



**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Piloting Provincial-level Wetland PA System in Jiangxi Province.</b>		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	China	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>1</sup></b>	-NA-
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	613305
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Forestry Department of Jiangxi Province	<b>Submission Date:</b>	05 April, 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	60
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b> > For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Protected Area Programme (Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation )	<b>Agency Fee:</b>	477,270

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Financing from Relevant TF (GEF, LDCF, SCCF)	Indicative Co-Financing <sup>a</sup>
				(\$) <sup>a</sup>	(\$) <sup>b</sup>
1. BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1.1: New protected areas (216,200 hectares) and coverage of unprotected ecosystems.	GEFTF	5,038,000	25,230,000
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>5,038,000</b>	<b>25,230,000</b>
2. Project management cost				251,000	1,370,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>5,289,000</b>	<b>26,600,000</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

**Project Objective:** To catalyze the management effectiveness of Jiangxi's wetland protected area system to fulfill its purpose of conserving globally important biological diversity.

Project Component <sup>2</sup>	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust fund	Indicative grant amount	Indicative Co-Financing
					(\$) <sup>a</sup>	(\$) <sup>b</sup>
1. Consolidation of wetland PA system within the larger landscape context in Jiangxi Province.	TA	1.1 Stakeholders consolidate and expand wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province.  - Coverage of wetlands in the Jiangxi Province wetland PA network increased by 216,200 hectares.	1.1.1. A systematic, landscape level wetland PA consolidation and expansion strategy and implementation plan identifies the approach, tools, and processes for the expansion and consolidation of PAs in the wetland biome of Jiangxi Province and defines modalities for ecosystem-level planning and management.  1.1.2. Standards and guidelines for different types of wetland PA management & enforcement in Jiangxi Province.  1.1.3. Economic analysis valuing the goods and services provided by the PWE.	GEFTF	350,000	1,800,000

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

			<p>1.1.4. Wetland and NR conservation objectives (as established in the PWE strategic management plan) incorporated into the development objectives of the Poyang Lake Economic Zone Plan.</p> <p>1.1.5. Draft provincial law for wetland conservation compensation &amp; existing Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation law revised to support consolidating and strengthening wetland PA network.</p>			
2. Operational management capacities for PA site management demonstrated in Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem PA (PWEPA) network.	INV	<p>2.1. Improve the management effectiveness of the PWEPA network</p> <p>- <i>PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) Score improved over baseline value (tbd during PPG) across 14 wetland PA (209,305 ha) in Jiangxi Province.</i></p> <p>- <i>11 wetland PA operationalized.</i></p>	<p>2.1.1. New inter-agency coordination and management committee established for PWEPA network.</p> <p>2.1.2. Long-term integrated agriculture-wetland management plan developed and implemented for PWEPA network ensuring the strategic allocation of resources in the reduction of risk (reed and poplar growth) and the rapid response to illegal hunting and point source pollution (deployment of staff, infrastructure and equipment).</p> <p>2.1.3. The cost-effectiveness of different rehabilitation and restoration techniques are tested and best practices documented for replication across the wetland biome (e.g. breaking down of polders that impede water flow; removing illegally planted poplar plantations and reeds in wetlands).</p> <p>2.1.4 Sustainable interagency biodiversity/ecological health monitoring programme operational in PWEPA.</p> <p>2.1.5 7-11 village committees and co-management agreements established and in implementation linked to 11 conservation and monitoring stations distributed in 11 counties within PWEPA.</p>	GEFTF	2,800,000	13,940,000
		<p>2.2 Conservation of key wetland species in PA.</p> <p>- <i>Population of water-fowl at minimum of 500,000 including at least 3,000 Siberian cranes (IUCN Red List-CR) and remain stable (&lt;5% variance).</i></p> <p>2.3. PA enforcement and compliance.</p> <p>- <i>Incremental reduction of illegal resource use incidents in the four areas of 10%/annum.</i></p>	<p>2.2.1. Species management plans for wetland fauna of special concern provide the strategic framework for the cost-effective deployment of funds, staff and equipment to mitigate threats to their conservation.</p> <p>2.3.1. PA staff competence levels of 150 NR staff in PWEPA demonstration sites cover key skills required for the operational management of wetland PAs (enforcement, compliance, wetland ecosystem management, species surveys and monitoring, restoration and rehabilitation works).</p>			
3. Institutional & stakeholder capacities to manage consolidated wetland PA		3.1 PA planning, information management systems and governance structures provide for the effective	<p>3.1.1. New inter-agency coordination committee established for Jiangxi Province Wetland PA System (JPW-PAS).</p> <p>3.1.2. Institutional capacity (staffing,</p>	GEFTF	1,250,000	6,350,000

