chongming Dongtan, Wetlands International – China Programme at Liao River Estuary - and engaging national / local NGOs wherever possible). However, the subcontracting also opens the door for the development of technical partnerships with government institutes, universities, private sector bodies, etc.

The subcontractors will be working alongside government staff and building their capacity for the work involved. In some cases this is through direct training inputs, manuals, and guidelines, etc; in others through working with government staff in piloting certain approaches so they are learning on the job; and in all cases there will be supervision by the PA management of the activities taking place in their sites. So overall, it is expected that a significant degree of learning and knowledge transfer will take place. Another important point is that many of these subcontracted packages include national or international workshops to develop guidelines for adoption by relevant agencies, and which will also be shared through the EAAFP working groups.
Most NNRs already have existing collaborations with leading universities for research bases or specific programmes on scientific monitoring etc.

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[1] https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-06-09/Researchers-launch-app-to-crowdsource-data-for-bird-conservation--Rbl9T16iJi/index.html

[2] https://ebird.org/about

[3] https://www.ramsar.org/activity/the-cepa-programme ; https://www.eaaflyway.net/the-partnership/eaafp-strategic-plan/cepa-strategy/

In terms of **financial sustainability**, the project will work with both the demonstration sites and the central government through NFGA to remove the barriers towards addressing the financing gap for optimal sustainable financing of the flyway wetland PA sub-system (see prodoc **Annex 23A&B** - sustainable financing analysis). The integration of flyway wetland conservation within central policy and planning will help support increased government investment in flyway wetland conservation including budget allocations for the ongoing management of the wetland PA system and for newly established flyway wetland PAs. This policy mainstreaming will also support stronger investment by other

government ministries including enhanced efforts to reduce sector-specific threats to wetlands. The identification of new forms of financing including broadened investment of private sector and social/philanthropic donors to support ongoing management and financing of PA network, and support for a national donor alliance for migratory bird and wetland conservation will be established, coordinating these additional donors and aligning them to the identified priority actions for flyway conservation in China.

Project Output 1.2 will address the development of a **Flyway conservation strategy, action plan and business plan, setting out innovative funding opportunities for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China,** which will systematically aim to strengthen the financial basis for the expanded PA network. First, the proposed flyway conservation strategy and business plan will identify flyway conservation priorities, financing needs and potential new financing opportunities for wetland conservation in China including social investment. Parallel mainstreaming activities will help support enhanced government investment in wetland PAs across the EAAF, although the business plan will also focus on expanding private sector investment.

Secondly, the project will support the establishment of a national donor alliance for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation (mirroring the flyway donor alliance established at the 2018 Global Flyway Summit) with an investment strategy for migratory waterbirds, to bring together emerging philanthropic and private sector interest in China and align it to the priority actions identified and costed in the business plan. This collaborative approach is both ambitious and highly innovative for China, yet it has potential under the strong central government policy goal to build an Ecological Civilization, coupled with growing private sector interest and significant CSO presence.

Thirdly, the project will facilitate the systematic removal of remaining policy and fiscal barriers to the sustainable financing of the national wetland PA system (as described in **Annex 23A**) in coordination with CPAR Project 6 (*Building Sustainability into PA reforms to Conserve Globally significant Biodiversity in China*) through a Task Force on Sustainable Financing for flyway wetland PAs. This will review a series of national regulations and guidelines, with the aim of recommending revisions that will remove barriers to sustainable financing of the PA network. These will include:

- The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves – to clarify the accountability of government finance at each level for funding allocation in wetland legislation;
- Provisions of the NFGA on Wetland Conservation and Management – to promote the adoption of the provisions into the laws or regulations of the P.R.C.;
- Guidelines of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Establishing the System of Natural Reserves with National Parks as the Main Body – to clarify the details of the reform scheme regarding wetland PAs financial sustainability; and
- The Guidelines of the General Office of the CPC Committee and the State Council to Coordinate in Promoting the Reform of Property Rights System of Nature Resource Assets – to clarify the details of the reform scheme regarding wetland PAs financial sustainability, such as concessions.

In addition, the project will enable the lessons learned from past and ongoing GEF projects to be codified by developing a budgeting handbook / guidelines for wetland PAs to upgrade and harmonize practices across the PA system.

In terms of **environmental sustainability**, the project objective and outcomes are geared towards achieving significant positive impacts for wetland biodiversity, especially migratory waterbirds (see **Results Section**). The project will seek to achieve sustainable environmental outcomes through bringing about permanent changes, such as reforming the legal framework regulating the protection and use of wetlands, mainstreaming new standards and engagement across a range of sectors that impact on wetlands including inputs to the upcoming 14th Five Year Plan, and demonstrating the application of sustainable land use practices in wetland landscapes of importance to migratory waterbirds. At the model sites, the project will aim to address direct threats to migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats through removal of invasive alien species, improved protection, habitat restoration, improved water management and strengthening community co-management of specific areas.

The project's **social sustainability** is grounded in its engagement of multiple stakeholders at the demonstration sites and nationally during the PPG and Full Project implementation (see prodoc **Annex 7,** Stakeholder Engagement Plan**).** These include local, national and international NGOs that have both technical expertise and long experience of migratory waterbird conservation in China. The project will work in partnership with these NGOs as well as governmental stakeholders and local communities to deliver the project activities in line with stakeholder needs that are aligned with the project objectives. The project support for gazettement of new PAs as part of the expansion of the PA network to increase coverage of EAAF sites for migratory waterbirds will involve a range of measures including support for stakeholder consultations, safeguard screening and FPIC concerning the creation of new PAs. This will go beyond the existing national government processes required to reach agreement with the lower levels of government that have existing responsibilities for the proposed PAs, and ensure that these new sites take into account and have the support of local residents and resource users.

Scaling up: The knowledge learned from the project demonstration sites will be used to inform the development of policies and technical guidelines for managing wetland resources, supporting the replication of project activities across EAAF network sites in China. With the successful implementation of the project, this concept can also be disseminated across existing regional networks in China (i.e. Coastal Wetland Conservation Network, Yangtze Wetland Conservation Network, and Yellow River Conservation Network) and other flyways, such as the Central Asian Flyway in China, helping implement the national guideline of "coordinated resources management". The building and operation of a comprehensive and long-term wetland conservation network based on the flyway will provide best practices for other countries along EAAF. The long-term monitoring network of the proposed program, especially standardized monitoring approaches and data management, will enable China to have a more complete understanding of the population dynamics and movement patterns of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF and will offer tools that can be adopted elsewhere and data that informs management decisions across the EAAF. The project fits well with the vision of the EAAF Partnership (EAAFP)[1], which was adopted in the list of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a Type II initiative – an informal and voluntary initiative, and launched on 6 November 2006. The project will partner closely with the EAAFP Secretariat (which is a cofinancing partner, whose Science Unit is based in Beijing) during implementation to support this replication and upscaling to other sites in the EAAFP Flyway Site Network and other countries participating in the Flyway Partnership.

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[1] https://eaaflyway.net/about-us/the-partnership/ - The Purpose of the EAAFP is to provide a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration between a range of stakeholders to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

See **Annex E** for maps and coordinates.

The following changes were made to the project demonstration sites:

Zhanjiang NNR in Guangdong Province was dropped from the project, and Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve (PNR) in Liaoning Province was added (see **attached letter from NFGA in Annex H** providing the rationale and justification for this action). Liao River Estuary PNR totals 29,150 ha, bringing the total coverage of sites for improved management effectiveness to 305,505 ha, representing an increase of 8,872 ha over PIF stage. Liao River Estuary PNR aims to protect the freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystem, and diverse internationally important waterbirds, Spotted Seal, and Finless Porpoise that roost in the reserve. It supports one Critically Endangered (Siberian Crane), three Endangered (Red-crowned Crane, Oriental Stork, Spotted Greenshank) and at least eight Vulnerable migratory waterbird species, including Saunder's Gull breeding colonies. KBA mapping in China is incomplete and existing KBAs largely follow NNR boundaries therefore in this case it is not helpful to compare. However, the above biodiversity values clearly indicate that Liao River Estuary PNR would qualify as a KBA.

The proposed sites of international significance and national priority for migratory waterbird conservation for the creation of new protected areas have been identified and their coordinates and locations are shown in **Annex E**, and indicative areas given in **Annex F**.

1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above,please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The following text and tables are taken from Project Document **Annex 7 – Stakeholder Engagement Plan.**

Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is designed to ensure inclusive, effective, and efficient engagement of key stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the GEF-supported, UNDP-administered project Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China (the Flyway project). This plan incorporates experiences of the GEF-5 and GEF-6 in China**[1]**.

Alignment with relevant policies

This plan is in accordance with the GEF policy on stakeholder engagement, GEF policy on gender equality, GEF principles and guidelines on engagement with indigenous peoples, GEF agency minimum requirements on environmental and social safeguards, GEF guidelines on implementation of public involvement, UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, and the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2021).

Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholder analysis aimed to identify the key stakeholders related to the project and assess their roles, responsibilities, and interests in the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Asian-Australian Flyway (EAAF) in China. The key stakeholders and their roles are summarized in the Stakeholder Table (see Prodoc Annex 7 – Stakeholder Engagement Plan).

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder engagement during the project preparation (PPG) phase

Since the PPG team started working on the project in early 2019, more than 20 meetings and/or workshops, over 10 days site visits, face-to-face interviews, a number of telephone interviews and consultations, women and men mixed or separate group consultations, Yi and Miao group consultations in Dashanbao NNR, have been held between the PPG team members and various stakeholders during the preparation of the project. Table 2 of Prodoc **Annex 7** presents major elements of the stakeholder engagements during the project preparation phase.

Stakeholder engagement during the project implementation phase

Based on the above-mentioned consultations, experiences from GEF5 and GEF6 projects in China, and GEF policy on stakeholder engagement, the following stakeholder engagement plan for the project implementation phase has been developed (see table below):

[1] For example, put more emphasis on communicating draft project activities back to local communities and farmers and to get their feedback, which made the project activities more appropriate to local situation, local norms, local habit.

Stakeholder Engagement during Project Implementation

Engagement methods and actions	**Objectives**	**Key Stakeholders being engaged**	**Main responsible agencies**	**Location**	**Time**	**Resources**
1. Dissemination of the project information to public						
Dissemination of the project document on websites	Public access to the project information Outreach of the project	Any interested individual and organization, male and female	GEF agency(UNDP), GEF partner(NFGA), PIUs, especially PMO	Disclosed on websites of the UNDP,NFGA, PMO,,PIUs and the four PAs	At the very beginning of the project implementation	The project budget

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Dissemination of the project information to the relevant communities in an appropriate places and understandable manner (languages, information disclosure forms such as picture, carton, video	The involved communities, especially the ethnic minorities, and the women access to the project information	Relevant communities Women and men farmers, Han and ethnic minority farmers: direct beneficiaries, resources users Other local stakeholders: care about the project	PMO to provide the information in appropriate forms; PIUs to disseminate to communities and other local stakeholders Supported by meetings to convey the information and to clarify issues etc.	Relevant communities at project demonstration sites	Ditto	The project budget
Dissemination of the project information especially proposed community-level activities information to Yi and Miao peoples in Dashanbao NNR using local languages	Yi and Miao farmers especially Yi and Miao women farmers have access to the project information	Yi and Miao women and men farmers in Dashanbao NNR: beneficiaries, resources users	PMO to provide the information in appropriate form; PIU for Dashanbao to disseminate to Yi and Miao communities Supported by meetings to convey the information and to clarify issues etc.	Yi and Miao communities in Dashanbao NNR	Ditto	The project budget
2. Engagement in project implementation						
Inception workshop Bi-annual work plan making and/or update	Make the project detailed arrangement	Male and female staff of the EA, IAs, NFGA Male and female staff of the four PAs Women and men, Han and ethnic minority farmers of local communities They are implementers or of the activities	UNDP, NFGA, PMO, PIUs and project managers of the implementation responsible for involving the key stakeholders	Beijing Demonstration sites	Project Inception Period	The project budget
For Component 1						

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Consultation workshops / Task Force	Consultation with technical experts for development of an EAAF-China Flyway Conservation Strategy and Business Plan	MNR, MEE, MOF, NRDC, academic experts, NGOs,	NFGA, PMO, relevant consultants	Beijing	Years 1-2	Budget for Component 1
Consultation workshops / Task Force	Consultation with technical experts for development of a sustainable financing plan for the EAAF China wetland PA subsystem	MNR, MEE, MOF, NRDC, academic experts, NGOs,	NFGA, PMO, relevant consultants	Beijing	Years 1-3	Budget for Component 1
Consultation workshops / Task Force	Integration of EAAF flyway wetland conservation into the 14th Five Year Plan for related sectors and establishment of multi-sector coordination mechanism for EAAF-China	MNR, MEE, MOF, NRDC, Ministry of Water Resources Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, other relevant sectoral agencies, academic experts, NGOs,	NFGA, PMO, relevant consultants	Beijing	Years 1-2	Budget for Component 1
Consultation workshops	Consultation with relevant communities regarding expansion of the PA system for migratory bird conservation	Representatives of farmers, men and women, Han and ethnic minority peoples if any, whose land will be included in the PA system expansion	PIUs	The communities and other suitable places	Before decision-making on scope of the expansion	Budget for Component 1

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
For Component 2						
Training courses, on-the-job training, exchanges and site visits, etc.	Capacity development for Model PAs and sustainable use of wetland resources in surrounding landscapes	PA management bureau staff, local government staff, relevant communities, women and men farmers in the PAs, including Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR	PIUs, relevant consultants	The four project sites Local communities Other suitable locations for training identified by the stakeholders and consultants	Years 1-5	Budget for Component 2
Setting up the project pilot community management committees with 40% of female members using participatory approaches, organized in the villages, and using ethnic minority farmers and women farmers preferred languages Workshop on finalization of the community-level activities and making the implementation arrangement in details, using participatory approaches, organized in the villages, and using ethnic minority farmers and women farmers preferred languages	Model PA management: Finalize the proposed pilot community-level activities in detail Make detailed implementation arrangement	Relevant communities, women and men farmers in the PAs, Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR: Primary beneficiaries, key actors of the project implementation: NGO partners as technical experts, facilitators PA management agencies to support implementation in PAs Academic and research institutions: supporters to the implementation, technically, financially, and managerially, and facilitators of the implementation:	PIUs and relevant consultants	The four project sites Local communities Any other suitable location identified by the stakeholders	At the very beginning of the project implementation	Budget for Component 2

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Implementation of the activities in a farmer-centred manner - Carrying out the proposed livelihood activities - Yi and Miao women and men monitoring the migratory birds - Involvement in awareness raising on migratory bird protection - Participation in relevant technical trainings - The above activities will be organized in the villages	Model PA management: Effectively implement the planned project activities	Activities implementers and beneficiaries: - Project community management committees - Women and men farmers - Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR Implementation managers and facilitators - NGO partners - PIUs - Academic and research institutions	Relevant consultants, supported by PIUs	- The project sites - Other suitable places identified	Throughout the project implementation phase	Budget for Component 2

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Establishment and operation of Task Forces, stakeholder committees for community co-management activities	Wetland conservation and sustainable use demonstrated outside PAs in surrounding landscapes and related sites	Provincial and Local government agencies including development reform, agriculture, environment sectors; NGO partners; technical experts; Activities implementers and beneficiaries: - Project community co-management committees - Women and men farmers, fishers, etc - Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR	Relevant consultants, PMO and PIUs	- Project landscapes and identified sustainable use demonstration sites outside PAs	Throughout the project implementation phase	Budget for Component 2
For Component 3: Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E						
Task Force / Workshops	Adoption of waterbird monitoring techniques and unified database development	NBBC, demonstration site staff, academic experts, NGOs	NFGA, PMO, relevant consultants	Beijing	Years 2-4	Project Budget for Component 3
Awareness materials, events, online communications, etc	Public awareness campaigns on wetland and waterbird conservation	National, provincial and local sector agencies, communities and private sector in project landscapes and sites; NGO partners / facilitators to support implementation	PMO, PIUs, relevant consultants	National, provincial, landscape and site levels	Throughout implementation period	Project Budget for Components 2 & 3

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Consultation workshop Participation in development of ecological education textbooks	Improve KAP of primary and middle school students	Textbook developers: relevant department of PIU for Yellow River Delta Textbook users: Relevant male and female teachers and boy and girl students in the surrounding areas in Yellow River Delta NNR area	PIU for Yellow River Delta, supported by relevant consultants	The project area	During project implementation	Project Budget for Components 2 & 3
Getting feedback, suggestions, recommendations from the stakeholders, and addressing concerns if any through community co-management, stakeholder committees	To share experiences and learn from project implementation, recognize and resolve land use conflicts	Any interested stakeholders, male and female, Han and ethnic minorities	PIUs, supported by relevant consultants	Written documents or email	Throughout the project implementation phase	Project budget for Component 3
3. Participation in project monitoring						
The overall monitoring □ Monitoring the project progress	Monitoring the overall project implementation	UNDP, NFGA, PMO, PIUs, the NGO partners, academic and research institutions, NFGA, UNDP	PIUs and project manager, supported by relevant consultants	Sites of the project activities located	During project implementation	Project budget for M&E
□ Consultation with relevant communities, women and men farmers, Yi and Miao ethnic farmers in Dashanbao, and other relevant public groups using the farmers' preferred languages	Draw on knowledge and experiences of the local communities	Project direct beneficiaries and implementers: Project community management committee Women and men farmers Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR	Relevant consultants and PIUs	The communities	Ditto	Project budget for Component 2

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
□ Consultation with academic and research institutions, relevant governments, and other stakeholders	Draw on capacities and knowledge of the stakeholders	Relevant academic and research institutions, governments,	PIUs, resource persons	Suitable places and/or channels identified during the monitoring	Ditto	Project budget for M&E
Farmers' participation in the monitoring and evaluation over the community-level activities using the farmers preferred languages and characters, which can be translated into Han Characters wherever necessary	Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the community-level activities	Implementers: project community management committee, women and men farmers, Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR Partners: CSOs Academic institutions	PIUs, community representatives, supported by relevant consultants	The communities	Ditto	Project budget for Component 2
4. Mid-term review and terminal evaluation						
Consultation with relevant stakeholders	Effectively evaluate	Key project stakeholders	UNDP, Independent evaluation consultants	Beijing, four demonstration PAs The communities	During the evaluations	Project budget for M&E
Dissemination of the approved review/evaluation reports to broad public	Make the information accessible to broad public	Any interested individual and organization	UNDP and PMO	Disclosed on websites of the GEF, UNDP, the four PAs	4 weeks after the evaluation reports are approved by UNDP	Project budget for M&E
Dissemination of a brief summary of the report understandable (key information will be translated into farmers preferred languages if required) to local communities including the Yi and Miao farmers in Dashanbao NNR	Make relevant communities' and NGO partners' access to the information	Relevant communities, women and men farmers, Yi and Miao ethnic farmers, and the NGO partners	PIUs	The communities The NGO partners	4 weeks after the evaluation reports are approved by UNDP	Project budget for M&E
5. Information request procedure for broad public						
Publicizing PMO and PIU contact details for information requests	Make project information accessible to public.	Any interested individual and organization	PMO, PIUs	Disclosed on websites of the project and four PAs	Immediately after inception workshop	Project budget for communications