system in Jiangxi Province		<p>administration of wetland PAs and a better integration of PA programmes and activities into the local and regional development agendas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Improved management effectiveness of 96,800 hectares of existing wetland protected areas.</i></li> <li>- <i>40% improvement in PA Systems Scorecard over baseline score.</i></li> <li>- <i>At least 300 national and provincial PA staff trained in approaches to and mechanisms for cooperative governance.</i></li> </ul>	<p>skills, tools) for coordinating and implementing the consolidation and expansion of wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province is developed among national, provincial and county PA stakeholders.</p> <p>3.1.3. Training program complete with wetland PA staff training modules for wetland PA in Jiangxi Province, utilizing PWEPA pilot site as peer-to-peer training locale.</p> <p>3.1.4. A co-management framework is developed for wetland PAs and directs the establishment of co-management structures in 3-5 wetland PAs: representation; ToR; constitution; inception meeting.</p> <p>3.1.5. Management plans for 3- 5 other expanded/ consolidated wetland PA are consultatively prepared: goals and objectives; development plans; action plans; financing plans; budgets; staffing; governance arrangements.</p> <p>3.1.6. Agreements between PA agencies and other sectoral government agencies developed to guide the clear delineation of wetland PA functions and responsibilities and to support joint management planning and operations: research and monitoring; enforcement; education and awareness.</p> <p>3.1.7. A knowledge management system is developed for the PA system: spatial and non-spatial database; management tools and mechanisms; best practice in wetland conservation and user interfaces.</p>			
	INV	<p>3.2 Strengthened knowledge of and awareness for support among local communities wetland PA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Over 300 wetland PA staff successfully complete training program.</i></li> <li>- <i>visitor centres receive more than 30,000 visitors annually.</i></li> <li>- <i>awareness increased by 30% over baseline value among target groups and decision makers of the importance of the conservation of wetland ecosystem goods and services.</i></li> </ul>	<p>3.2.1. Capacity of wetland visitor centres increased across wetland PA network (1 main centre in Nanchang and 8-11 small centres in the conservation and monitoring stations) with educational facilities increased (education material, infrastructure and equipment).</p> <p>3.2.2. Education events on wetland ecosystem conservation in 50 primary and middle schools per year in counties and villages with wetland PA.</p> <p>3.2.3. Curriculum on wetland ecosystem conservation developed with the Bureau of Education and piloted in primary and middle schools.</p> <p>3.2.4. Annual wetland and bird conservation awards to local NGOs or individuals from counties and villages around the lake.</p>	GEFTF	400,000	2,000,000
M&E				GEFTF	238,000	1,140,000
Sub-total					5,038,000	25,230,000
Project management Cost					251,000	1,370,000
Total project costs*					5,289,000	26,600,000

**C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)**

Sources of Co-financing for baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	State Forestry Agency (SFA)	Cash	7,000,000
National Government	State Forestry Agency (SFA)	In-kind	1,300,000
National Government	National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)	Cash	1,600,000
National Government	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Cash	950,000
National Government	The Office of Three Gorge Project	Cash	2,380,000
Provincial Government	Bureau of Forestry	In-kind	5,900,000
Provincial Government	Bureau of Forestry	Cash	3,890,000
Provincial Government	Bureau of Finance	Cash	2,700,000
Provincial Government	Bureau of Finance	In-kind	400,000
NGO	ICF	Cash	100,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash	60,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	320,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>26,600,000</b>

**D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need for this table  
-N/A-

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

**A.1.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:**

1. The Project is consistent with the Biodiversity strategy of the GEF-5. The project addresses Biodiversity Objective # 1 (BD-1): "Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems" by contributing to BD Outcome 1.1: "Improved Management Effectiveness of Existing and New Protected Areas." The project will enable stakeholders in Jiangxi Province to increase the area of protected wetlands and establish and meet PA management effectiveness targets across the network of county, provincial and national level wetland PA in Jiangxi province.