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Public request information to the contacts by email or by submitting written document	Ditto	Ditto	PMO, PIUs	Emails or written documents to relevant project office / PAs	Any time during the project implementation	Project budget for communications
The Project's reply to information requests	Ditto	Stakeholders who request project information	PMO, PIUs	same way replying to the request	Within 2 weeks after received the request	Project budget for communications
6. Grievance redress mechanism						
(i) Mechanism redress grievance from communities in and surrounding the demonstration PAs						
Step1: Providing PAs' contact details to the project affected communities and community-activities management committees	Make project information accessible to affected communities and resolve any complaints as soon as possible	The project affected communities, women and men farmers, ethnic minority farmers	PIUs	The relevant communities PIUs	Immediately after inception workshop	Project budget for M&E
Step 2: Affected farmers submit complaint to their committees or the PAs using their preferred languages or characters					Any time during the project implementation	Project budget for M&E
Step 3: Community management committees communicate and explain/clarify /solve complaint first, and submit to the PIUs whenever needed					Two weeks after received the complaint	Project budget for M&E
Step 4: The PAs explain/clarify/resolve complaints					Two weeks after received the complaint	Project budget for M&E
(ii) Mechanism redress public complains						
Step 1: provide PA's hotline for public	Make project information	Project affected people, male or female, Han or	PIUs	N/A	Immediately after inception workshop	Project budget for M&E

Engagement methods and actions	Objectives	Key Stakeholders being engaged	Main responsible agencies	Location	Time	Resources
Step 2: present complain if any to the PAs' management committee	accessible to affected communities and resolve any complaints as soon as possible	Ethnic minorities			Any time during the project implementation	Project budget for M&E
Step 3: Figure out resolution					Two weeks after received the complaint	Project budget for M&E
Step 4: communicate with the complainants and resolve problems					Two weeks after received the complaint	Project budget for M&E
7. Project reporting						
Annual project implementation reports, …… will collect data disaggregated by gender and ethnicity[1] on □ The project beneficiaries □ Participants of the project activities	Monitoring and make inclusive stakeholder engagement	All national, provincial and local stakeholder groups will be reflected	PMO, PIUs	N/A	Ongoing	Project management / M&E

[1] Disaggregated by ethnicity only for Dashanbao NNR.

Implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan

The Project Manager will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring implementation of this stakeholder engagement plan, with Project Site Coordinators hosted by local institutions at each of the four demonstration site project offices coordinating its implementation at site level. The monitoring results will be included in the annual Project Implementation Reports. The project midterm review and terminal evaluation will also evaluate the implementation of this stakeholder engagement plan. Experiences and learning points will be included in the evaluation reports, which will be shared with other GEF projects in the future.

Long-term stakeholder participation

The project will provide the following opportunities for long-term participation of all stakeholders, with a special emphasis on the active participation of women, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups, and enhancement of inter-sectoral coordination for implementation of the activities for coastal and inland wetland conservation for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF.

The project's design incorporates several features to ensure on-going and effective stakeholder participation in the project's implementation. The mechanisms to facilitate involvement and active participation of different stakeholders in project implementation will comprise a number of different components:

i) Project inception workshop

The project will be launched by a multi-stakeholder inception workshop (building on the PPG validation workshop already held). This workshop will provide an opportunity to provide all stakeholders with the most updated information on the project, refine and confirm the work plan, and will establish a basis for further consultation as the project's implementation commences.

ii) Constitution of the Project Steering Committee

The PSC's membership will ensure representation of key interests throughout the project's implementation. The members and terms of reference of the PSC are described in the Governance and Management Arrangements section of the Project Document. The establishment of this structure will follow a participatory and transparent process involving the confirmation of all key project stakeholders and nominated focal points. The PSC will be able to invite observers to participate in its meetings, as required. The inception workshop will agree on the constitution of the PSC, and finalization of its Terms of Reference and ground-rules.

iii) Establishment of the Project Management Office

The Project Management Office will take direct operational responsibility for facilitating stakeholder involvement and ensuring local ownership of the project and its results. The PMO will be located in the NFGA's Forest Inventory and Planning Institute in Beijing. Coordination with the PSC and related projects such as the C-PAR Program will be led by the Project Manager. A Technical Advisory Group will be established to provide an avenue for coordination, information exchange and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including NGOs and academic institutions.

Project Implementation Units (PIUs) will be located at the project demonstration sites, namely: Liaohe River Estuary NNR, Yellow River Delta NNR, Chongming Dongtan Birds NNR, and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR.

The Project Manager (PM) will be responsible for overall coordination of activities under the three project components, with technical assistance from relevant consultants. For Component 2, the PM will work with co-financed Project Site Coordinators hosted by local institutions at each of the four PIUs. Local Stakeholder Committees will support the project activities at these demonstration sites, providing a mechanism for consultation and engagement of local stakeholders including communities, and for coordination with related initiatives.

iv) Establishment of local working groups

At the activity level, a number of task forces and working groups will be established as required, to facilitate the active participation of affected institutions, organisations and individuals in the implementation of the respective project activities. Different stakeholders may take the lead in each of these groups, depending on their respective mandates. There will be representation of women according to the targets of the project's gender plan in working groups and activities such as capacity building and awareness programmes.

v) Project communications

The project will develop, implement and annually update a communications strategy and plan to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an on-going basis about the project's objectives and activities, overall project progress, and the opportunities for stakeholders' involvement in various aspects of the project's implementation.

The project will ensure that stakeholder engagement is undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner, delivering environmental and development benefits. Given low literacy levels in some of the target villages, project details will be communicated orally and visually as well as in written form in local languages, to ensure local stakeholders can understand the specific activities being implemented and the potential impacts and benefits.

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

Project implementation will involve extensive engagement with stakeholders at all levels, and particularly in the demonstration landscape pilot sites. The overall participation and representation of stakeholders will be conducted through the governance structures put in place by the project as shown in the organogram in the Governance and Management Arrangements section, including a Technical Advisory Group for engagement of NGOs and technical experts at national level, and Task Forces to lead specific Outputs or

activities. The NFGA will coordinate closely with other governmental stakeholders via the existing governance structures at national, provincial and municipal levels, while the PA management authorities and offices will collaborate with county and village administrations, NGOs and the private sector. The establishment of Local Stakeholder Committees will be a key mechanism for targeted stakeholder engagement at individual PAs and ecological corridor areas. Stakeholders will be consulted, engaged and informed throughout the project implementation phase to: (i) promote understanding of the project's outcomes; (ii) promote stakeholder ownership of the project through engagement in planning, implementation and monitoring of the project interventions; (iii) build public awareness; and (iv) to maximise linkage and synergy with other ongoing projects.

Particular attention was given towards consultation with ethnic minority communities present at the Dashanbao demonstration site during the PPG stage, and they will continue to be a focus of attention during project implementation including gender-responsive interventions on seed potato farming and crane monitoring (see Prodoc **Annex 4**). The ESMF includes consideration of safeguards measures involving these communities (see above for details).

The main barriers restricting marginalized groups' engagement in the project: there are a few barriers to the involvement of ethnic minority farmers' and women farmers in the project. For the ethnic minority farmers, the main barriers include language, educational attainment, and information and communication technology (ICT). The barriers and the project's engagement strategies are presented in the upper table below. For the women farmers, the main barriers are women's participation in community decisions, women's available time, equal pay for women work of equal value (hereafter equal pay), and women's limited ICT. The barriers and the engagement measures are indicated in the lower table below.

Barriers to Ethnic Minority Farmers' Engagement and Engagement Measures

Barrier types	Barriers to Engagement	Engagement Measures
Language	It is not easy for the ethnic minorities especially the ethnic minority women and the elderly to speak Mandarin.	The village meetings, village level consultations, and other village activities will use or be interpreted into local farmers' and especially the ethnic minority farmers preferred languages
Educational attainment	Education attainment of the ethnic minority farmers and especially the ethnic minority women and the elderly is relatively low to fully understand Han Characters.	Key project information will be provided to the affected ethnic minority farmers in local farmers especially the local ethnic minority farmers using their preferred characters.
ICT	The ethnic minorities and especially ethnic minority women and the elderly have relatively limited techniques to access to the project related websites on which the project information should be disclosed	The demonstration PAs or the PA level PMOs or other responsible staff will disclose the project information in appropriate places which are accessible to the affected farmers especially the affected ethnic minority farmers, and use appropriate languages, such as Miao or Yi Languages

Sources: consultations with the local communities, NGOs and the four PAs during March-June 2019.

Barriers to Women Farmers' Engagement and the Engagement Measures

Barrier types	Barriers to Engagement	Engagement Measures
Participation in community decision making	Most of time men make community decisions, and women have limited opportunity to engage in the community decision-making processes	It is required that village-level project committees will be established with at least 40% of female members
Available Time	Women farmers do two-thirds of housework while also carrying out agricultural production activities, which means the women farmers have less available time than men to engage in the project.	The project will organize the project activities which will involve villagers within the villages as much as possible, for example, the village meetings and training of farmers, which will save women farmer's travelling time. The project activities will be organized in off-farming periods, for example, after dinner, or in winter time. The project will encourage the husbands to take on more housework whenever possible
Equal pay	Usually women earn less than men, which to a certain degree will lower women's willingness to participate	The project will pay women and men who work for the project equally. The payment rates will be discussed and agreed by all involved women.
Educational attainment	Education attainments of the women farmers including the ethnic minority women farmers is relatively low to fully understand Han Characters.	Key project information will be provided to the affected women farmers especially the ethnic minority women farmers in their preferred characters and formats, for example, ethnic minority languages, pictures, video, posters, cartoons.
ICT	Women and especially ethnic minority women have relatively limited techniques to access to the project related websites on which the project information should be disclosed	The demonstration PAs, PA level PMOs and other responsible staff will disclose the project information in appropriate places which are accessible to the affected women farmers especially the affected ethnic minority women farmers, and use local languages or other appropriate languages, such as Miao or Yi Languages

Sources: consultations with the local communities, NGOs and the four PAs during March-June 2019.

The project will continue the engagement started during the PPG stage with the NGO community involved in wetland and waterbird conservation, through formal engagement in the national Technical Advisory Group, as partners in Task Forces for the delivery of specific Outputs, through contracting for the provision of technical assistance in implementing activities especially in the demonstration landscapes, and co-financiers for delivery of activities under their own programmes that will contribute towards achievement of the project Outcomes.

Information dissemination on project plans and activities will be accessible to the public through project-related websites. In addition, project information will be disseminated in written documents to the relevant communities in an appropriate and understandable manner. Dissemination of the project information especially for proposed community-level activities will be conveyed to Yi and Miao ethnic people in Dashanbao NNR using local languages.

Project inception workshops and annual stakeholder meetings will be convened during project implementation nationally and for each demonstration landscape to keep stakeholders informed and provide opportunity for consultation and discussion.

Stakeholder engagement will be facilitated by the demonstration landscape coordinators and community mobilizers for each landscape, with technical support from community engagement and gender specialists and monitored by the M&E and safeguards specialists.

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

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

See Project Document Annex 9 – Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

During the PPG phase, a consultancy was undertaken to conduct a socio-economic and gender assessment reviewing the role of females, males and disadvantaged groups in the project development and implementation and potential impacts of the project on each gender group, and to develop a gender action plan for the project. This aimed to ensure an inclusive approach through which women and men are able to participate actively and benefit equitably, have equitable access to the project resources and receive fair social and economic benefits. The report of this study is given in prodoc **Annex 9**.

According to the gender analysis, gender inequality in the PRC continues to persist in many forms, including in the disparity in women's political representation and participation, labour force participation and wage inequality, occupational segregation, adult educational attainment, and the unequal distribution of housework. In general, at the project sites, men are usually in charge of external affairs, while women manage domestic affairs. Women have a low level of involvement in public affairs. More men than women have migrated away from their villages to urban areas for non-farm work. Many of the younger generation, both men and women, have migrated. Young mothers often return and stay at home taking care of their babies for 2-3 years, but then migrate again. Most men staying in the villages are older than 50, and most women staying in the villages are older than 45 years. Few differences exist between the four subproject sites.

The gender analysis also identified the main barriers to women farmers' engagement in the project and proposed corresponding countermeasures: women farmers have limited opportunity to participate in village-level decisions. An affirmative action that at least 40% of the village-level project committee members will be female is included in the gender mainstreaming action plan; women farmers do two-thirds of housework while also carrying out agricultural production activities which means the women farmers have less available time than men to engage in the project. It is required that the project will organize the village meetings, training of farmers and other farmers involvement activities in the villages and during off-farming periods. Meanwhile, the project will persuade husbands to undertake more domestic duties; women usually earn less than men from same work, which to a certain degree will lower women's willingness to participate. The payment rates for women farmers wherever relevant will be discussed and agreed by the women involved during the project implementation, aiming at equal pay for work of equal value.

The Gender mainstreaming approach to be taken by the project is detailed in the Gender Action Plan in prodoc **Annex 9,** which describes specific actions to mainstream gender into project output implementation including gender indicators. The key strategies to be followed to achieve this include but are not limited to: a) Mobilize support from gender specialists; b) Designate gender focal points to be responsible for gender related activities; c) Build capacity of the project management staff to promote gender equality; d) Ensure women's genuine and equal representation (eg in task forces, committees, training, sustainable livelihoods etc., allocating women-targeted budgets if necessary to achieve this); e) Ensure equal consultation with women and men on their concerns, needs and priorities associated with all interventions, and equal access to project information (eg by ensuring specific consultations with women's groups); f) Project specific actions to empower women, including establishment and capacity support for women's groups in sustainable livelihoods, product development and marketing, and improvement of working conditions through facilitating appropriate technology (such as efficient cooking stoves, improved water supply, etc.); g) Collection of detailed sex-disaggregated data on project beneficiaries and participants, in order to ensure that around 50% of the project direct beneficiaries (GEF Core Indicator #11) and indirect beneficiaries (UNDP mandatory indicator) are female, which will be included in the project's results framework.

Targeted interventions in the project landscapes and sites to promote gender mainstreaming include:

- To train farmers and especially Yi and Miao women farmers to develop the local varieties of potato to be used as seed potatoes at Dashanbao NNR
- Train women farmers to monitors the black-necked cranes at Dashanbao NNR
- Train women on making reed-related handicrafts at Chongming Dongtan NNR
- Develop gender-sensitive textbooks for primary and junior middle school students at Yellow River Delta NNR
- Promote improved farming practices with reduced chemical inputs with full participation of women farmers at Liao River Estuary NNR, and facilitate the marketing of eco-friendly products

Overall, through the above strategies and actions, the project will contribute towards gender equality by improving women's participation and decision making and in generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Conducting gender analysis, integrating gender responsive activities and measures, including gender sensitive indicators and targets in the results-based framework, using sex-disaggregated indicators, and recruiting gender focal points and gender specialists meet the minimum requirements of the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan, and the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021[1].

According to the UNDP gender marker standards, the project has **UNDP GEN2 gender marker.** Key gender-disaggregated indicators and targets in the project results framework and monitoring plan will be tracked throughout project implementation. The project has set targets to engage women in project activities at a rate that is greater than the percentage of women in the agencies. These targets mean that the project will preferentially target women for involvement in related project activities to proactively encourage the engagement and empowerment of women in the participating communities and ensure that women are key beneficiaries of the project. A gender focal point will be appointed in the PMO, and the project focal points at the target PAs will have responsibility for local gender mainstreaming and implementation of the Gender Action Plan. A Gender specialist will be hired at the start of the project to provide specialised training and inputs.

[1] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.06_Gender_Strategy_1.pdf

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

At national level, to support the effective management and financing of the expanded PA system, the project will facilitate the development of a flyway conservation strategy and business plan that identify flyway conservation priorities, financing needs and potential new financing opportunities for wetland conservation in China including social investment. Parallel mainstreaming activities will help support enhanced government investment in wetland PAs across the EAAF, although the business plan will also focus on expanding private sector investment. The project (Output 1.2) will support the establishment of a national donor alliance for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation (mirroring the flyway donor alliance established at the 2018 Global Flyway Summit) to bring together emerging philanthropic and private sector interest in China and align it to the priority actions identified and costed in the business plan.

The private sector will be a key partner for PA investment via tourism concessions, CSR donations, and eco-labelling.

(1) Tourism concessions: It is a mostly commonly used investment approach to expand PA financing. The PA authorities delegate the tourism concessions to tour operators for the entrance fee collections, transportation services, guided tours, meal services and nature-friendly activities, such as nature education, birdwatching, photography and camping. The share of tourism concessions will increase PA investment. Such kinds of tourism concessions have been tested in the Yellow River Delta NNR and Liaohe Estuary NNR.

(2) CSR donations: Some Foundations provide a CSR donation mechanism for expanded PA investment, such as in the case of SEE Foundation, which has more than 300 members that are private enterprise owners, each member committed to donate 100,000 CNY each year for 10 years. SEE Foundation contributes towards the conservation of waterbirds and their wetland habitats. For example, the East China Center of SEE Foundation is working with Chongming Dongtan NNR to operate the NNR nature education center with CSR donations.

(3) Eco-labelling: Some small enterprises involve the operation of some environment-friendly product production, such as "scarlet ibis rice" in a NNR in Northwest China [note – this refers to the formerly critically endangered Asian Crested Ibis in Shaanxi Province, which had declined to just 7 birds in China by 1981], where the paddy fields are managed through an environment-friendly approach, without using pesticides and herbicides, "scarlet ibis rice" with eco-labelling could be sold at higher price. Such kind of eco-labelling provides an incentive mechanism for small enterprises, and indirectly expands the PA investment. Similar approaches for eco-labelling products of sustainable wetland use (including eco-friendly rice cultivation) are proposed under the GEF Flyway project for the sustainable landscape management, especially for the croplands, fishponds and salt pans, which are used as habitat by waterbirds.