**A.2 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NBSAPs, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, ETC.:**

2. The objective of the proposed project is in line with priority areas of national biodiversity conservation policy objectives and plans. The project is in direct conformity with the *China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2030 (NBCSAP)*, approved by the Government in 2010. In the NBCSAP, the Poyang Lake area (as well as Jiangxi Province overall) is listed as one of the "Priority areas of inland terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation" (page 15), designated as a "priority area of biodiversity conservation" in the "The Hilly Plains Region of East and Central China" (page 19). Poyang Lake is also listed in the NBCSAP as a "Priority Biodiversity Conservation Project"#9 "Surveying and cataloguing of aquatic biological resources for major rivers and lakes."

3. This project supports the NBCSAP's "Strategic Goals" as they relate to protected areas (PA): i) maintain the total area encompassed by PA in China; ii) establishing a network of functioning PA that effectively conserve biodiversity; and iii) increasing the number and area of PA to a level necessary to protect ecosystem, species and genetic diversity. Specific Strategic Tasks (ST) of the NBCSAP supported by the project include: ST-1: improved policies, laws, regulations and systems relevant to biodiversity conservation; ST-2: promotion of the incorporation of biodiversity conservation principles into relevant development plans; ST-3: strengthening of biodiversity conservation capacity; ST-4: Strengthen in-situ conservation of biodiversity; ST-5: Promote sustainable development and use of biological resources; ST-6 Improve benefit sharing; ST-7; Improve capacities to cope with new threats and challenges to biodiversity, and; ST-8 Raise public awareness and strengthen international cooperation.

4. The proposed project is also in conformity with the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action (CBPF) 2007-2017, China's principal investment strategy for biodiversity conservation developed to facilitate dialogue with GEF and other financing agencies. Under this Framework, the Project will focus upon supporting two of the five priority themes identified under the Framework: (i) Improving Biodiversity Governance (Theme 1); and (ii) Investing Effectively in Reducing Biodiversity loss in Protected Areas (Theme 3). More specifically, it will support the following results identified in the CBPF: (ii) biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is mainstreamed into local plans (Result 12); (iii) national NRs and provincial NRs are effectively managed (Result 18); and (v) local communities, NGOs and/or the private sector are involved in co-management and development of national NRs and provincial NRs (Result 20).

5. More recently, China's State Forestry Agency (SFA), GEF, UNDP and FAO developed Program Framework Document (PFD) with the title "CBPF-Mainstreams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation". The Program, of which this project is an important part, is a strategic framework that represents China's national priority for wetland PA support. The purpose of the CBPF-MSL Program is to catalyze "the Sustainability of the National Protected Area System for Conservation of Globally Significant Wetland Biodiversity." The Programme focuses on strengthening the wetland PA sub-system, recognising the special nature of the wetland PA. The Program will consist of a set of seven interlinked projects that would create a strong national system for managing wetland PAs, transforming management practices in seven different provinces (including the wetland PA of Jiangxi Province), which harbour important wetland biodiversity and addressing the management needs of different wetland types and developing a data base and networks that would inform the management of these types country wide.

6. The provinces and target sites of the CBPF-MSL were selected according to the NBCSAP's priority settings, the Ecological Function Conservation Area<sup>3</sup> identification, and national conservation priority wetlands with global significance. The concept is to demonstrate how to strengthen and improve PA systems and PA management effectiveness across a wide range of socio-economic, environmental and ecological contexts, and to enhance the synergetic effects and concerted impacts of the Framework at the national wetlands PA subsystem level.