In the project demonstration landscapes, the project will partner with a variety of sectors including state-owned and private companies during pilot demonstration work. These include working with reed-farm companies in Liao River Estuary to develop a model for integrated conservation – reed production – aquaculture livelihood benefits; working with rice farmers, and rice marketing companies in Panjin and Dongying Municipalities and Chongming Dongtan to pilot bird-friendly rice production and branding. Some private sector actors could be key stakeholders, such as the owners of the croplands, fishponds and salt pans known to be used by waterbirds. The eco-labelling is an incentive mechanism for the private sectors investment, rather than the provision of eco-compensation by government.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

Under the SESP, a project's overall risk rating is derived from the level of significance of its highest individual risk. The significance of each risk is determined through a combination of the risk's foreseen impact and the probability of its occurrence, using the matrix in the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (Page 17) : https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Social-and-Environmental-Policies-and-Procedures/UNDP-Social-Environmental-Screening-Procedure-1January2015.pdf

According to the second round of GEF Secretariat review, one of the risks identified in the SESP for this project (prodoc Annex 4), (Risk #12) has now been re-assessed as "High" on a precautionary basis, thereby triggering all safeguard principles and standards with the exception of Standard 7, which is not considered to be significant due to the nature of the project. Therefore the overall risk rating for the project is now also "High.

The SESP has been conducted on the basis of the currently-identified locations, and the broad scope of envisaged project activities. Further SESP assessment will be conducted to ground-truth the identified impacts at project inception, and for specific project activities as they arise. Legal gazettement does not in itself entail economic displacement or other significant impact. The ESMF prescribes an SESP process for on-the-ground project activities as they are defined on a site-specific basis, ensuring that impacts are adequately "designed out", minimized, mitigated or managed or, where this is not possible, ruled out of inclusion in the project.

The possibility of re-categorizing the project remains not only open, but is specifically required in the case of potential economic displacement and/or adverse impacts on ethnic minorities. It states:

"If it is the case that Ethnic Minority people remain, the risk rating, and consequently the overall project risk rating, must be altered to "High"."

Categorizing the project as High at this stage would not be appropriate on the basis of the envisaged activities and the established baseline situation. It would entail a comprehensive ESIA, which in view of the impacts identified to date, the envisaged project activities, and the built-in required procedures for the selection of further sites which preclude the inclusion of any sites which would entail significant impacts, would be an inappropriate and unnecessary use of resources and time. Where any activities require an ESIA, either targeted or comprehensive, it will take place. As with any project, should unexpected High impacts be identified during the course of the project lifetime, the project will be re-classified and the required impact management measures implemented.

The table below covers the four project demonstration sites, categories of planned project activities (e.g. improved PA management, legal gazettement etc), the associated risks, proposed mitigation measures, whether ethnic minorities are present and the risk rating.

Proposed network expansion sites are considered provisional "candidate" sites. The process whereby such sites are to be included in the project is described in the ESMF section 3.1.2. The screening process will rule out any proposed sites that involve involuntary resettlement, as well as any that pose adverse impacts to the rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods of ethnic minorities. GEF will not fund any expansion of existing PAs or the establishment of new PAs which require or cause resettlement of locally-resident individuals, communities or businesses. GEF funds will also not be used for "ecological relocation" (in addition to any resettlement related to general poverty alleviation) nor will GEF resources be used to support livelihood development for resettled communities which are not directly related to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity (as this is not the purpose of GEF funds).

In addition to the "screening out" process, proposed sites will undergo a full SESP screening and assessment. Section 3.2.2 describes the further assessment that will be undertaken where it may be required following screening. Where proposed sites do not meet these required standards, NFGA will propose alternative sites for inclusion during implementation, totaling a comparable area. Alternative sites will be subject to the same screening procedure.

No.	Site Name	Project Activity Category	Associated Risks	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Ethnic Minority Presence	Risk Rating
Project Demonstration Sites						

1	Liao River Estuary NNR/PNR, Liaoning	-Improved PA management - Capacity development - Wetland management / restoration - Waterbird monitoring - Sustainable livelihood development - Env awareness raising	Residual contamination following oilfield clean-up by company (risk to project staff)[1] Not informed of any ongoing resettlement	SESP screening of all on-the-ground activities, with full stakeholder consultation. Activities assessed as having potentially significant impacts to be the subject of additional study, including any impacts on reed harvesting and wetland resources. Complete prohibition on involuntary resettlement. Oilfield clean-up by company to be assessed for effectiveness.	None	Moderate
2	Yellow River Delta NNR, Shandong	-Improved PA management - Capacity development - Wetland management / restoration - Waterbird monitoring - Sustainable livelihood development - Env education & awareness raising	Residual contamination following oilfield clean-up by company (risk to project staff). Not informed of any ongoing resettlement	SESP screening of all on-the-ground activities, with full stakeholder consultation. Activities assessed as having potentially significant impacts to be the subject of additional study. Complete prohibition on involuntary resettlement. Oilfield clean-up by company to be assessed for effectiveness.	None	Moderate
3	Chongming Dongtan NNR, Shanghai	-Improved PA management - Capacity development - Wetland management / restoration - Waterbird monitoring - Sustainable livelihood development - Env education & awareness raising	No indication that wetland resources are used for anyone's livelihood purposes. No permanent residence at the site.	SESP screening of all on-the-ground activities, with full stakeholder consultation. Activities assessed as having potentially significant impacts to be the subject of additional study, including impacts on wetland resources and land use.	None	Low

4	Dashanbao NNR, Yunnan	-Improved PA management - Capacity development - Wetland management / restoration - Waterbird monitoring - Sustainable livelihood development - Env education & awareness raising	Potential risk to IPs of economic displacement, sites of cultural significance.	SESP screening of all on-the-ground activities, with full stakeholder consultation. Activities assessed as having potentially significant impacts to be the subject of additional study. Complete prohibition on involuntary resettlement. Project to be re-categorized as High Risk if impacts on IPs are identified. Targeted assessment, with FPIC procedures, as required by ESMF	Yes	Moderate

The identified project risks, their overall rating and the mitigation actions required during project implementation are given in the table below. The assumptions on which these project risks depend are listed in the project's Theory of Change (Prodoc **Table 3**), with assumptions applied to the project indicators also described in the Monitoring Plan for project indicators (Prodoc **Annex 3**). Risks are only shown if their rating is considered to be Moderate or High, with the exception of risks identified in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP, Prodoc **Annex 4**) which are all described. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Manager will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk register **(Prodoc Annex 5**). Risks will be reported as critical when the impact and probability are high. Management responses to critical risks will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR. Two High risks have been identified relating to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, and mitigation measures determined as follows:

Risk #7 (High): *Risk of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and any new human disease outbreaks impacting project implementation.* During project preparation, the COVID-19 pandemic halted all international travel and social distancing measures prevented PPG meetings taking place from March 2020. As of July 2020, the scale, duration and impact of this pandemic upon project implementation cannot be confirmed, but it has the potential to be High. The project will comply with government directives and follow UN advice at https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/UN-response in order to reduce health risks to project staff and stakeholders. Project start up could be delayed if necessary due to ongoing health risks and operational constraints caused by social distancing, quarantine and other measures. Flexibility has been provided in the project budget through allowing a six month buffer at each end for potential start-up and completion delays. Implementation may be paused if necessary in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented, and resumed at a later time if feasible. The Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required. Revision of the project workplan may be necessary and an extension request may be required if implementation is substantially delayed. Some adaptive adjustment may be needed to project strategy during implementation (eg on livelihood interventions, enforcement of hunting regulations).

Risk #8 (High): *Impacts of exchange rate fluctuations on the budget available to support implementation plans, and global economic recession impacting delivery of cofinancing commitments for project implementation*. The initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of 2020 have seen the greatest disruption of financial markets and currencies in recent decades. Generally, this has strengthened the USD against local currencies, with exchange rates extremely dynamic as of July 2020, adding uncertainty to the budgeting of activities. There is a significant risk of global economic recession impacting national economies, including cofinancing commitments for project implementation. The budget will be reviewed during project inception and any necessary measures taken to address any shortfalls due to exchange rate fluctuations between the GEF approved budget and project start up. Annual budget reviews should track and respond to subsequent fluctuations. Changes in the scope or timing of planned activities may be necessary through workplan adjustments. The Project Steering Committee should monitor and address significant financial constraints arising due to both exchange rate fluctuations and any delays or failures in cofinancing delivery.

The SESP was finalised during project preparation, as required by UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SESP identified twelve risks for this project that could have potential negative impacts in the absence of safeguards**, one of the risks was rated as High, seven as Moderate and four as Low**. **Therefore, the overall SESP risk categorization for the project is High**. Depending on further revision to assessments of risks, detailed assessments and management plans may be required. Further Screening will be required for additional PA sites, as well as currently unspecified project activities. An ESIA may be required if there are any indications of government-conducted project-driven resettlement, or significant economic displacement at project sites. The following safeguards are triggered: Human Rights; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Environmental Sustainability; Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions; Cultural Heritage; Displacement and Resettlement; and Indigenous Peoples.

In accordance with UNDP's SES, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed for this Moderate risk project during the PPG (see Prodoc **Annex 8).** Its purpose is to assist in the assessment of potential environmental and social impacts. The Framework forms the basis upon which Environmental and Social Management Plan(s) will be developed, so as to ensure full compliance with the requirements of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. The ESMP will implemented by the NFGA and overseen by the UNDP Project Manager and Project Officer and monitored throughout the duration of the project. Three significant categories of risks are highlighted in the ESMF:

- Potential Risks from Currently-Identified Project Outputs
- Establishment of new Protected Areas
- Outputs/Activities Currently Unspecified

The ESMF has been developed on the basis of these risk categorizations to specify the processes that will be undertaken by the projects for the additional assessment of potential impacts and identification and development of appropriate risk management measures, in line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The ESMF also details the roles and responsibilities for its implementation and includes a detailed budget and monitoring and evaluation plan.

The ESMF sets out the additional safeguards measures that apply to the project during the inception phase, including but not limited to: (i) completion of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to further assess potential risks and impacts due to project activities, with an ESIA report; and (ii) the development of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) including identified management measures as required based on the ESIA. The development of the ESIA and ESMP will involve public consultation and public disclosure, in line with UNDP's Information Disclosure Policy, and SES. Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied for all activities involving ethnic minorities, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESMF.

No project activities that could result in economic displacement, reduced access to land or resources or that could provide livelihoods restoration support for resettled and/or economically displaced communities, including ethnic minorities, can commence until the ESIA and ESMP have been completed and approved and the identified management measures are put in place. GEF funds will not be used for "ecological relocation" (in addition to any resettlement related to general poverty alleviation) nor will GEF resources be used to support livelihood development for resettled communities which are not directly related to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity (as is this not the purpose of GEF funds).

Further to the outline provided in Table 3 of the ESMF, a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established during the first year of project implementation and detailed within the ESMP.

Overall, the project is expected to result in major long term positive impacts for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic benefits to China through more effective wetland protected area and natural resources management, improved engagement of rural communities in conservation and improved flows of benefits from sustainable livelihood activities and ecosystem services. Through the implementation of the ESMF and the subsequent ESMP, the project therefore aims to closely manage, avoid or mitigate all the indicated social and environmental risks.

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[1] Note – while the project will not do any GEF-supported restoration of wetlands in former oilfield areas, these former oilfield areas remain inside the PAs and represent a risk to project/PA staff. This remains as Risk 6 in the SESP. The management of that risk would be achieved by having the clean-up (done by the oil company) checked.

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause. Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included. *(In Atlas, use the Description field.* ***Note: This field cannot be modified after first data entry)***	Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type *UNDP Enterprise Risk Management Policy)*	Describe the potential **effect** on the project if the future event were to occur. Enter **likelihood** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected) Enter **impact** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Negligible; 5 = Extreme) *Based on Likelihood and Impact, use the Risk Matrix to identify the Risk Level (high, Substantial, Moderate or Low)*	What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.	The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	Influences of economic slowdown on local governments' wetland conservation decision making	Political	I=2, L=2 Low	With the global economic recession, the pace of China's economic growth has shown signs of slowing. Local governments might intensify coastal reclamation to boost their economies. On the contrary, the central government consistently emphasizes the sustainable development of China's economy and the construction of ecological culture, so much so that it has tightened up the review, approval, and surveillance of coastal reclamation projects. This new Central Government policy on tougher controls for coastal reclamation considerably reduce this risk. The government will further consider adding the percentage of wetlands protected in each administrative region to the indicator system evaluating local governments' performance, linking with the acceptability system of government officials. Project outcomes can be used to help China determine the intensity of coastal wetland use and development.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
2	Insufficient understanding of coastal wetland ecosystems	Operational	I=2, L=2 Low	China has not studied its coastal and marine wetlands as extensively as its forest ecosystems, and therefore, there are limited scientific data available for its Government bodies to support the development and implementation of decisions about coastal and marine resource management. The depletion of marine resources, shortage of water resources, invasion of alien species, and increase in marine disasters have urged the Chinese government agencies and their research bodies to scale up their concern and study on coastal wetland ecosystems in recent years. The project's efforts will allow the decision-makers, managers, and resource users of coastal wetland resources to make science-based decisions in accordance with appropriate management practices or standards available.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
3	Slow or limited uptake of policy mainstreaming restricts integration of wetland PA conservation across sectors, and mainstreaming fails to deliver on the means of balancing wetland conservation and development objectives, thus limiting the long-term success of mainstreaming efforts	Operational	I=3, L=3 Moderate	Mainstreaming efforts will be centered on policy support for the 14th Five-year Plan, which has a leading role over government reform agendas and budgets. The Project is designed to build on existing government policy and commitments which increasingly recognize the need to balance development with coastal wetland conservation. The Project will combine mainstreaming and awareness raising in parallel to build engagement and political support. The Project will also provide technical assistance, through technical standards and best practice wetland management guidelines for different sectors to facilitate adoption. Assessments of existing policy/legal frameworks and opportunities to balance wetland PA conservation with the objectives of key sectors have been completed during the PPG phase and used to inform the detailed design of mainstreaming activities.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
4	Lack of support for PA fundraising, and difficulty establishing broader donor and private sector interest in flyway conservation	Operational	I=3, L=3 Moderate	The proposed expansion of the wetland PA network will increase the operational management costs of the network, exacerbating the current lack of funds for PA management. The Project will seek to increase investment through mainstreaming and awareness efforts in parallel to build political and grass-roots support for coastal wetland conservation. A flyway conservation strategy and business plan will be developed to support this, based on the sustainable financing analysis conducted during the PPG stage, which has identified financing gaps, sustainable financing barriers and needs as well as opportunities for private sector and philanthropic donor investment.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
5	Limited engagement of farming/local communities in sustainable livelihoods and land management practices restricting their adoption and replication	Operational	I=3, L=3 Moderate	The project will demonstrate a range of activities to support the adoption of sustainable land management / wetland use practices to reduce threats to wetlands and migratory birds. There could be limited uptake and replication of these activities if they do not deliver adequate financial and livelihood benefits to communities, making it difficult to engage communities and sustain benefits after the project. To mitigate this risk, the project will deploy a range of approaches, blending technical assistance, market- and non-market-based incentive mechanisms, and awareness raising and engagement of farmers associations. Livelihood activities have been designed taking into account the results of socioeconomic assessments and stakeholder consultations conducted during the PPG phase. Alignment with provincial government policies and priorities as well as related initiatives, and consideration of experiences from related projects and programmes (eg the MSL Hainan project), and engagement of market-based opportunities were all evaluated during the PPG stage.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
6	Influences of climate change on wetlands, especially on the structure, composition, and functions of coastal ecosystems	Environmental	I=3, L=3 Moderate	The project will single out the optimal wetland conservation scheme, a "red-line" target for China's coastal wetlands that considers the projected climatic variability and ecological changes under different climate change scenarios. The adoption of integrated wetland management systems will increase the ability of coastal wetlands to mitigate and adapt to global warming (through for example, more effective water management, wetland restoration and removal of IAS). Reliable data from monitoring systems to be established in the project will enable the Chinese government at different levels to take proactive adaptive measures. Management measures to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of coastal ecosystems will be included in management planning for demonstration sites based on climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
7	Impacts of ongoing or new human disease outbreaks on project implementation	Operational	I=5, L=4 High	During project preparation, the COVID-19 pandemic halted all international travel and social distancing measures prevented PPG meetings taking place from March 2020. As of July 2020, the scale, duration and impact of this pandemic upon project implementation cannot be confirmed, but it has the potential to be High. The project will comply with government directives and follow UN advice at https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/UN-response in order to reduce health risks to project staff and stakeholders. Project start up could be delayed if necessary due to ongoing health risks and operational constraints caused by social distancing, quarantine and other measures. Flexibility has been provided in the project budget through allowing a six month buffer at each end for potential start-up and completion delays. Implementation may be paused if necessary in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented, and resumed at a later time if feasible. The Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required. Revision of the project workplan may be necessary and an extension request may be required if implementation is substantially delayed. Some adaptive adjustment may be needed to project strategy (eg on ecotourism development, business partnerships, or local hunting issues).	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
8	Impacts of exchange rate fluctuations on the budget available to support implementation plans, and global economic recession impacting delivery of cofinancing commitments for project implementation	Financial	I=5, L=4 High	The initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of 2020 have seen the greatest disruption of financial markets and currencies in recent decades. This has generally strengthened the USD against local currencies, with exchange rates extremely dynamic as of July 2020, adding uncertainty to the budgeting of activities. There is a significant risk of global economic recession impacting national economies, including cofinancing commitments and business partnership financing for project implementation. The budget will need to be reviewed during project inception and any necessary measures taken to address any shortfalls due to exchange rate fluctuations between the GEF approved budget and project start up. Annual budget reviews should track and respond to subsequent fluctuations. Changes in the scope or timing of planned activities may be necessary through workplan adjustments. The Project Steering Committee should monitor and address significant financial constraints arising due to both exchange rate fluctuations and any delays or failures in cofinancing delivery.	Project Manager
Risks from Social and Environmental Screening Procedure					