7. The proposed project will, through its work to strengthen the provincial level sub-system of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province, will contribute to and benefit from the CBPF-MSL's work to strengthen the national wetlands PA subsystem. The following table provides some examples of how the proposed project will contribute to the components of the CBPF-MSL:

<b>CBPF-MSL components</b>	<b>Examples of proposed project's links to CBPF-MSL</b>
<b>Component 1. Enhancing management effectiveness of wetland PA sub-system;</b>	Strengthened PA wetlands regulations and management framework, including: provincial regulation on wetland PA management, standards and guidelines for management wetland PA. (Output 1.1.3)
<b>Component 2. Mainstreaming wetland PAs in development and sectoral planning;</b>	Mainstreaming wetland PA objectives into the Provincial level development planning processes (i.e. the development objectives of the Poyang Lake Economic Zone Plan. (Output 1.1.6)
<b>Component 3: Knowledge management and lessons sharing.</b>	A knowledge management system is developed for the PA system: spatial and non-spatial database; management tools and mechanisms; best practice in wetland conservation and user interfaces. (Output 3.1.6).

8. At the level of the Jiangxi province, the 11<sup>th</sup> 5-year provincial development plan promotes the ecological protection of Poyang Lake and specifies the need to establish an ecological compensation mechanism to fund conservation measures, including PA management. Similar measures can be found in municipal development plans.

<sup>3</sup> In July 2008, the National Ecological Function Zones was jointly issued by the Ministry of Environment Protection and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The targeted project areas under the Programme have been identified as one of the most important zones for ecological function of biodiversity conservation and water retention in China.

## B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

### B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

9. The total number of protected areas in Jiangxi province is 178 encompassing an area of 11,153 km<sup>2</sup>, including 8 national PA, 22 provincial PA, and 148 county PA. The total annual budget for all PA in Jiangxi Province is approximately US\$6 million. To conserve and protect Jiangxi's wetlands, three levels of Government (National, Provincial and County) have established 26 wetland PA (or nature reserves) in the province (see Annex 1 for details) and more than half (14) are in the larger Poyang Lake wetland complex, which is this project's target area and demonstration site. The total annual budget for the Poyang complex of PA is ~ US\$1.2 million. Of the 26 wetland PA in Jiangxi Province, only three reserves<sup>4</sup> (two National and one Provincial) are operational with varying levels of capacity<sup>5</sup> all in the Poyang Lake complex. All the county reserves are effectively "paper" reserves with minimal operational effectiveness and without any effective linkages to a larger network of PA.

10. To improve the capacity of Jiangxi's system of wetland PA, the Jiangxi Provincial Government has proposed that the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve<sup>6</sup> (NNR) take the lead in creating an initial network of NRs beginning with the other two operational NRs (Nanji Wetland National Nature Reserve and Duchang Provincial Nature Reserve) to be collectively called the Poyang Wetland Ecosystem Protected Areas (PWEPA). PWEPA would then serve to demonstrate model PA management and effectiveness improvement work with GEF incremental support to be replicated in other NR, first in the Poyang complex such as the county-level NR (Hukon Meron NR) and then across the 15 County-level wetland PA in Jiangxi Province (please Annex 1 for list of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province). Under the baseline project however, government support and funding for Jiangxi's County-level wetland PA, would be minimal and these PA would not benefit from the closer association to the national level PA that will be provided by a network of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province.

11. This Government funded pilot activity will serve as this proposed GEF project's "baseline project," together with other associated efforts funded by the National and Provincial Governments (see table below) to support the long-term building up and eventual inclusion of the remaining county-level NRs in the Province-wide wetland PA network. GEF funding will complement this baseline project with incremental investments to strengthen the enabling institutional and policy environment to support the long-term sustainability of the wetland PA network, and strengthening management effectiveness first around the demonstration site of the Poyang Lake wetland complex and replicating this across the emerging wetland PA network.