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	*Strengthening management of existing PAs could restrict access to and use of wetland resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods. This could include restriction of access/use by disadvantaged/vulnerable groups.*	Social	I = 2 L = 3 Moderate	Additional assessment is required during the inception phase as proposed management-strengthening measures are further defined, in order to identify any proposed restrictions/alterations to access and use of wetland resources which may adversely affected some individuals, groups or communities. Such assessment will identify, through stakeholder consultation, which users/user groups might be affected, the magnitude and severity of any associated impacts, and measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or manage such impacts will be developed and implemented. Changes to PA management identified as having potential to entail such restrictions to access to resources will not be commenced until suitable, agreed management measures are in place.	Project Manager
2	*Climate change impacts could degrade coastal wetland availability and quality and put at risk populations of migratory waterbirds, adversely impacting achievement of project objective.*	Environmental	I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	Project activities aim to establish new wetland PAs, improve the management effectiveness of existing PAs including climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures, enhance the sustainability of wetland resource use, and support wetland restoration.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
3	*Strengthening management of Dashanbao PA could restrict access to and use of wetland resource by Ethnic Minorities in the project-affected area. This could potentially result in project-driven involuntary relocation. This includes access to culturally important sites.*	Social	I=3 L=2 Moderate	Further assessment will be conducted at project inception to establish whether or not ethnic minorities remain at the Dashanbao project site. If this proves to be the case, additional assessment will establish whether or not they might be adversely affected by the project. If this demonstrates that specific proposed restrictions and/or activities may affect the rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods, of ethnic minorities, preparation of an Ethnic Minority People's Plan (also known as an Indigenous Peoples' Plan) and the application of FPIC will be required. If it is the case that Ethnic Minority people remain, the risk rating, and consequently the overall project risk rating, must be altered to "High". In either scenario, the project should advocate for the ethnic groups to retain cultural rights over their ancestral domains, including continued rights to visit culturally significant areas such as graveyards or places of spiritual importance. Such rights should extend to ethnic minority people who have been relocated prior to project commencement, as well as any people who relocate away from the area in future. If assessment demonstrates that project activities may result directly or indirectly in promoting resettlement of remaining ethnic minority people from the Dashanbao project area, an ESIA, specific to those activities will establish the extent and severity of any such impacts. Activities which would render untenable the continued residency of any ethnic minority people in the project affected will not be undertaken. GEF will not fund any activities which result in ethnic minorities being required to relocate, nor activities which render untenable their continued residency in the project area. Also, GEF funds will not be used for	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
4	*Not all key user groups of wetland resources at project sites are consulted in project design/implementation*	Social	I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	Local communities and wetland users have been consulted during the PPG phase. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed and integrated into the ESMF, Annexed to the ProDoc (Annex 7), for further ongoing consultation. Appropriate stakeholder engagement will be conducted with all sectors of the community, including local authorities, community representatives, women and, if/where applicable, indigenous peoples. Stakeholder engagement will take place on an ongoing basis, throughout the project. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will assure the identification of all project stakeholders, including additional stakeholders with respect to new PA sites, with particular emphasis on poor and marginalized groups. These will include, where appropriate, informal wetland users and vulnerable households. Project monitoring will ensure that such groups are adequately consulted, are aware of the grievance mechanism, and that their needs are included in project design.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
5	*Enhanced management of PAs could restrict the use of wetland resources in a way that disproportionately disadvantages women.*	Social	I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	A gender analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase along with development of a gender mainstreaming plan to ensure roles and needs of women are considered in the project and that women effectively participate in project activities. Existing wetland resources use by women has been identified, and the gender-specific roles and responsibilities described in Part A above will be integrated into the project ESMF. Ongoing stakeholder consultation during the project will include consultation with women, with the specific aim of identifying any potential disproportionate impacts on them, along with actions to avoid, mitigate and manage these impacts. Gender impacts will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the project.	Project Manager
6	*Contaminated land, as a result of residue from former use as an oilfield, may pose risks to project workers*	Safety	I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	The project will not conduct any GEF-supported restoration of former oilfield areas. Assurances from the oil company, that the land has been restored and that no hazard is present, will be obtained before the land is formally included in each PA. If necessary, an independent assessment that remediation work satisfies the SES, including on-site testing, will be conducted to ensure workers are not exposed to risks from contaminated land.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
7	*Project activities could have adverse impacts on critical habitats for globally significant migratory bird habitats, challenging achievement of project objective*	Environmental	I = 3 L = 1 Low	The project is designed to support enhanced conservation, protection and management of these critical wetland sites. The probability that activities will be counter-productive and impact negatively on these sites is very low and has been reviewed with stakeholders and experts during the PPG phase. Even in the event that interventions were unsuccessful, any negative impact on the environment would be felt through failure to achieve enhanced conservation outcomes rather than adverse impacts *per se*.	Project Manager
8	*There is a risk of the introduction of alien invasive species.*	Environmental	I=3 L=1 Low	Planting of non-native species of *Spartina*, or mangrove in an attempt to reduce erosion, is perceived as a low risk	Project Manager
9	*Project activities to control IAS could fail or be mis-applied, leading to increased spread of IAS in wetlands*	Environmental	I = 2 L = 1 Low	The project will be developing stronger methods for control of high-risk IAS at coastal wetlands. There is the potential that if these are not well-designed or scientifically rigorous that they will fail – or be misapplied by land landholders – leading to increased spread of IAS. PPG design of activities has taken into account existing experience on IAS control, and implementation will be closely coordinated with the UNDP-GEF C-SAP IAS project to ensure it replicates best practices. Training and capacity building will be provided to PA staff and community members.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
10	*Sustainable fishing activities and certification could fail or lead to perverse incentives that put extra pressure on marine, coastal and wetland resources* (Standard	Environmental	I = 2 L = 1 Low	The project will encourage the uptake of sustainable fishing, aquaculture and mariculture practices along the Eastern Coast of China. There is a chance that these could fail or be mis-applied leading to extra pressure on fish populations. The likelihood of this happening is very low. Project activities will be designed with specialist input, aware of local conditions and the extent of such risks. Training and capacity development will be provided to fishing communities and alternative livelihood support will be provided by the project where overall fishing pressure is too high.	Project Manager
11	*Social and/or environmental risks from project outputs/activities proposed and implemented during the course of the project but not currently specified, may not be screened, assessed and managed sufficiently to ensure compliance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.*	Social and Environmental	I = 2 L= 3	The ESMF includes detailed procedures for the screening, assessment and management of project activities, as they are proposed.	Project Manager
12	*New PAs may be established without taking full account of environmental and social risks associated with the specific locations. Designation of sites as PAs may result in significant social and/or environmental impacts that raise significant concerns among potentially affected communities and individuals, or which involve significant impacts on physical, biological, socioeconomic or cultural resources.*	Social and Environmental	I = 4 L= 3	The ESMF includes detailed procedures for the screening of proposed new PA sites. In the event that sites do not meet these requirements, NFGA will replace them with appropriate alternative sites of international importance for EAAF migratory waterbird populations of equivalent area.	Project Manager

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism:

Implementing Partner:
The Implementing Partner for this project is the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration (NFGA).

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

· Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
· Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;
· Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;
· Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;
· Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;
· Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
· Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Project stakeholders and target groups:

The **Technical Advisory Group** will provide a mechanism for stakeholder review of project plans and implementation, and consultation with government agencies, NGOs and experts on technical issues. The Group will also include other donors and projects, in particular other GEF projects in the field of biodiversity and natural resources management for NFGA to ensure coordination and coherence to capacity development needs. The PM will coordinate and solicit necessary inputs from the group members. The TAG will be chaired by NFGA, and include government agencies, NGOs, technical experts from universities and government institutes, and representatives of related projects and initiatives. The membership of the TAG will be fine-tuned and confirmed during the project inception period. Additional members may be co-opted into the TAG during project implementation with the agreement of the TAG members. Indicative Terms of Reference are as follows. These will be reviewed by the PSC during project inception and may be extended as necessary.

· Review planned activities and ensure that they are technically sound and that, wherever possible, there is integration and synergy between the various project components during planning and implementation;
· Promote technical coordination between institutions, where such coordination is necessary and where opportunities for synergy and sharing of lessons exist;
· Provide technical advice and guidance on specific issues concerning biodiversity conservation;
· Share information on project progress and lessons learned with related stakeholders;
· The TAG or a subset of its members may be requested to undertake specific project-related tasks, such as preparing or reviewing analytical reports, strategies and action plans, etc.;
· Other tasks as indicated by the Project Steering Committee.

Task Forces will be established to lead the implementation of specific project Outputs, comprising a small number of technical experts and key stakeholders. These will meet as needed according to the workplans and duration of the activities in the Output.

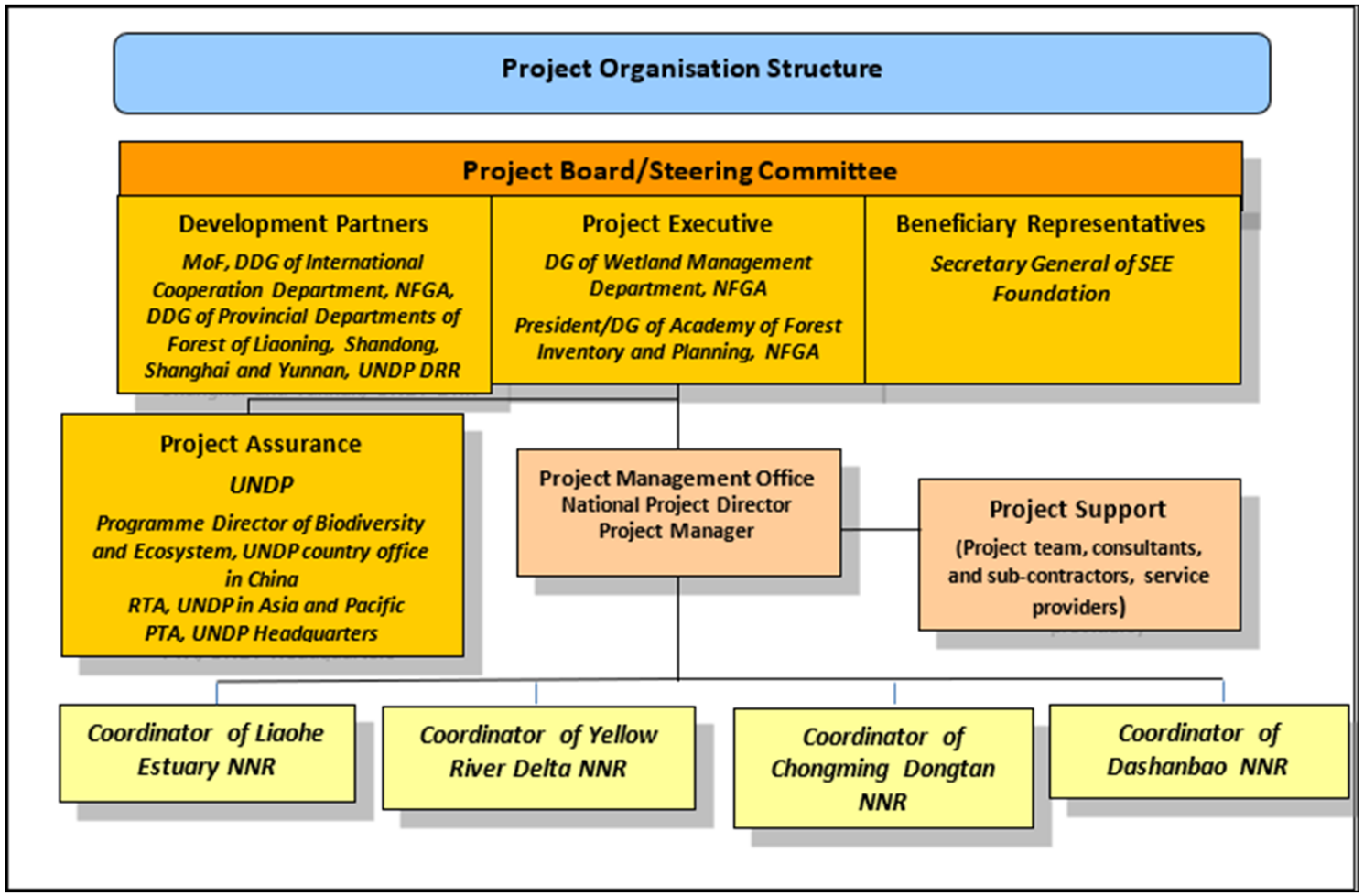
Annual stakeholder forums will be convened to share project results, discuss plans for the coming year and review topical technical themes or issues.

Local Stakeholder Committees will support project activities at the demonstration sites, including co-management, sustainable livelihoods development and marketing, participation in monitoring activities, etc., as well as providing a mechanism for consultation and engagement of local stakeholders including communities.

Village Co-management Committees will be established at selected communities at the project demonstration sites, in order to provide a platform for developing and implementing community co-management agreements, sustainable livelihood demonstrations, HWC mitigation and compensation demonstrations, etc.

UNDP:
UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Steering Committee.

The project organization structure is shown in the figure below.



Project Steering Committee:

The Project Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Steering Committee decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective **international** competition.

In case consensus cannot be reached within the Project Steering Committee, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the project manager;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF;
- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;
- Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
- Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
- Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;
- Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Address project-level grievances;
- Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

The composition of the Project Steering Committee must include the following roles:

Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Steering Committee. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive is: the DG of Wetland Management Department, NFGA; and President/DG of Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning, NFGA.

Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the Project Steering Committee is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representatives can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representative is: Secretary General of SEE Foundation.

The UNDP project implementation procedure requires one representative to participate on the Project Steering Committee to represent all project beneficiaries. During the PPG, SEE Foundation was proposed as the representative of beneficiaries on the grounds that it is a significant national NGO whose mission is closely aligned to the project objective. SEE Foundation was established in 2008 with the mission of supporting and nurturing Chinese environmental civil society organizations, and facilitating a learning platform for entrepreneurs, NGOs and the public to engage in environmental protection and sustainable development. At the end of 2014, SEE Foundation became a public fundraising foundation

working on three main areas, namely desertification control, pollution prevention and green supply chains, as well as ecosystem conservation and nature education. While the scope of its work continues to expand, SEE Foundation is firmly committed to supporting the environmental cause of China's civil society. Overall, SEE Foundation is the most important funding provider to promote the grass-root NGOs in China.

In the case of the current project, SEE Foundation is very active in bird and habitat conservation, and was the first NGO to provide a co-financing letter, with a substantial total contribution of USD 5.8 million for funding 50-90 NGOs to carry out wetland patrols, waterbird monitoring and science popularization and education, endangered bird surveys in coastal wetlands, and support for the Free Flying Wings Program network. From June 2017 to September 2019, SEE Foundation funded 62 grass-root NGOs (partners) and protected 86 important wetlands. The partners have carried out more than 3,580 wetland patrols and bird surveys, protecting about 3,400 km2 of bird habitats; nearly 91,000 bird survey records and more than 1,200 threat records have been submitted (such as poaching, pollution, development and construction); and carried out 515 nature education activities, covering more than 110,000 people. The priority sites of SEE Foundation also focus on the coastal wetlands (see the map below). The red dots (total 136) indicate the priority of the SEE foundation, which are not protected by government.

Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partners are: Ministry of Finance; DDG of International Cooperation Department, NFGA; DDG of Provincial Department of Liaoning; DDG of Provincial Department of Shandong; DDG of Provincial Department of Shanghai; the DDG of Provincial Department of Yunnan*;* and the UNDP Resident Representative.

Project Assurance: UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Steering Committee cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides a three – tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of the Project Management function.

The proposed membership of the Project Steering Committee taking into account the above requirements is shown in **Box 1** below. Observers may be invited to participate in meetings of the Project Steering Committee.

Box 1. Project Steering Committee Membership

Chair:

DG of Wetland Department of NFGA (NPD)

Vice chairs:

President/DG of Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning, NFGA (Deputy NPD)

Members:

Ministry of Finance

DDG of International Cooperation of NFGA

DDGs of Provincial Forest and Grassland Departments (of Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai and Yunnan)

UNDP Resident Representative

Secretary General of SEE Foundation

Project extensions: The UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extension requests. Note that all extensions incur costs and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and only if the following conditions are met: one extension only for a project for a maximum of six months; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the UNDP Country Office oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources.

Funding Flow:

Taking the lessons learned from UNDP-GEF MSL Programme, the funding flow is a critical and sensitive issue for successful project implementation. GEF funds will be received in a dedicated account at NFGA. The project funding flow managed by the Project Management Office (PMO) will go directly to the four demonstration sites (NNRs), four provincial wetland management centres, sub-contractors & consultants, and for the direct procurement of services (such as travel and accommodation for workshops) – see the figure below. The funding flow also indicates that no money flow will go from the provincial wetland authorities to the four demonstration NNRs; or from the four demonstration NNRs to the provincial wetland authorities.

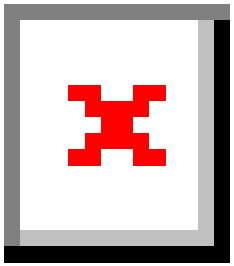


Figure - Proposed GEF Flyway Project funding flow

The day-to-day administration of the project is carried out by the Project Management Office (PMO), which supports the implementation of the project at national, provincial and site levels, and is financed by the GEF and national co-financing budgets. The Director General of the Department of Wetlands Management is the National Project Director (NPD) of project, and the President/DG of Academy of Forest Inventory and Planningof the NFGA serves as the Deputy NPD. The PMO will consist of the Project Manager and an Administrative and Finance Officer. Four Site Coordinators based at the project demonstration sites (NNRs) are also part of the project management team, co-financed by the demonstration NNR Bureaus. This team will be supported by technical consultancy inputs described in **Annex 6**.

The current GEF-7 project follows on from the government's GEF-6 C-PAR Program (see **Table 1 above**), which aims to transform China's national protected area system through systematic legal and institutional reform and innovation for conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Its objective to strengthen China's PA System for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF is closely aligned to those of the C-PAR Program which aims to address a number of systemic barriers to effective PA management including: a) weak framework for coordinated PA system; b) lack of systematic planning/mainstreaming; c) weak management capacity and inadequate resources; d) poor knowledge sharing and coordination. As described in the Expected Results section, this project will make a substantive contribution towards helping the C-PAR-program address these barriers. Although separate from the GEF-6 C-PAR Program, through coordination with the national C-PAR Program Board, the project will contribute results that support the C-PAR programmatic results framework and coordinate with the national C-PAR child projects in particular to support knowledge management and sharing of lessons learned. The project will also build on the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life Program, which was completed in December 2019, drawing on its outcomes and lessons learned in the terminal evaluation reports. See **Annex 19** for further information.

C-PAR1 was launched in November 2019 and as the PMO for the whole program, C-PAR1 is not only working to establish an effective National Park System through protected area reform and institutional innovation, but also taking the responsibility to coordinate all the projects under the C-PAR program through one full time position financially supported by all projects in the C-PAR1 PMO. The DDG of Department of Natural Protected Areas Management/NFGA is the deputy chairman of PSC of C-PAR1 and the whole program. So the NFGA also will play a very important role in the decision making project on the project strategy and activities of C-PAR1.

C-PAR4 was launched in December 2019, and the same DDG of Department of Natural Protected Areas Management/NFGA is the chairman of PSC, and the representative of MEE is a member of the PSC. In addition, the C-PAR4 PMO is based in the Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning of NFGA, which will also host the PMO of the GEF 7 Migratory Waterbird Flyway project. The two PMOs will probably share office space in the same building. This will ensure daily communication between this project and the C-PAR programme. Overall, under the C-PAR program, MEE, MNR, NFGA, FECO and the PA management authorities at provincial level will work together closely.

The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Office will play a key role in ensuring that these partnerships work effectively. UNDP, as both the GEF Agency and a development partner to NFGA, will play a central role in oversight of these partnership mechanisms, and will liaise at the highest level with government to ensure that the project fully delivers against its work plan and targets and is well integrated with the C-PAR Program.

The PRC-GEF-6 *Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP)* includes the child project *Strengthening coordinated approaches to reduce invasive alien species (IAS) threats to globally significant agrobiodiversity and agroecosystems in China (R-IAST)*. This will strengthen the policy and regulatory framework for the prevention, control and management of IAS, the institutional capacities and interagency response mechanisms for IAS detection, quarantine, disposal, monitoring, early warning and rapid response, demonstrate IAS threat reduction in agroecosystems, and create Increased awareness and knowledge management concerning IAS in China, their impact on agroecosystems and increased support for IAS management. The current project will coordinate with this child project on countering IAS threats at the project demonstration sites and more broadly for national policy and strategy formulation for flyway wetland conservation.

The UNDP/GEF *Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II Project* (China, Republic of Korea, and DPR Korea as observer) follows up on Phase I (2005-2009), which developed a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Yellow Sea charting management, legal, policy and institutional actions and reforms to address key transboundary threats and achieve sustainable management of the Yellow Sea's natural resources. Phase II (2014 – 2020) will provide assistance to China and Republic of Korea to implement the SAP and support institutionalization of the YSLME Commission. The current project will coordinate on coastal habitat conservation, coastal protected area system development, monitoring and assessment (eg in relation to climate change impacts on coastal habitats), and sustainable mariculture practices.

Regarding partnerships within and between government institutions and with other sectors, this project will promote an integrated environmental management approach with the four provincial governments and associated local government agencies through Component 2. Collaboration within and between different entities in government as well as with NGOs, technical experts and the private sector will be enabled through the project's Technical Advisory Committee, as well as Task Forces and working groups to lead the development of specific outputs. Linkages and collaboration will be strengthened through consultations, networking, inter-sectoral platforms, training, technical advice, information sharing and joint strategic planning and implementation to ensure the delivery and achievement of project goals and objectives. Relevant issues

Component 1 of the project will involve extensive stakeholder engagement among the key agencies responsible for flyway wetland PA network planning and expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming. This involves developing an expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing, and systematic and adaptive PA planning and mainstreaming at national, provincial levels and across sectors. All of these aspects will be led by the NFGA as the project Implementing Partner, working in close cooperation with key national government agencies both directly and through the project's management structures. A national Task Force will be established to guide implementation processes for **Output 1.1** on developing a systematic PA master plan for the EAAF in China, **Output 1.2** on developing a flyway conservation strategy and business plan**, Output 2.1** on strengthening national and provincial policy and regulations for wetland conservation, **Output 2.2** on mainstreaming wetland conservation into 14th

Five-Year plan and subsidiary sector plans and policies, and **Output 2.3** on establishing a multi-sector coordination mechanism for the EAAF in China. Provincial and local government, PA staff and expertise from the academic and civil society sectors will be engaged through consultations on legislative and planning matters in order to ensure broad input and consensus for the proposed recommendations.

Component 2 of the project focuses on the four demonstration landscapes and targeted PAs. In this case, the landscape level Project Implementation Units (PIUs) will lead implementation, working in close cooperation with provincial and local government agencies, PA staff, NGOs and community representatives to carry out the planned activities. The Demonstration Coordinator at the Project Management Office will liaise with designated Project Site Coordinators from the local partners at each of the four demonstration PAs. Local Stakeholder Committees will support project activities at the demonstration sites, including co-management, sustainable livelihoods development and marketing, participation in monitoring activities, etc., as well as providing a mechanism for consultation and engagement of local stakeholders including communities.

In **Output 3.1**, Four model PAs for migratory waterbirds will be established, with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms. This work will be led by the PIUs for each landscape/site, who will facilitate local coordination mechanisms that bring together different stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management and use of these critical wetlands for migratory birds. This will include NGOs, private sector, community representatives as well as local government agencies. The coordination mechanisms will seek to strengthen mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into productive sectors at local level and to support sustainable land uses in and around the sites.

In **Output 3.2**, Wetland and migratory waterbird conservation will be strengthened through capacity development, introduction of professional competence standards and provision of training modules. This will be led by a centralized Task Force on capacity development and implemented in coordination with the PIU for each model landscape/site. The project will make use of baseline experience in training provision, and align to the competency-based approach promoted through the GEF-5 MSL program and GEF-6 C-PAR program in collaboration with the C-PAR executing organizations.

In **Output 3.3,** Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use will be demonstrated at the model PAs and in their surrounding landscapes, and at critical breeding, staging and wintering sites outside the PA network. This will be led by the PIUs in close collaboration with the relevant local sectoral agencies (eg on agriculture, fisheries, water resource management), land users (communities, private sector), and technical experts including NGOs.

In **Output 4.1,** Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices, achieving livelihood improvement and reduction of threats to critical wetlands, partnerships between PA management and local communities will be enabled under which village level project committees will be established to support implementation of co-management agreements and project activities such as sustainable livelihoods initiatives, community-based ecotourism development, and wetland habitat management and restoration. PAs will be supported to develop communications and public awareness plans and conduct targeted awareness and advocacy programmes in villages and urban centres using NGOs, the media, schools, campaigns and private sector.

In **Component 3, Output 5.1** Public awareness on wetland and migratory waterbird conservation raised through targeted outreach and education campaigns will be led by the Communications Coordinator at the PMO in coordination with the PIUs for landscape/site level actions. NGOs with a presence in the respective landscapes will be valuable partners for delivery of awareness and education programmes.

In **Output 6.1,** Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in unified database for waterbirds and their habitats along the EAAF in China, a national level Task Force will lead the development of the technical approaches in consultation with key partners such as EAAFP, Ramsar Convention experts, NBBC, academic experts, WI, ICF, WWF, coastal wetland conservation networks, and inputs from model site staff involved in waterbird monitoring.

Output 6.2 concerns knowledge management, and will coordinate closely in knowledge sharing with the C-PAR program as well as with other international projects. Under this Output, the project will hold annual project meetings for updating stakeholders (UNDP, governments, NGOs, scientists etc.) and exchange experience among participants. It will also provide technical support and lessons from the project to the EAAFP for wider sharing internationally.

Output 6.3 covers the essential gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation required to ensure that project implementation meets UNDP and GEF standards, under the oversight and guidance of the Project Steering Committee including UNDP as quality assurer.

The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Office will play a key role in ensuring that these partnerships work effectively. UNDP, as both the GEF Agency and a development partner to NFGA, will play a central role in oversight of these partnership mechanisms, and will liaise at the highest level with government to ensure that the project fully delivers against its work plan and targets and is well integrated with the C-PAR Program. The UNDP Country Office (CO) will assign a programme officer for project oversight, and the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor located in Bangkok will also provide technical support to the CO for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The project will contribute towards the UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2. More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth. UNDP has a substantial environment programme in China in support of the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action" (CBPF), which is China's primary investment strategy for biodiversity conservation through the GEF and other partners. The project will build on UNDP's long-term partnership with NFGA which has included a number of successful related projects, including the GEF-5 Program Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation, which is a sub-program of the CBPF and includes the national project *CBPF-MSL 4655 Strengthening the management effectiveness of the sub-system of wetland protected areas for conservation of globally significant biodiversity*, which aims to strengthen the national wetland PA subsystem and regulatory process, establish inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for wetland protection, enhance capacities of wetland planning, implementation, monitoring and institutionalized management at the national level, and reduce external threats to wetland PAs through mainstreaming wetland PA considerations in sector planning. National developments and lessons learned through the MSL national project and overall program will inform the project, for example, the MSL Hainan project included development of a mangrove PA network, lessons from which can serve to inform PA network development in other areas such as the project demonstration landscape in the Yellow River Delta.

A number of NGOs have been engaged during the PPG stage and are well positioned to contribute to the project through their baseline activities and collaborative inputs and technical advice. These include ICF, Wetlands International and WWF which were founder organizations of the EAAF Partnership in 2006, and which have actively supported the Government of China since the 1990s in managing wetlands for migratory waterbird conservation and supporting past national and regional GEF projects. SEE Foundation has offered substantial support for local engagement in wetland conservation in recent years, and the Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund has been providing small grants for flyway wetland conservation over a long period. See **Annex 19** for details of NGO baseline and ongoing initiatives.

Table 2 below lists the main ongoing related initiatives that offer strong partnerships for the project, and shows their connections with the components and outputs of this project.

Table 2. Intersection of Key Related Initiatives with Project Outputs

Related Initiatives	Intersections with Project Outputs		
	Comp. 1	**Comp. 2**	**Comp. 3**
GEF-6 C-PAR Program (see – **Table 1 above)** particularly C-PAR1 National Project and C-PAR6 Sustainability project	All Outputs	All Outputs	All Outputs
IAS child project of the C-SAP Program		All Outputs	6.2
UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II Project	All Outputs	3.1, 4.1, 4.2	6.2
National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2011-2030)	All outputs	All Outputs	All Outputs

Provincial 13th 5-year Plan (2016-2020 - underlines the importance of achieving harmony with environment and creating an 'ecological civilization' and 'Beautiful China'	All Outputs	All Outputs	All Outputs
Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf of China Phase II WHC nomination	1.1, 1.2		6.2
UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme		3.3, 4.1, 4.2	5.1, 6.2
Paulson Institute coastal wetland and threatened waterbird conservation	1.1, 1.2	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	3.2, 6.2
Paulson Institute and IGSNRR/CAS Waterbirds and Habitats Database of China's Coasts Project	1.1, 1.2, 2.3	3.1	6.1, 6.2
East Asian – Australasian Flyway (EAAF) Partnership	1.1, 1.2	3.1	All Outputs
ICF – crane conservation programmes	1.1, 1.2	All Outputs	All Outputs
SEE Foundation – Coastal wetland and threatened waterbird conservation; Chongming Dongtan	1.1, 1.2	4.1, 4.2	All Outputs
WWF – Yangtze PA Network, Chongming Dongtan	1.1, 1.2	All Outputs	All Outputs
Wetlands International - Yellow Sea Bottlenecks Project	1.1, 1.2, 2.3	All Outputs	All Outputs
National/local NGO wetland and waterbird programs	1.1, 1.2	All Outputs	All Outputs

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

The project will assist the Government of China in implementing its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular Aichi Targets 11 and 12 (see below). In 2020, China will host the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to CBD, providing an important opportunity for the Government to showcase progress on protected areas and the positive effects of recent national policy advances for the conservation of wetland biodiversity, as well as contributing to the development and launch of the next Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Objective and Outcomes of the proposed project are fully in line with national priorities and plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable wetland management in China. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2011-2030) identifies 35 biodiversity priority protection regions in China, which include important inland wetland regions for migratory waterbirds such as the central and lower Yangtze River Basin (eg Poyang and Dongting Lakes), SongNen Plain and Sanjiang Plain in NE China, and the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Protected Region (including main estuaries and adjacent sea areas in Liaoning and Shandong Provinces); East China Sea and Taiwan Strait (including coastal bays and wetlands; and South China Sea (including coastal bays, mangroves and other wetlands). Priority Action 13 includes: Strengthen the conservation of the

coastal wetlands of Bohai Sea and the tidal flat wetlands of the Yellow Sea. The project will address key priorities under the NBSAP by implementing its priority strategic tasks, namely: (1) further improve related policies, regulations, and systems on biodiversity conservation; (2) promote mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into related planning processes; (3) strengthen capacities for biodiversity conservation; (4) strengthen in-situ conservation of biodiversity; and (5) raise public awareness and strengthen international cooperation and exchange.

The rationale and policy of this project are fully consistent with broader government planning and policy at national and provincial levels. Notably, the *13th Five-year Plan (2016-2020)* urges environmental protection and the creation of China as an 'ecological civilization'. The 13th Five-year Plan places great emphasis on environmental protection and wetland conservation. Policy is pushing even more strongly in this direction with the aim to develop a 'Beautiful China' and deepen ongoing reforms for ecological protection and redlining. Several ministries have adjusted their priorities for 13th Five-year Plans to match the new directions given at the third Plenum of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee (November 2013).

On November 30, 2016, the State Council issued the *Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation System Plan*, which marked a new stage of "comprehensive wetland protection"; in November 2017, "wetland" was included in the land use status classification standard of the Ministry of Land and Resources for the first time. In September 2019, President Xi pointed out clearly that the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin are major national strategies. In the future, China's wetland protection work will take the implementation of the *Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation System Plan* as the main line, solidly promote the institutionalization and standardization of wetland management work, and take effective measures to curb and reverse the trend of wetland loss and degradation. The tasks of wetland protection will be more onerous, and further promotion of international cooperation for wetland protection becomes more important. Therefore, this GEF-7 flyway wetland conservation project comes exactly at the right time and is particularly well placed to support this step-change in government commitment to address the diverse threats facing wetlands in China.

This project has been designed to address urgent, priority and catalytic issues identified under the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action (CBPF), which is China's umbrella GEF investment strategy for biodiversity conservation. In particular, it will fill a clear gap in the current CBPF actions by building on the lessons learned during the recent EU-China Biodiversity Program (also part of CBPF) and the projects under the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life (MSL) Program, and by coordinating with the ongoing GEF-6 China-Protected Area Reform (C-PAR) Program.

The current project is well aligned with China's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)[1] under the CBD, which recognizes wetlands and sites for migratory waterbirds as a priority, listing a range of wetlands in the Lower Yangtze valley, and coastal wetlands along the Yellow Sea, Bohai Sea, East China Sea and South China Sea as Priority Areas, as well as priority projects including: Demonstration projects on wetland conservation and restoration and establishment of a system for monitoring major wetlands; Establishment of biodiversity monitoring network and demonstration projects; and Conservation and ecological restoration of typical coastal and offshore marine ecosystems.

China joined the Ramsar Convention in 1992 and currently has 57 Ramsar Sites totaling 6,948,592 ha. The project will contribute directly towards implementation of the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016–24)[2] in China by addressing the drivers of wetland loss, management of listed Ramsar sites (the four demo sites are all Ramsar Sites), and the wise use of wetlands. It will also respond to the challenges and priorities for implementation of the Convention identified in China's Ramsar National Report to COP13[3].

China has entered into a number of multilateral agreements for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, including the Convention on Migratory Species MoU on the Siberian Crane (1999) and the EAAF Partnership (2006), and bilateral agreements on migratory bird conservation with Australia (1988), Japan (1981), Republic of Korea (2007), and Russia (2013). The majority of the bird species involved are migratory waterbirds of direct relevance to this project. The EAAF Partnership is of particularly direct relevance, as the project aims to conserve migratory waterbird populations in this flyway through its interventions in China and sharing of experiences with other flyway partners. All four project demonstration sites are EAAFP Flyway Network Sites out of the 19 listed in China[4].

SDGs and Aichi Targets: This project will primarily contribute towards SDG 14 (Life below water) - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources; and SDG 15 (Life on land): Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss, supporting activities that address multiple targets. It will also make secondary contributions towards SDG 1: No poverty, 3: Good health, 5: Gender equality, and 13: Urgent action on climate change. The project will contribute towards Strategic Goal C of the Aichi Targets[5]: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, particularly Target 11, to increase the coverage of protected areas; and Target 12, to prevent the extinction of known threatened species.

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[1] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cn/cn-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[2] https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/hb2_5ed_strategic_plan_2016_24_e.pdf

[3] https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/importftp/COP13NR_China_e.pdf (March 2018)

[4] https://www.eaaflyway.net/china/

[5] The CBD biodiversity targets are likely to change following COP15 in October 2020

8. Knowledge Management

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

The project's approach to knowledge management will focus on knowledge exchange and transfer at multiple levels: between project demonstration sites / landscapes, between this project and other GEF-financed initiatives underway in China, particularly the child projects of the C-PAR program and the IAS child project of the C-SAP program, across other wetland PAs in China that fall within the EAAF, and internationally through the EAAF Partnership. This is covered in Output 6.2.

The project's knowledge management approach will include: formal and informal knowledge sharing channels, in-person knowledge exchange visits at project sites (and sites of related projects) and the development of knowledge products and reports including lessons learned and best practice case studies. The project will share its findings and experiences with the C-PAR program to ensure that the specific requirements of migratory waterbird sites will be adequately catered for in the overall national PA reform process.

The project will provide technical inputs to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) to be hosted by China in 2021, representing an unprecedented opportunity for the sharing of knowledge on migratory waterbird and flyway wetland conservation and to leverage political support. The EAAFP MOP in Australia in 2021 also provides an opportunity for knowledge sharing.

Indicative Activities:

6.2.1 Develop a project communications plan to ensure that project news and results are shared with project stakeholders and related initiatives (e.g. the C-PAR and C-SAP programmes (as appropriate), EAAFP CEPA Working Group, Ramsar Convention CEPA Programme, CSO programmes); and updated annually

6.2.2 During project implementation, provide a platform to share experiences and engage communities that are financial support scheme recipients (Component 2), and collect project-related photographs, video and other materials for communications purposes (with attention to gender issues)

6.2.3 Post project information on the website www.shidi.org hosted by the China Wetland Conservation Association to share project news, results and information with stakeholders, the wider public in China and international audiences, and share technical reports, news articles and awareness materials arising from project activities with stakeholders at all levels through project website, public service advertising, other media, etc.