Co-financing sources from baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Brief Description of Baseline Project Activities	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	State Forestry Agency (SFA)	Constructing Poyang NR's office building; protection equipment maintenance and procurement; public education facilities; Promoting scientific research; Remodel research station and purchase scientific equipment; build automatic weather station; wetland restoration pilot; public education activities (World Wetlands Day, Bird-Loving Week and Protect Wildlife Awareness Month)	Cash	7,000,000
			In-kind	1,300,000
National Government	National Development and Reform Commission	Building birds monitoring towers; dredging canals; wetland restoration (cutting down and clearing poplar to restore water balance and natural vegetation; breaking down polders and removing cofferdam that impede water flow).	Cash	1,600,000
National Government	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Water gates of lakes maintain; carrying out comprehensive scientific investigation in the NR; staff training; developing public education.	Cash	950,000
National Government	Office of Three Gorges Project	Ecosystem monitoring, flora and fauna surveys, water level monitoring; establishing Poyang Lake monitoring system and wetland research institution.	Cash	2,380,000
Provincial	Bureau of	Construction of new protection stations; NR operations; enactment of	In-kind	5,900,000

<sup>4</sup> In this PIF, "PA", "reserve", "Nature Reserve" and "NR" are used inter-changeably. This is because the GEF uses the terms "Protected Area" or PA and in China the terms "Nature Reserve" or NR are used.

<sup>5</sup> Capacity to be measured under the PPG using the METT.

<sup>6</sup> Poyang Lake NNR was first created in 1983 as a provincial NR and upgraded in 1988 to a NNR. It is responsible for the management of a 224 km<sup>2</sup> area of wetlands supported by 80 staff (40 professionals) and maintains a permanent bird monitoring program. Other important NR are the Nanji Wetland NNR and the Duchang Provincial Migratory Bird NR.

Government	Forestry	a number of provincial laws and regulations to protect wetlands (e.g. Protection of Migratory Birds and the Conservation of Poyang Lake Wetlands)	Cash	3,890,000
Provincial Government	Bureau of Finance	NR and natural resource staff salaries/pensions, long-time leasing three lakes for conservation.	Cash	2,700,000
			In-kind	400,000
NGO	International Crane Foundation	Monitoring of water birds in Poyang Lake National NR, aquatic plants, water levels and transparency, and also collecting meteorological data.	Cash	100,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>26,220,000</b>

12. The primary agencies responsible for the management of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province are the Jiangxi Bureau of Forestry (BOF) and the State Forestry Agency (SFA). As China increasingly recognizes the importance of a healthy environment as a national development objective, BOF and SFA have promoted the importance of wetlands conservation in Jiangxi and across China. Examples of baseline project work are listed in the table above.

13. In addition to official statements like this, there have already been a number of other actions supported by the Jiangxi Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government that can be cited that reflect the importance of the conservation of the wetlands in the future development of the region. These are: to promote the establishment of the Poyang Lake Eco-economical Zone and protect the eco-environment of Poyang Lake Wetland. Along these lines, Government has already carried out a series measures, including:

- (i) the issuing of Jiangxi Province Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation Law in 2004 that provides the legal basis for the effective wetland and wintering migratory bird protection. An on-going revision of the this law promotes the protection of all wetlands in Jiangxi Province, including the one in Poyang Lake;
- (ii) the draft Environmental Protection law of Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone which is in the process of public consultation;
- (iii) creation of a research group composed of a number of academics from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to prepare the Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone Environmental Protection Plan. At present, it has passed the expert review and is in the process of revision and improvement;
- (iv) approval for the construction of 7 new protection and management stations in 7 countries around the lake to realize effective management in the whole lake area; and
- (v) the introduction of a new competitive program to incentivize local governments, relevant units and individuals to take actions to conserve the wetlands.