6.2.4 Develop case studies on key issues relating to migratory waterbird and wetland conservation, and publish them online as technical briefs, including positive examples of human-nature coexistence models at project sites and gender mainstreaming in flyway wetland conservation

6.2.5 Publish and disseminate the project terminal report in both hard copy and electronic formats

6.2.6 Coordinate with the EAAF Partnership on sharing knowledge through their platforms (website, working groups, events, etc), create active linkages with EAAFP Yellow Sea Task Force and the EAAF/Ramsar/IUCN Yellow Sea Working Group, and provide technical inputs to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP14 Meeting to be hosted by China in 2021.

The detailed timeline for the above activities is given in Project Document **Annex 2**. As a result of knowledge management, at least 15 project best practices and lessons will be documented and disseminated through national and international networks. The budget for knowledge management is $192,500. Overall, there is keen interest from project participants, the NGO project partners and the EAAFP Secretariat to ensure that learnings from the project's field activities at the demonstration sites, wider landscapes and financially supported activities feed into both national and international networks, aided by technical workshops (supported under the technical Outputs in Components 1 and 2) as well as sharing through existing networks. The EAAFP Secretariat in particular has expressed interest to transfer learning through its meetings, workshops, website and partner network so that the project experiences can be shared and replicated in other countries and flyway network sites through the flyway.

A related Output is 6.1 - *Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in a unified database system for waterbirds and their habitats along the EAAF in China.* Under this Output, the project will put in place an integrated framework for the long-term monitoring of migratory waterbirds and the conservation of China's flyway wetlands in the EAAF. Standardized monitoring protocols for migratory waterbird populations, wetlands and Ramsar sites will be established in cooperation with the EAAF Partnership and Ramsar Convention to raise understanding of the use of different breeding, staging and wintering sites across the flyway. This will be supported by the establishment

of a unified database system and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats focusing on the EAAF in China, bringing together existing datasets from nature reserves and wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks and NGOs. The project's attention on developing and supporting the rollout of standardized monitoring techniques for migratory waterbirds, development of a unified database system for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats along with a smart-phone based application for online data entry and retrieval[1] will support the provision of additional data (e.g. citizen science) and encourage its use, along with providing a platform to share data and knowledge generated by the project. The monitoring and database protocols will take full account of existing global and regional schemes such as the *Asian Waterbird Census*[2] coordinated by Wetlands International in order to ensure that monitoring results can be incorporated into global and flyway level analyses of waterbird population status and wetland habitat status. The unified database system on waterbirds and wetlands may act as an information platform for wetland protected areas at all levels, including the demonstration sites and sustainable use areas covered in Component 2 of this project. This is budgeted at $219,500.

The project's approach to South – South Cooperation will also contributes towards knowledge management. To present opportunities for replication in other countries, the project will codify good practices and facilitate dissemination through the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership, the Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention, and ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform[3] and PANORAMA[4]. In addition, to bring the voices of NFGA, demonstration PAs and provinces and partner NGOs to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global discourse on migratory waterbird flyway conservation. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing flyway conservation initiatives in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

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[1] For example of similar Apps for bird citizen-science purposes, see eBird https://www.birdjournal.com/ and Bird Journal https://www.birdjournal.com/

[2] http://iwc.wetlands.org/index.php/awcsites; https://www.eaaflyway.net/activities/asian-waterbird-census/

[3] http://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/home-page/

[4] https://panorama.solutions/en

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in prodoc **Annex 3** details the roles, responsibilities and frequency of monitoring project results.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[1]. The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring Plan in prodoc **Annex 3**, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report:
A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:

1. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
2. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
4. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
5. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
6. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
7. Plan and schedule Project Steering Committee meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.
8. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):
The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Steering Committee. The quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

GEF Core Indicators:
The GEF Core indicators included as **Annex F** will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these

can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website. The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METTs) have been prepared (Prodoc **Annex 11**) and the scores included in the GEF Core Indicators.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):
The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by 28 June 2023. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

Terminal Evaluation (TE):
An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center.

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by 27 June 2025. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

Final Report:
The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Steering Committee during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information**:**

To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy and the GEF policy on public involvement.

Table 7. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	**Responsible Parties**	**Indicative costs (US$)**	**Time frame**
Inception Workshop	Implementing Partner Project Manager	$10,000	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	Project Manager	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Manager	$5000/year x 5 years = $25,000	Annually prior to GEF PIR. This will include GEF core indicators.
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	RTA UNDP Country Office Project Manager	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring all risks (UNDP Atlas risk register)	UNDP Country Office Project Manager	$2000/year x 5 years = $10,000	On-going.
Monitoring of safeguards risks See ESMF Prodoc Annex 8	Project M&E and Safeguards Officer	$91,796	On-going.
Supervision missions	UNDP Country Office	None[2]	Annually

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	**Responsible Parties**	**Indicative costs (US$)**	**Time frame**
Oversight/troubleshooting missions	RTA and BPPS/GEF	None	Troubleshooting as needed
Mid-term GEF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools	Project M&E and Safeguards Officer	$10,000	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	Independent evaluators	$51,500	*Add date included on cover page of Project Document*
Terminal GEF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools	Project M&E and Safeguards Officer	$10,000	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Independent evaluators	$36,500	*Add date included on cover page of Project Document*
TOTAL indicative COST		$244,796	

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

[2] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

10. Benefits

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

The project will support the improved management and sustainable use of some 600,000 ha of wetlands outside the existing PA system across EAAF-China (a large portion of China's inland wetland systems and especially its long coastlines) in order to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds and benefit local communities. Overall, China's inland and coastal wetlands deliver a wealth of benefits in the form of ecosystem services. Intertidal flats, the narrow band of habitat between marine, freshwater and land environments, are characterized by regular tidal inundation, low slopes and muddy deposits. They provide ecosystem services such as food, shoreline stabilization, protection from storm events, maintenance of biodiversity and are often at the centre of social activities. China's dependence on wetland ecosystem services for water and flood control is very high. National efforts to determine the value of ecosystem services in China suggest they must be at least worth several times the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Based on the findings of assessing the values of wetland ecosystem services in wetland protected areas, the total wetland values of 35 national wetland natures in China's coastal areas were estimated[1]. The results indicated that the total values of wetland ecosystem services in 35 national nature reserves in China's coastal areas reach 26.46 billion USD per year. Among them, the value of habitat service is the highest, which was 7.23 billion USD per year. It was followed by tourism and recreation, food supply, wave attenuation and embankment protection, and carbon storage services (4.77 billion, 3.53 billion, 3.45 billion and 2.36 billion USD per year respectively). The value of water storage and regulation and that of water purification services were the lowest (1.30 billion and 0.89 billion USD per year). See Table 9 of Prodoc **Annex 19** for further information.

In addition, the project will result in the improved protection of diverse wetland habitats used by migratory waterbirds through their inclusion in the national protected area system. This will ensure the sustainability of the wetland ecosystem services they provide, contributing directly to the provincial and national economies. Specifically, the project will increase the area of terrestrial flyway wetland PAs created (c.19,900 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (172,200 ha); as well as the area of marine flyway wetland PAs created (c.185,074 ha) or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (133,305 ha) across EAAF-China. These will include wetlands along the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea coastline, one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in the world, and contribute towards the establishment of China's serial World Heritage Site nomination. All new flyway wetland PAs established with support from the project will meet the criteria of the Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of International Importance as well as the EAAFP Flyway Site Network criteria. In total, the project will improve the conservation management of 510,479 ha of terrestrial and marine flyway wetland PAs. In the longer term, the project will have greater impacts through the progressive implementation of the flyway conservation strategy, action plan and business plan (Output 1.2) and further development of the PA system after project completion. The technical guidelines developed and piloted by the project have potential for upscaling and replication both nationally and internationally at other flyway wetland sites. It is not possible to accurately quantify the human populations that would benefit from these outcomes in the long term, but given the high population density in the eastern coastal region of China, it is likely to be in the millions.

The direct project beneficiaries include national, provincial and local government agency staff including nature reserve staff who have improved their knowledge and skills on flyway wetland and migratory waterbird conservation, and diverse aspects of sustainable and community-based wetland management due to the project – at least 500 (30% female); and local community members participating in wetland conservation, habitat management efforts and sustainable livelihood interventions in the project landscapes (at least 8,000 direct beneficiaries, of which at least 50% will be women). These activities will be located in the demonstration landscapes around Liao River Estuary, Yellow River Delta, Chongming Dongtan and Dashanbao (see Landscape and PA profiles in prodoc **Annex 17**). Additional communities will benefit from interventions supported by financial support and NGO partner-led interventions in other flyway wetland areas. Indirect beneficiaries will include the wider populations of the landscapes within and adjacent to the nature reserves, although it is difficult to quantify both the nature of the benefits and the recipient populations. Except for the presence of some 5% Yi and Miao ethnic minority people in Dashanbao nature reserve, most villagers in the other targeted nature reserves are Han Chinese. Women account for 50% of the total population and play major roles in crop cultivation and livestock husbandry in addition to domestic duties.

As a result of these efforts to manage and use flyway wetlands sustainably, the project will contribute towards improving the conservation status of some 33 globally significant migratory waterbird populations in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway occurring in China, primarily through improved protection and management of critical flyway wetland sites that have been determined through systematic analysis (see Prodoc **Annexes 19 and 21**). These populations include globally threatened species, and species meeting international criteria of the Ramsar Convention and EAAFP at individual flyway wetlands in China.

[1] Yu Xiubo, Zhang Li, 2019. China Green Book of Coastal Wetland Conservation (2019). Beijing: Science Press (in press). USD equivalents used here apply a rate of USD1 : CNY 7.00

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	High or Substantial		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

Project Information

Project Information	

1.	Project Title	Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China
2.	Project Number	PIMS 6110
3.	Location (Global/Region/Country)	China

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project **Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?**
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

The project will support enhanced protection and management of important wetland sites. These sites provide important resources that support community livelihoods, along with harbouring substantial biodiversity including globally significant migratory bird species. The project will engage stakeholders including communities in improved management and use of these important wetland sites to ensure that the benefits of these resources to communities continue into the future. A human rights-based approach involves empowering people to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions who are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights. The project will integrate human-rights based approaches through its main objective of establishing a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in China. The project's emphasis on biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental conservation for current and future generations, is by its nature a significant contribution to fundamental human rights.

The project will identify critical sites for migratory birds in a holistic manner, taking into account their significance for the flyway as a whole, as opposed to the current per-site basis. Selection of sites fully takes into account any current land use and/or foreseen impacts on local populations, with particular emphasis on the protection and sustainability of sustainable land use by the poorest sections of society and marginalized groups, while at the same time fulfilling GEF requirements for globally-significant sites for biodiversity conservation. Human-rights based approaches will be mainstreamed by ensuring transparent selection, planning and monitoring procedures for different PAs under the new framework, as well as ensuring a legal framework that provides for various forms of collaborative management of PAs and natural resources, with particular attention paid to ecosystem services used by, and identified by, local communities.

Operating at site-level in four provinces will, of necessity to both project effectiveness and sustainability, involve local communities in decision-making and project implementation. Output designs are predicated on the basis that effective wetland management measures will not succeed without the support of local communities, and that they do not negatively impact on their livelihoods. The aims of reductions in over-fishing, unsustainable agricultural practices and coastal erosion, and the building of local capacities to achieve these, are based solidly on human rights approaches. A Gender Plan is included to ensure that women benefit at least equally from all aspects of the project. In accordance with UNDP and GEF requirements. Free, prior and informed consultations with any affected Indigenous Peoples will be conducted in accordance with UNDP policies and GEF Minimum Standard 4. GEF policies on gender and FPIC are fully integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The requisite enabling conditions for sustaining the project results will be strengthened through targeted knowledge management, monitoring & evaluation, and gender mainstreaming and social inclusion. The project is also designed to strengthen the environmental management capacities of the provincial level conservation agencies, other provincial sectors, local governments, civil society, and community groups. Inclusive consultations during the project preparation phase with local communities, local governments, civil society, and provincial agencies have socialized the key stakeholders to the proposed interventions, and will continue to do so throughout. The project is well positioned to assist the governmental partners in implementing these envisaged actions according to human rights related standards and practices according to national and international laws, through participatory community consultations, demonstration of collaborative management arrangements that involve local communities, and development of sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities.

The project will include an integrated grievance redress mechanism which will enable project-affected people to raise concerns or grievances, consistent with the accountability and rule of law human rights principle. The grievance mechanism is available to all, and designed to ensure it is free, effective and fair. This is detailed in the ESMF.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

In accordance with UNDP procedure, a gender analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase to identify the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men regarding wetland conservation, management and resource use along the EAAF. Specific project activities are also proposed to support the engagement of women. The results of the gender analysis conducted during the PPG will be integrated into further project design to ensure that gender-based differences are built into project activities as appropriate, and gender-disaggregated targets will be developed as indicators of project's success. Specific gender roles have been integrated into the project and programme level implementation arrangements, including but not limited to the following:

a. The Project Manager will appoint a gender focal point in the PMO who will implement and monitor the project level Gender Action Plan and support project focal points at PA Administration and site levels to mainstream gender into all project activities.

b. The four PA pilot sites will each designate a staff member as a gender focal point who will assist in the implementation of the gender mainstreaming plan and support the project-recruited gender experts.

c. A Project-recruited gender expert will support the project with gender training, monitoring & evaluation of site activities, and consultations with local communities.

d. Gender mainstreaming objectives for the project will be championed and monitored by the Gender Expert and the project gender focal points, with back-up from the UNDP country office.

During the project preparation phase, consultations were made with local communities, as well as representatives of provincial government agencies and civil society organizations. The project results framework contains measurable indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender and social inclusion training will be mandatory for project implementation staff and service providers. Knowledge products will be developed and disseminated, tailored to the literacy and cultural circumstances of the local project communities, to ensure equitable gender and social inclusion.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

There are various threats to China's coastal wetlands that support migratory bird populations. The project will enhance the management of these areas by local communities, raising their awareness of the need to protect wetlands and the value of migratory birds as indicators of ecosystem health, promote sustainable management of their resources, and improve PA management, financing and management of sites as a network for migratory birds along the EAAF. These activities will support enhanced area of critical wetlands for globally significant migratory birds in the PA network and enhance management effectiveness and support the conservation of numerous significant bird species.

Environmental sustainability is inherent in this project objective and outcomes. Under Component 1, the project will endeavor to ensure sustainability of the project outcomes through supporting the national PA reform process backed by reform laws, regulations, and guidelines, and through expanding coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and increasing connectivity within the national PA system. Under Component 2, the establishment of demonstration sites of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation will enhance key breeding, staging and wintering sites for globally significant migratory birds, with the goal of achieving mutually beneficial conservation and socioeconomic outcomes, respecting priorities of both conservation and sustainable development. Under Component 3 the requisite enabling conditions for sustaining the project results will be strengthened through targeted knowledge management, monitoring & evaluation, and gender mainstreaming and social inclusion. The project is also designed to strengthen the environmental management capacities of the provincial level conservation agencies, other provincial sectors, local governments, civil society, and community groups.

Consistent with the overarching C-PAR program, this project is closely aligned with the ecological conservation objectives outlined in the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China (2016-2020), which further mainstreams the principle of eco-civilization into the socioeconomic development priorities for the country; the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2011-2030; the Aichi targets under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for China, specifically Priority Area No. 2: "*Improved and Sustainable Environment*", Outcome 2: "*More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier and safer environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth*". The project also contributes towards achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for China, specifically Goal 15: "*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*".

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

This SESP has been conducted for the broad scope of indicative project activities and outputs with respect to the four demonstration sites of Dashanbao, Liaohe, Yellow River Delta, and Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserves. Procedures required for further assessment and management of identified impacts, based on screening conducted at the demonstration sites, are contained in the project Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

In addition to the specific risks identified during the screening of these sites, additional screening procedures will be required for:

· A further 18 new Protected Areas totaling 220,914 hectares, which are to be established as part of project activity under Output 1.1; and

· Detailed project outputs and activities, on a site-specific basis, which are not yet fully specified, to be implemented on both existing and yet-to-be-established PA sites, to ensure that all project activities are consistent with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.

The ESMF includes methodologies for the selection, screening, assessment and management of these additional sites. It also includes a framework for additional screening, assessment and management of environmental and social risks associated with currently unspecified project outputs and activities, across all sites, to be conducted as such proposed activities are formulated and specified during the course of the project.

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any "Yes" responses).*	**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?** *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6*			**QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?**
Risk Description	***Impact and Probability (1-5)***	***Significance*** ***(Low, Moderate, High)***	***Comments***	***Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.***

Risk 1: Strengthening management of existing PAs could restrict access to and use of wetland resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods. This could include restriction of access/use by disadvantaged/vulnerable groups. Standards 1, 5 Principle 1	I = 2 P = 3	**Moderate**	The project will support strengthening the management of existing PAs. There is that chance that such new management plans and rules could restrict/amend current use of resources by communities, including potentially disadvantaged/vulnerable people. (Note: this includes non-ethnic minority people in the Dashanbao project-affected area). .	Additional assessment is required during the inception phase as proposed management-strengthening measures are further defined, in order to identify any proposed restrictions/alterations to access and use of wetland resources which may adversely affected some individuals, groups or communities. Such assessment will identify, through stakeholder consultation, which users/user groups might be affected, the magnitude and severity of any associated impacts, and measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or manage such impacts will be developed and implemented. Changes to PA management identified as having potential to entail such restrictions to access to resources will not be commenced until suitable, agreed management measures are in place.
Risk 2: climate change impacts could degrade coastal wetland availability and quality and put at risk populations of migratory waterbirds, adversely impacting achievement of project objective. Standard 2	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	There is a risk that climate change will degrade coastal wetlands and put at risk populations of important migratory waterbirds in the medium to long term, but its short term impacts are unlikely to impact the achievement of project objectives.	Project activities aim to establish new wetland PAs, improve the management effectiveness of existing PAs including climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures, enhance the sustainability of wetland resource use, and support wetland restoration.