14. **Threats:** As the baseline project description shows, there is considerable government and public support for the environmental protection and conservation of wetland biodiversity. However, there is growing evidence that conservation objectives are not being fully achieved through the existing protected area/nature reserve approach. The primary threats to wetland biodiversity include: (i) climate change leading to reduced and or less predictable water inflow; (ii) degradation of wetland habitat due to polder construction for aquaculture, conversion of wetlands for agriculture and the planting of tree and reed plantations, uncontrolled sand mining; (iii) hunting of protected water fowl; and (iv) invasive species. The impacts include a decline in levels of aquatic biodiversity and fishery resources, negatively affecting local communities' food security. In addition there are actual and potential human health hazards that need to be addressed to maintain public support for conservation objectives (e.g., the real threat of schistosomiasis and the potential threat of diseases associated with migratory waterfowl such as Avian Influenza H5N1).

15. The most significant cumulative impact of these threats is: (a) increased fragmentation of wetland habitats and the loss of associated species; (b) reduced ecological functioning of wetland ecosystems, e.g.: reduced effectiveness of wetland areas to act as a buffer against climate change impacts, and; (c) reduced capacity of wetlands to provide key ecosystem services, notably flood control and food security (productive soils for seasonal agriculture and healthy sustainable fish stocks).

16. This project proposes the establishment and management of a system of wetland PA as part of an integrated strategic response to the threat of the ongoing degradation of wetland habitats. It is suggested that in current context established by China's new NBCSAP, this is most timely and critical to secure wetland conservation objectives in the medium-term as well as to pave the way to for future mainstreaming action. The achievement of an improved network of effectively managed wetland PA is however currently hampered, in part, by the following **barriers**: *(i) the fragmented nature of the existing wetland PA in Jiangxi province*. An analysis of the existing wetland PA in Jiangxi Province highlights this challenge, showing a division in area coverage of wetlands among National NR (55,700 ha), Provincial NR (41,100 ha) and County NR (125,338

ha). The coordination of management goals and distribution of management capacity and resources is decidedly un-even. Most of the capacity and resources are focussed with the NNR, with some in the PNR and almost none in the CNR. Hampering the strengthening of the wetland PA system is a lack of a strategic network-based vision of how to do this in order to improve wetland ecosystem conservation in Jiangxi Province. Communication barriers and inadequate consultation programs prevent stakeholders from making informed choices about wetland conservation and management going forward. An inadequate level of understanding of the value of ecosystem services generated by wetland ecosystems also undermines the rationale for strengthening conservation measures for wetland ecosystems. And finally, the institutional capacity (staffing, skills and tools) for coordinating a stronger wetland PA system is under-developed.

17. (ii) Limited operational capacities for wetland PA site management: The overall capacity (planning, financial, HR, skills, knowledge, equipment) of the national and provincial PA authorities to proactively manage or respond to key threats and pressures facing existing wetland PAs is generally limited, although there are a few localized 'centers' of adequacy. There are a number of key knowledge gaps to support operational decision-making for ecosystem-based management in wetland PAs, notably ecosystem health requirements for different wetland habitats under different management regimes, cost-effective restoration and rehabilitation measures for different wetland vegetation types and habitat requirements for key faunal species. For example, a major constraint to informed decision-making is a lack of data including information on the relationship between water levels and plant communities and its impact on the foraging dynamics of waterfowl (e.g., the Oriental White Stork). The frequency and extent of uncontrolled conversion and degradation is increasing across the biome, while the equivalent human resource capacity, technologies and equipment to proactively respond to these is not. The ecological integrity of some wetland habitats that have been, or are currently, under unsustainable management regimes are increasingly degrading due to limited skills and institutional capacities to rehabilitate and restore these areas. There is insufficient staffing and financing for effective enforcement and compliance in PAs. There are few coordinated strategies for, and limited coordinated implementation of, the effective conservation of wetland species of concern, notably migrating waterfowl species.