Risk 3: Strengthening management of Dashanbao PA could restrict access to and use of wetland resource by Ethnic Minorities in the project-affected area. This could potentially result in project-driven involuntary relocation. This includes access to culturally important sites. Principle 1 Standards 4, 5, 6	I = 4 P = 2	**Moderate**	Currently, in view of the ongoing government-led poverty alleviation resettlement programme, it is not clear that any ethnic minority people of Dashanbao will be remaining in the project affected area at project inception, or that if there are, that they will be adversely affected by project activities.	Further assessment will be conducted at project inception to establish whether or not ethnic minorities remain at the Dashanbao project site. If this proves to be the case, additional assessment will establish whether or not they might be adversely affected by the project. If this demonstrates that specific proposed restrictions and/or activities may affect the rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods, of ethnic minorities, preparation of an Ethnic Minority People's Plan (also known as an Indigenous Peoples' Plan) and the application of FPIC will be required. If it is the case that Ethnic Minority people remain, this risk rating must be altered to "High". In either scenario, the project should advocate for the ethnic groups to retain cultural rights over their ancestral domains, including continued rights to visit culturally significant areas such as graveyards or places of spiritual importance. Such rights should extend to ethnic minority people who have been relocated prior to project commencement, as well as any people who relocate away from the area in future. If assessment demonstrates that project activities may result directly or indirectly in promoting resettlement of remaining ethnic minority people from the Dashanbao project area, an ESIA, specific to those activities will establish the extent and severity of any such impacts. Activities which would render untenable the continued residency of any ethnic minority people in the project affected will not be undertaken. GEF will not fund any activities which result in ethnic minorities being required to relocate, nor activities which render untenable their continued residency in the project area. Also, GEF funds will not be used for "ecological relocation" (in addition to any resettlement related to general poverty alleviation) nor will GEF resources be used to support livelihood development for resettled communities which are not directly related to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity (as this is not the purpose of GEF funds). The Ethnic Minority Peoples' Plan for Dashanbao, and any required Plans for new PA sites, will if necessary include measures to ensure that the project activities do not indirectly exacerbate the difficulties of life in the remote location, or encourage relocation of residents.

Risk 4: not all key user groups of wetland resources at project sites are consulted in project design/implementation. Principle 1	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	The project will be enhancing management of existing PAs, and supporting sustainable management of resources in a range of wetland, coastal fringing and inshore marine/estuarine environments. These activities could affect current use of these wetland sites by a range of stakeholders, who will need to be consulted during project design.	Local communities and wetland users have been consulted during the PPG phase. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed and integrated into the ESMF, Annexed to the ProDoc **(Annex 7**), for further ongoing consultation. Appropriate stakeholder engagement will be conducted with all sectors of the community, including local authorities, community representatives, women and, if/where applicable, indigenous peoples. Stakeholder engagement will take place on an ongoing basis, throughout the project. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will assure the identification of all project stakeholders, with particular emphasis on poor and marginalized groups. These will include, where appropriate, informal wetland users and vulnerable households. Project monitoring will ensure that such groups are adequately consulted, are aware of the grievance mechanism, and that their needs are included in project design.
Risk 5: Enhanced management of PAs could restrict the use of wetland resources in a way that disproportionately disadvantages women. Principle 2.	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	There is the potential that enhanced management of PA restrictions could impact local community users in a way which could be felt disproportionately by women.	A gender analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase along with development of a gender mainstreaming plan to ensure roles and needs of women are considered in the project and that women effectively participate in project activities. Existing wetland resources use by women has been identified, and the gender-specific roles and responsibilities described in Part A above will be integrated into the project ESMF. Ongoing stakeholder consultation during the project will include consultation with women, with the specific aim of identifying any potential disproportionate impacts on them, along with actions to avoid, mitigate and manage these impacts. Gender impacts will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the project.

Risk 6: Contaminated land, as a result of residue from former use as an oilfield, may pose risks to project workers. Standard 3	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	Liaohe NNR and Yellow River Delta NNR will include land situated on former working oilfields. Restoration of the land is due to take place before the land is included in the NNR. There is a potential for hazardous material to remain on site, posing a potential risk to PA workers.	An independent contamination assessment will be required from the oil company, certifying that the land has been restored and that no hazard is present, before the land is formally included in each PA. The assessment will be cleared by the PMU safeguards officer for SES compliance.
Risk 7: project activities could have adverse impacts on critical habitats for globally significant migratory bird habitats, challenging achievement of project objective. Standard 1 Principle 3	I = 3 P = 1	**Low**	The project is designed to support enhanced conservation, protection and management of these critical wetland sites. The probability that activities will be counter-productive and impact negatively on these sites is very low and has been reviewed with stakeholders and experts during the PPG phase. Even in the event that interventions were unsuccessful, any negative impact on the environment would be felt through failure to achieve enhanced conservation outcomes rather than adverse impacts *per se*.	
Risk 8: there is a risk of the introduction of alien invasive species. Standard 1 Principle 3	I = 3 P = 1	**Low**	Planting of non-native species of *Spartina*, or mangrove in an attempt to reduce erosion, is perceived as a low risk	

Risk 9: project activities to control IAS could fail or be mis-applied, leading to increased spread of IAS in wetlands Standard 1 Principle 3	I = 2 P = 1	**Low**	The project will be developing stronger methods for control of high-risk IAS at coastal wetlands. There is the potential that if these are not well-designed or scientifically rigorous that they will fail – or be misapplied by land landholders – leading to increased spread of IAS. PPG design of activities has taken into account existing experience on IAS control, and implementation will be closely coordinated with the UNDP-GEF C-SAP IAS project to ensure it replicates best practices. Training and capacity building will be provided to PA staff and community members.	
Risk 10: sustainable fishing activities and certification could fail or lead to perverse incentives that put extra pressure on marine, coastal and wetland resource. Standard 1 Principle 3	I = 2 P = 1	**Low**	The project will encourage the uptake of sustainable fishing, aquaculture and mariculture practices along the Eastern Coast of China. There is a chance that these could fail or be mis-applied leading to extra pressure on fish populations. The likelihood of this happening is very low. Project activities will be designed with specialist input, aware of local conditions and the extent of such risks. Training and capacity development will be provided to fishing communities and alternative livelihood support will be provided by the project where overall fishing pressure is too high.	

Risk 11: Social and/or environmental risks from project outputs/activities proposed and implemented during the course of the project but not currently specified, may not be screened, assessed and managed sufficiently to ensure compliance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. Principles 1, 2, 3 Standards 1 – 6	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**		The ESMF includes detailed procedures for the screening, assessment and management of project activities, as they are proposed.

Risk 12: New PAs may be established without taking full account of environmental and social risks associated with the specific locations. Designation of sites as PAs may result in significant social and/or environmental impacts that raise significant concerns among potentially affected communities and individuals, or which involve significant impacts on physical, biological, socioeconomic or cultural resources. Principles 1, 2, 3 Standards 1 – 6	I = 4 P = 3	**High**	A list of candidate sites for new PAs has been proposed by NFGA, totaling approximately 220,914 hectares. Before confirmation of each site's inclusion in the project, screening is required to ensure that their designation as PAs will not entail physical relocation, significant or unmanageable economic displacement, or adverse impacts on ethnic minority groups' rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods. As these sites are currently not defined and have not been screened, the risk theoretically applies to all principles and standards, with the exception of Standard 7, which is considered unlikely due to the nature of the project. The impact rating of "High" is set on a precautionary basis, and to emphasise the requirement for further safeguards screening of all candidate sites.	The ESMF includes detailed procedures for the screening of proposed new PA sites. In the event that sites do not meet these requirements, NFGA will replace them with appropriate alternative sites of international importance for EAAF migratory waterbird populations of equivalent area.

QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?		
Select one (see SESP for guidance)	**Comments**	
Low Risk	☐	
Moderate Risk	☐	

	High Risk		Twelve potential risks are identified, one as HIGH, seven as MODERATE and four as LOW. Further assessment of risks is required to confirm the UNDP SESP requirements that apply. Depending on further revision to assessments of risks, detailed assessments and management plans may be required. Further Screening will be required for additional PA sites, as well as currently unspecified project activities. An ESIA may be required if there are any indications of government-conducted project-driven resettlement, or significant economic displacement at project sites. Although risks 11 and 12 refer to sites and activities that are not currently defined or screened, triggering of Standard 7 is not expected. This is open to revision following the additional screening described in the ESMF.
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
	Check all that apply	**Comments**	
	Principle 1: Human Rights		Risks 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12
	Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		Risks 5, 11, 12
	Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability		Risks 6 – 12
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management		Risks 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
	2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		Risks 2, 11, 12

	3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		Risks 6, 11, 12
	4. Cultural Heritage		Risks 3, 11, 12
	5. Displacement and Resettlement		Risks 1, 3, 11, 12
	6. Indigenous Peoples		Risks 3, 11, 12
	7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	☐	

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
PIMS 6110_Annex 8 ESMF-HIGH 19Nov2020	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
PIMS 6110_Annex 4 -SESP_HIGH - Revised 11NOV2020	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

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

This project will contribute primarily to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development **Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss It will also contribute towards Goals 1: No poverty, 3: Good health, 5: Gender equality, and 13: Urgent action on climate change.				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): **Priority Area:** Improved and Sustainable Environment **Outcome 2:** More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier and safer environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: **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**	**Mandatory Indicator 1***: Number of direct project beneficiaries (% women), consisting of:* *a) Targeted communities in demonstration landscapes / PAs: Liaohe River Estuary, Yellow River Delta, Chongming Dongtan & Dashanbao* *b) Central, provincial, local government and PA staff receiving training* *(GEF Core Indicator 11)*	*0*	*a) 4,000 (50%)* *b) 250 (30%)*	*a) 8,000 (50%)* *b) 500 (30%)*

	Mandatory Indicator 2: *Area of terrestrial protected areas (PAs) created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha):* *1.1 Terrestrial PAs newly created for EAAF-China* *1.2 Terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness (Yellow River Delta NNR, Dashanbao NNR)* *(GEF Core Indicator 1)* *See Annex 11B for baseline METTs.*	*0*	*1.1: 0* *1.2: 172,200*	*1.1: 19,900* *1.2: 172,200*
	Mandatory Indicator 3: *Area of marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha):* *2.1 Marine PAs newly created for EAAF-China* *2.2 Marine PAs under improved management effectiveness (Liao River Estuary NNR & PNR, Chongming Dongtan NNR)* *(GEF Core Indicator 2)* *See Annex 11B for baseline METTs.*	*0*	*2.1: 0* *2.2: 133,305*	*2.1: 185,074* *2.2: 133,305*

	Indicator 4: *Local population status of targeted globally threatened migratory waterbird species at the pilot sites based on annual peak counts:* *a) Liaohe River Estuary NR* · *Saunders Gull VU (Breeding)* · *Red-crowned Crane EN (Breeding, Stopover)* · *Siberian Crane CR (Stopover)* · *Far Eastern Curlew EN (Stopover)* · *Great Knot EN (Stopover)* *b) Yellow River Delta NR* · *Saunders Gull VU (Breeding)* · *Oriental Stork EN (Breeding)* · *Red-crowned Crane EN (Wintering)* · *Siberian Crane CR (Stopover)* · *Far Eastern Curlew EN (Stopover)* · *Great Knot EN (Stopover)* *c) Chongming Dongtan NR* · *Saunders Gull VU (Breeding)* · *Hooded Crane VU (Wintering)* · *Black-faced Spoonbill EN (Stopover)* · *Far Eastern Curlew EN (Stopover)* · *Great Knot EN (Stopover)* *d) Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NR* · *Black-necked Crane EN (Wintering)*	*Baseline year is 2018.* *a) Liaohe River Estuary NR* · *Saunders Gull 10,823* · *Red-crowned Crane 6/211* · *Siberian Crane 110* · *Far Eastern Curlew 21,880* · *Great Knot 65,804* *b) Yellow River Delta NR* · *Saunders Gull 3,866* · *Oriental Stork 108* · *Red-crowned Crane 52* · *Siberian Crane 1,390* · *Far Eastern Curlew 2,773* · *Great Knot 2,721* *c) Chongming Dongtan NR* · *Saunders Gull 116* · *Hooded Crane 82* · *Black-faced Spoonbill 54* · *Far Eastern Curlew 8* · *Great Knot 282* *d) Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NR* · *Black-necked Crane 991*	*All Stable – as baseline or improved*	*All Stable – as baseline or improved*
Project component 1	**Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming**			

Project Outcome 1 **Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory waterbird conservation with sustainable financing**	**Indicator 5:** *Improved institutional capacity to administer the national and provincial PA System for migratory waterbird conservation and globally threatened species conservation, indicated by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecards (see* ***Annex 19 for NFGA, and Annex 20 for provincial/local agencies****) for:* *a) Wetland Management Department of the National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA)* *b) Yunnan Forestry Bureau* *c) Zhaotong Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Yunnan* *d) Shanghai Forestry Bureau* *e) Shandong Department of Natural Resources* f) *Liaoning Forestry and Grassland Bureau*	*Baseline CD Scores* *a) NFGA: 55* *b) Yunnan FB: 45* *c) Zhaotong FGB: 47* *d) Shanghai FB: 72* *e) Shandong DNR: 53* *f) Liaoning FGB: 51*	*Mid-term CD Scorecard targets* *a) NFGA: 70* *b) Yunnan FB: 58* *c) Zhaotong FGB: 59* *d) Shanghai FB: 80* *e) Shandong DNR: 60* *f) Liaoning FGB: 59*	*End of Project CD Scorecard targets* *a) NFGA: 85* *b) Yunnan FB: 73* *c) Zhaotong FGB: 74* *d) Shanghai FB: 89* *e) Shandong DNR: 69* *f) Liaoning FGB: 68*
	Indicator 6: *Strengthened financial sustainability and resource allocation for the expanded national wetland PA system for migratory waterbird conservation based on the financial sustainability scorecard (Adapted GEF-6 Biodiversity-1 Tracking Tool, Part III –* ***Annex 23B:*** *a) Increase in Financial Scorecard score* b) *Decrease in wetland PA system financing gap (basic management)*	*The national wetland PA system is centrally financed with little diversification of funding sources.* *a) Baseline Financial Scorecard score of* ***36%*** *b) Wetland PA system annual financing gap of* ***USD 709,549,332*** *for basic management costs*	*a) 10% increase over baseline Financial Scorecard score* *b) Wetland PA system financing gap reduced by at least 10% over baseline*	*a) 30% increase over baseline Financial Scorecard score* *b) Wetland PA system financing gap reduced by at least 20% over baseline*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	*1.1 Critical sites for migratory waterbirds added to the PA system, informed by the development of a systematic PA master plan for the EAAF in China* *1.2 Flyway conservation strategy and business plan developed, setting out innovative funding opportunities for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China*			

Project Outcome 2: **Outcome 2: Flyway wetland conservation advanced through strengthened legislation, planning and sector mainstreaming**	**Indicator 7:** *Migratory waterbird conservation needs integrated in the 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for key sectors, including: Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Water Resources*	*The National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation Systems Plan approved in 2016 provides a framework for mainstreaming wetland protection, and all 31 provinces have developed implementation plans accordingly. Under the Ministry of Land Resources' Wetland Land Use Classification (National Standard GB/T21010-2017), wetlands will be officially included in the third national land survey starting in 2019, enabling local govts to include wetland ecosystems in their redlining processes.* *(source: MSL TE Report).*	*Proposals for strengthened migratory waterbird conservation in line with the National Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation Systems Plan submitted to responsible government agencies for inclusion in the upcoming 14th FYP*	*Standards for strengthened migratory waterbird conservation included in 14th FYP for key sectors*
	Indicator 8: *Number of sector-based technical guidelines on sustainable use of wetland resources piloted in project landscapes*	*MSL National Wetland Project completed a Guideline on conducting fishing, aquaculture farming in wetland PAs and surrounding areas; and a Guideline on pollution control for lakes, rivers, pools and ponds in China (source – MSL TE Report). However, sector practices are largely uninformed regarding sustainable use of wetland resources and result in negative impacts for migratory waterbirds and other biodiversity*	*MSL national project guidelines reviewed and sector-based technical guidelines drafted through a stakeholder consultation process at pilot sites, and pilots initiated on: biodiversity friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, grazing of livestock, and ecological restoration of former oil production areas (6)*	*Piloting completed and evaluated and sector-based technical guidelines finalized for biodiversity-friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, and grazing of livestock, and ecological restoration of former oil production areas (6)*

Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	*2.1 National and provincial policy and legislation for wetland conservation strengthened, including an adopted national Wetland Conservation Act and national management policy for wetlands of national importance* *2.2 Wetland conservation integrated into 14th Five-Year plan and technical guidelines adopted on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use by different sectors*			
Project component 2	**Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory bird conservation**			
Outcome 3: **Increased management effectiveness over 305,505 ha of wetland PAs (marine and terrestrial sites)**	**Indicator 9:** *Increased management effectiveness of targeted PAs covering approx. 305,505 ha indicate "sound" management (as measured by the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) – see* ***Annex 11A****):* *a) Liaohe River Estuary NNR & PNR* *b) Yellow River Delta NNR* *c) Chongming Dongtan NNR* *d) Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR* *[Contributes towards GEF Core Indicators 1 and 2]*	*METT baseline scores:* *a) 49* *b) 52* *c) 61* *d) 37*	*Mid-term target scores:* *a) 68* *b) 67* *c) 74* *d) 64*	*METT target scores:* *a) 81* *b) 78* *c) 84* *d) 76*

	Indicator 10: *Threats to migratory waterbirds and other biodiversity reduced at project demonstration sites* *(see Table A of METT forms in **Annex 11A** for details)*	***LRE NNR/PNR*** *1.Saunders Gull breeding habitat: 600 ha* *2.Permitted presence of public on tidal flats in NR: 100 days/year* ***YRD NNR*** *1.Area of Spartina: 4,000 ha* *2.River water delivered to wetlands: 40,000,000 m3* ***CD NNR*** *1.Area of Spartina: 529.4 ha* *2.Solid waste removed from tidal flats: 20t* ***DBNC NNR*** *1.No. sheep in NNR: 50,000* *2.Grassland condition in NNR: 0% cover and 0cm height*	***LRE NNR/PNR*** *1.Saunders Gull breeding habitat: 700 ha* *2.Permitted presence of public on tidal flats in NR: 80 days/year* ***YRD NNR*** *1. Area of Spartina stabilized at: 4,000 ha* *2.River water delivered to wetlands: 60,000,000 m3* ***CD NNR*** *1.Area of Spartina: 503 ha* *2.Solid waste removed from tidal flats: 25t* ***DBNC NNR*** *1.No. sheep in NNR: 35,000* *2.Grassland condition in NNR: 40% cover and 20cm height*	***LRE NNR/PNR*** *1.Saunders Gull breeding habitat: 800 ha* *2.Permitted presence of public on tidal flats in NR: 60 days/year* ***YRD NNR*** *1. Area of Spartina stabilized at: 4,000 ha* *2.River water delivered to wetlands: 80,000,000 m3* ***CD NNR*** *1.Area of Spartina: 477 ha* *2.Solid waste removed from tidal flats: 30t* ***DBNC NNR*** *1.No. sheep in NNR: 25,000* *2.Grassland condition in NNR: 90% cover and 40cm height*
	Indicator 11: Area of wetlands restored across the four project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas (ha): (GEF Core Indicator 3.4)	*Annual national rate of wetland restoration is approximately 40,000 ha, to be increased under central government policy*	*20,000 ha*	*60,000 ha*
	Indicator 12: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated as a result of wetland restoration across the four project demonstration landscapes and other key EAAF wetland areas (Expected tCO_2e): (GEF Core Indicator 6.1)	*0*	*1,650,000*	*16,999,522 tCO2e (direct)* *38,248,924 tCO2e (indirect)*

Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	*3.1 Four model PAs for migratory waterbirds established, with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms* *3.2 Wetland and migratory waterbird conservation strengthened through capacity development, introduction of professional competence standards and provision of training modules* *3.3 Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use demonstrated at the four model PAs, in surrounding landscapes, and at critical breeding, staging and wintering sites outside the PA network*			
Outcome 4 **Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha**	**Indicator 13:** *Area of land outside PAs under which procedures / guidelines for addressing human-waterbird conflict are applied*	*Human-waterbird conflict can be intense within and around wetland nature reserves, causing economic losses to farmers, fishermen and aquaculture businesses. Eco-compensation may be paid in such cases (eg at Dashanbao) but not always (eg around Yellow River Delta NNR). There is no overall systematic approach towards dealing with such conflict, although various local approaches are being applied.*	*Guidelines for addressing human-waterbird conflict drafted and pilots initiated to test conflict reduction over at least 20,000 ha in target landscapes*	*Piloting completed and evaluated and human-waterbird conflict guidelines finalized and adopted by local government for at least 20,000 ha in target landscapes*
	Indicator 14: *Area over which draft guidelines for sustainable use of flyway wetlands addressing biodiversity friendly rice farming, reed farming, aquaculture / mariculture, capture fisheries, and grazing of livestock have been applied outside the protected area system in order to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds*	*Examples of sustainable use of wetlands exist from previous projects including the GEF 5 Main Streams of Life Programme, but these have not been codified and upscaled over larger areas, and do not specifically target flyway wetlands of importance to migratory waterbirds*	*Guidelines drafted and tested across 200,000 ha of flyway wetlands outside the PA system*	*Guidelines applied to at least 600,000 ha of flyway wetlands outside the PA system*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	*4.1 Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices, achieving livelihood improvement and reduction of threats to critical wetlands for migratory waterbirds* *4.2 Sustainable use of flyway wetlands in EAAF China strengthened through civil society engagement*			
Project component 3	**Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E**			

Outcome 5 **Strong public support for wetland and migratory bird conservation – as indicated by improvements in KAP surveys**	**Indicator 15:** *Improved awareness of the value of biodiversity conservation among key target groups including: a) National government decision makers, b) provincial and local government agencies, and c) local communities at project sites, indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys conducted at the start and end of the project using the methodology in* ***Annex 24***	*Baseline KAP status to be established in year 1*	*Mid Term KAP Target to be established in year 1*	*Project Completion KAP Target to be established in year 1*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 5	*5.1 Public awareness on wetland and migratory waterbird conservation raised through targeted outreach and education campaigns*			
Outcome 6 **Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership**	**Indicator 16:** *Standardized results from monitoring of migratory waterbird counts and wetland habitats available online for public access for EAAF China PA network sites*	*Waterbird and wetland habitat monitoring methods vary between sites and organizations, data are dispersed and not harmonized, and often difficult to access*	*Waterbird and wetland habitat monitoring and data sharing protocol developed and endorsed by NFGA for all EAAF PA network sites*	*Standardized results from migratory waterbird counts and wetland habitats available online for public access through a unified database and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the EAAF in China*
	Indicator 17: *Number of project best practices and lessons documented and disseminated*	*0*	*7*	*15*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 6	*6.1 Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in unified database for waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF in China* *6.2 Knowledge management coordinated effectively between project sites, across China and with the EAAF Partnership* *6.3 M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming developed and implemented for adaptive project management*			

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

Comment	UNDP response(s)	Project Document Reference
GEF Secretariat Review (received on 10 September 2018)		

Comment	UNDP response(s)	Project Document Reference
1.In the CEO endorsement phase, please ensure that the CER and ProDoc describes how C-PAR and this project fit within the new institutional structure for protected areas management and how the projects-and the Ministries (MEE and MNR) will work together to ensure that this project benefits directly from the work at the National level that C-PAR is doing.	Since the PIF was originally formulated, China's policy and institutional framework for nature conservation has advanced markedly. At the time of original submission, national policy on PAs was enshrined in several key documents and regulations of the state that were under the mandate of a range of agencies, which hampered planning integration and a coordinated approach towards wetland conservation. The Wetland Conservation and Rehabilitation System Plan in November 2016 marked a new stage of comprehensive wetland protection in China, providing an important basis for the current project. In March 2018, the Chinese central government implemented institutional restructuring, according to which all the PAs in China are now under the administration of the National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA) – the Implementing Partner for the current project. This provides an excellent opportunity to achieve stronger coordination, develop harmonized regulations, and achieve better integration of wetland conservation across other sectors. In 2020, the NGFA will start next round of wetland conservation planning for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), providing a timely opportunity for this project to support the planning process. The assignment of consolidated PA management responsibility to the NFGA has mitigated some of the risks associated with having PA's previously managed by several different ministries. The C-PAR Program consists of six projects, of which UNDP is the PCA and the GEF Agency for four and CI and FECO are each implementing one project. All the projects except C-PAR5 by CI have now been launched. C-PAR1 was launched in November 2019 and as the PMO for the whole program, C-PAR1 is not only working to establish an effective National Park System through protected area reform and institutional innovation, but also taking the responsibility to coordinate all the projects under the C-PAR program through one full time position financially supported by all projects in the C-PAR1 PMO. The DDG of Department of Natural Protected Areas Management/NFGA is the deputy chairman of PSC of C-PAR1 and the whole program. So the NFGA also will play a very important role in the decision making project on the project strategy and activities of C-PAR1. C-PAR4 was launched in Dec of 2019, and the same DDG of Department of Natural Protected Areas Management/NFGA is the chairman of PSC, and the representative of MEE is a member of the PSC. In addition, the C-PAR4 PMO is based in the Academy of Inventory and Planning of NFGA, which will also host the PMO of the GEF 7 Migratory Waterbird Flyway project. The two PMOs will probably share office space in the same building. This will ensure daily communication between this project and the C-PAR programme. Therefore, under the C-PAR program, MEE, MNR, NFGA, FECO and the PA management authorities at provincial level will work together closely. Design of the current project draws heavily on the GEF-6 C-PAR Program, and is strongly aligned with this program (it is effectively a sister project focusing on flyway wetland conservation). The project will coordinate with the C-PAR Program PMO, contribute results that support the C-PAR programmatic results framework, and coordinate with CPAR1 and CPAR4 in particular to support knowledge management and sharing of lessons learned. The project will also build on the GEF-5 Main Streams of Life Program, which was completed in December 2019, drawing on its outcomes and lessons learned in the terminal evaluation reports. The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Office will play a key role in ensuring	Partnerships Section, p47 Table 5 – C-PAR Projects, p47 Table 6 – Coordination with other initiatives, p50 Governance & Mgt Arrangements p69 Prodoc Annex 19 – baseline assessment report

Comment	UNDP response(s)	Project Document Reference
2. During the PPG and in the CER/ProDoc submission please ensure the specific methods and mechanisms by which this investment in 5 project sites will be "scaled-up" within EAAF and China. In addition, this is critical to the sustainability of impacts of this investment.	Please see the above response. Further to this, the EAAFP CEO and Science Unit staff have participated in PPG workshop discussions and will be an important partner during implementation, contributing co-financing. The project will provide technical input to EAAFP technical workshops, Meetings of the Parties, and material for the EAAFP website, and support exchanges and collaboration between project participants and EAAFP flyway network staff. Project reports and materials will be shared via the EAAFP for wider audiences.	Results – Component 2 p29 Partnerships p47 Innovation, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up p57 Stakeholder Engagement & South-South Coopn p65
3. Given the previous and current level of GEF (and other donor) investment in protected areas and flyways in China we would expect there to be an increasing level of both (not just strategic) but public financial commitment to the effective management and conservation of protected areas-including those existing and proposed new sites under this project. Please include and further elaborate on financial sustainability plans for all sources: public, private sector and donor funds in the CER/ProDoc submission.	The project will tackle the financial sustainability of the project investment through a number of avenues. First, the project will work with the central government through NFGA and a Task Force on Sustainable Financing (Output 1.2) to remove specific barriers towards addressing the financing gap for optimal sustainable financing of the flyway wetland PA sub-system. Secondly, the integration of flyway wetland conservation within central policy and planning (Outputs 2.1, 2.2)) will help support increased government investment in flyway wetland conservation including budget allocations for the ongoing management of the wetland PA system and for newly established flyway wetland PAs linked to the upcoming 14th Five-Year Plan. This policy mainstreaming will also support stronger investment by other government ministries including enhanced efforts to reduce sector-specific threats to wetlands. Thirdly, the project will support the development of a national donor alliance for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation (Output 1.2), building on existing donor / NGO investments and private sector interest, and support development of an investment strategy for this alliance. This will facilitate the engagement and coordination of additional donors and their alignment to the identified priority actions for flyway conservation in China. Finally, at the project demonstration sites, the project will support the development of site business plans to support management plan implementation (Output 3.1), and engage locally active sectors such as the oil, tourism, reed-farm, aquaculture and farming industries as potential partners in supporting wetland conservation, restoration and sustainable use (Outputs 3.3 & 4.1).	Results – Components 1 & 2 Annexes 23A&B - sustainable financing analysis

Comment	UNDP response(s)	Project Document Reference
4. Please include in the CER and ProDoc for this project what Chinese government entities the project will work with to ensure mainstreaming of wetland conservation (including in the 14th 5-year plan) and the commitments herein of those entities to cooperate/collaborate with MNR and UNDP in this way. In addition, inclusion in the project design itself via the PPG of those institutions/individuals that this project intends to "mainstream" into is highly recommended.	This project will contribute to the development of the 14th Five Year Plan at both national and provincial level; this represents a major opportunity to strengthen wetland conservation through PA strengthening as well as mainstreaming, and is a major focus of this project. At the national level, the project will engage key sectors for mainstreaming through Output 2.2, including the Ministries of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Water Resources, including provisions for flyway wetland conservation and sustainable use in the upcoming 14th Five-Year Plan. At the demonstration landscape / PA level, stakeholder consultations have included representatives from the oil industry, tourism, reed farm, and agricultural sectors and the project will undertake specific interventions demonstrating sustainable use (or post operational wetland restoration where appropriate) for these sectors. Water management is a critical sector for the Liao River Estuary, Yellow River Delta and Dashanbao (reservoirs), and in these cases, the project will support engagement with water management authorities to secure sustainable freshwater flows to sustain and restore wetlands. The project will help to improve and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms at demonstration level, for example, at Yellow River Delta NNR, there are oil wells in the NNR, while for the agriculture fields adjacent to the NNR, there is a committee organized by Dongying Municipal Government composed of the NNR Management Administration, the Agricultural Bureau, the Water Resources Bureau, and petroleum companies, etc. The CSR of the companies and the resources supply and relocation all will be coordinated by this committee, while project can contribute towards improving the coordination mechanism and increase the involvement of other interested parties. More generally, in 2007 China established its National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention, chaired by the former State Forestry Administration and the current NFGA. The Committee has 16 member agencies including all the ministries this project will intend to mainstream. This places NFGA in a good position to undertake mainstreaming.	Results Section (Components 1 and 2) Annex 7 (Stakeholder Engagement Plan) Annex 18 (List of people consulted during PPG)
5. Please note: If changes/increases in risks are revealed during the PPG phase (in particular related to displacement, resettlement, IPs etc), this may result in the project not being endorsed, or at a minimum trigger a GEF Council Review as a major amendment.	The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure has identified, rated and proposed mitigation measures for significant social and environmental risks. According to this assessment, the overall project risk is moderate. The Environmental and Social Management Framework provides the planning basis for addressing these known risks and for controlling risks from activities and sites that cannot be fully screened at PPG stage. On the basis of this approach, the current design is considered to be feasible, and it is understood and accepted that further changes/increases in risks going forward will need attention that could include halting the project.	Risks p51 Annex 4 – SESP Annex 5 – Risk Register Annex 8 - ESMF

Comment	UNDP response(s)	Project Document Reference
GEF Compilation of Comments Submitted by Council Members		
No comments		
STAP Screening of PIF		
No comments requiring response		

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **USD 200,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews	70,850.00	34,933.70	35,916.30
Component B: Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	71,350.00	35,008.97	36,341.03
Component C: Validation Workshop	57,800.00	22,621.50	35,178.50
Total	200,000	92,564.18	107,435.82

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Core Indicator 1	**Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**						**(Hectares)**
			Hectares (1.1+1.2)				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			272,000	*192,100*			
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Helong Reservoir	*NA*	NA	0	8600			
Chongming North Lake	*NA*	*NA*	*0*	*2200*			
Sizaopu Reservoir	*NA*	NA	*0*	*676*			
Hanchi Lake	*NA*	NA	*0*	*5778*			
Dalianzi Lake	*NA*	NA	*0*	*2646*			
		Sum	*100,000 Estimate*	*19,900*			
Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline	Achieved		
				Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Yellow River Delta NNR	*555558392*	4	*153,000*		*52*		
Dashanbao NNR	*902683*	4	*19,200*		*37*		

Annex G: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Annex H: Letter from the National Forest and Grassland Administration regarding the Replacement of Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve demonstration site in Guangdong Province from the UNDP/GEF 7 Project

Date: 3rd March, 2020

Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya

Executive Coordinator

UNDP-Global Environmental Finance

212-906-5884 (Tel) pradeep.kurukulasuriya@undp.org

Dear Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,

Subject: Replacement of Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve demonstration site in Guangdong Province from the UNDP/GEF 7 Project [GEF ID 10073]

The Wetland Management Department of China National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) wishes to provide the following rationale for the replacement of Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (NNR) Demonstration Site in Guangdong Province (included in the Project Identification Form) from the UNDP/GEF 7 Project during the PPG phase.

Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR was included in the original project concept in view of its importance for migratory waterbird conservation, and to provide diversity in the selection of demonstration sites. However during the field visit of PPG, the PPG team was aware that local cooperation in project execution is not highly motivated, thus compromising the likelihood of effective implementation of proposed project activities at Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR. Therefore, it is recommended to replace the project demonstration site.

The main implication of the withdrawal of this demonstration site is that the original Component 2 coverage of sites for improved management effectiveness totalling 296,633 ha (PIF target) is reduced by 20,278 ha. NFGA has worked with UNDP to provide an alternative, which has been agreed as the inclusion of Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve in Liaoning Province totalling 29,150 ha, bringing the total coverage of sites for improved management effectiveness to 305,505 ha, and representing an increase of 8,872 ha (GEF Core Indicators 1 & 2).

Original PIF targets for the area of wetlands under sustainable use benefiting waterbirds outside the PA system (600,000 ha) (GEF Core Indicator 4) and number of direct beneficiaries (8,000/50% women) (GEF Core Indicator 11) will not be affected by this change.

The inclusion of Liao River Estuary Provincial Nature Reserve (PNR) is strategically advantageous for the following reasons:

a. Panjin Municipal Government is in the process of planning a more unified management approach for the Liao River Estuary through combining the existing NNR and PNR into one large NNR (of some 109,000 ha). Project support will greatly facilitate this process, including specific attention towards management of the PNR portion of the area.

b. Overall, according to the analysis of sites of importance for East Asian – Australasian Flyway priority waterbird species in China (Prodoc Annex 22, Appendix 1), Liao River Estuary NNR was rated No 7 out of 176 sites, while Zhanjiang NNR was rated below 170 (mangrove forests in Leizhou Peninsula).

c. Liao River Estuary PNR aims to protect the freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystem, and diverse internationally important waterbirds, Spotted Seal, and Finless Porpoise that roost in the reserve. It supports one Critically Endangered (Siberian Crane), three Endangered (Red-crowned Crane, Oriental Stork, Spotted Greenshank) and at least eight vulnerable migratory waterbird species, including Saunder's Gull breeding colonies. KBA mapping in China is incomplete and existing KBAs largely follow NNR boundaries therefore in this case it is not helpful to compare. However, the above biodiversity values clearly indicate that Liao River Estuary PNR would qualify as a KBA.

In operational terms, the reduction of the number of demonstration sites from five to four (through consolidation of Liao River Estuary NNR and PNR) will allow more substantial GEF resources to be allocated to each site (proportionately distributed among the remaining 4 sites) which will strengthen impact and sustainability of outcomes, as well as more efficient project management with fewer implementation units to coordinate.

Co-financing inputs will not be reduced, as NFGA has committed to provide any additional co-financing required to ensure that the full total amount of government co-financing stated in the PIF will be fully committed at CEO Endorsement. In addition, during the PPG stakeholder workshop on 16 January 2020, key NGO's (i.e. International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF China, SEE Foundation and East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership) have indicated their interest in partnering with the project and are in the process of drafting co-financing letters. This may result in higher levels of co-financing than was earmarked at PIF stage.

Finally, it is recognized that the removal of Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR from the project will result in the omission of sub-tropical coastal ecosystem representation from the demonstration sites in Component 2, specifically the mangrove ecosystem that is a key feature of Zhanjiang Mangrove NNR. The project will seek to compensate for this by including a PA system expansion site in Component 1 that is both a top priority for migratory waterbird conservation and a mangrove site – namely Xinghua Bay in Fujian Province (49,674 ha). This site is of global significance for threatened species: Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders Gull and Spotted Greenshank, and supporting internationally significant numbers of Dunlin and Kentish Plover, as well as conservation and restoration of mangrove. Finally, it is worth noting that this project will draw on the results of the UNDP/GEF 5 MSL Hainan project (successfully completed in late 2018), and will be coordinated closely with the CPAR Programme Project 4 on MPAs for Chinese White Dolphins (implementation started up recently, led by NFGA).

Yours sincerely,

LI Yan
Deputy Director General
Department of Wetland Management
National Forestry and Grassland Administration
Beijing 100714, P.R. China

ANNEX F: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.