18. (iii) Limited institutional capacities to manage an consolidated wetland PA system: National and Provincial agency budgets are stable or growing but there is no mechanism for coordinating PA investments to achieve maximum impact for biodiversity conservation. The situation has been dramatically aggravated by wide-ranging administrative reform processes that are resulting in high staff turnover, losses of institutional memory and uncertainties in the span of control. Due to a lack of involvement of local stakeholders in PA activities and projects, the wetland PA are poorly oriented to contribute to or support socio-economic development priorities of local communities. PA staff has limited experience in participatory PA management, public involvement and resolving conflicts of interests with resource users. There is also not a common culture of co-management of protected areas, and enforcement activities often result in the aggravation of conflicts with local communities. The collaboration and cooperation among national, provincial and county PA authorities in the management of PAs in the wetland biome, although highly variable in time and space, is often characterized by a number of inefficiencies and lost opportunities. The prospects for collaboration and cooperation among PA authorities in the planning, establishment and operations of a network of wetland PAs have also not been optimally developed. Finally, there is no consolidated database and environmental information system for the wetland PA, and limited fora to share and disseminate information and best practice.

**B. 2. INCREMENTAL REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:**

19. In the baseline scenario without GEF financing, Jiangxi's wetland PA work will continue to be site based, limited to a few sites, and focused on infrastructure and survey work. With GEF incremental financing, attention will be focused for the first time upon the network of wetland PA and improving the management effectiveness of this network.

20. The baseline investment described above will increased physical coverage of the wetland PA in Jiangxi Province by several measures including improving the monitoring and conservation capacity around the Poyang lake wetland complex and increasing the number of NNR staff. However, under the baseline scenario, investments will be very much site-based and non-strategic from a PA network perspective and stakeholders face several barriers preventing them from strengthening the wetland PA network. The GEF resources will be

incremental to these baseline investments by supporting the application of a network approach to strengthen the management of wetland NRs and to make them operational.

21. To address the barriers, the project is designed to provide targeted strategic, incremental investments. The project's **objective** is to catalyze the management effectiveness of Jiangxi's wetland protected area (PA) system to fulfil its purpose of conserving globally important biological diversity. To do this, it is proposed that the project is structured into three **components**:

22. Component 1. Consolidation of wetland PA system. Under this component, national, provincial and county stakeholders will consolidate and expand the wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province. The main outputs are: i) A systematic Wetland Landscape Conservation Plan guides the PA consolidation and expansion priorities in the wetland areas of Jiangxi Province supported by targeted GIS planning inputs to support ecosystem management decisions; ii) A PA expansion strategy and implementation plan identifies the approach to, tools for, and processes in the expansion and consolidation of PAs in the wetland biome and defines modalities for ecosystem-level planning and management; iii) A focused communications and consultation program that enables relevant stakeholders to make informed choices about whether to designate wetland for the purposes of establishing a PA. This would include support for at least two conferences on wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation with participants from the National Wetland Programme (6+1) and proactive consultation among decision makers at local and provincial level through site visits to other wetlands, meetings and training; iv) an economic analysis to value the goods and services provided by the PWE; v) Strengthened institutional capacity (staffing, skills, tools) at national, provincial and county levels for coordinating and implementing the consolidation and expansion of wetland PA system; (vi) wetland and NR conservation objectives (as established in the PWE strategic management plan) incorporated into the development objectives of the Poyang Lake Economic Zone Plan; and (vii) draft provincial law for wetland conservation compensation & existing Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation provincial law revised to support consolidating and strengthening wetland PA network;

23. Component 2. Operational capacities for PA site management demonstrated in Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem PA (PWEPA) network. Under this component, specific improved PA management capacity will be demonstrated in the target pilot site of PWEPA. Under Outcome 2.1, stakeholders will improve the management effectiveness of 209,305 hectares encompassed by 14 of the WPA in the nascent network, as monitored by the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Primary outputs under Outcome 2.1 include: (i) a new inter-agency coordination and management committee for PWEPA network; (ii) a long-term integrated agriculture-wetland management plan developed and implemented for the development of the PWEPA network ensuring the strategic allocation of resources in the reduction of risk (e.g. breaking down of polders that impede water flow; removing illegally planted poplar plantations and reeds in wetlands) financial sustainability, placement and management of seven new and four upgraded conservation and monitoring stations around the Lake complex, 7-11 village committees and co-management agreements established and the rapid response to illegal hunting and point source pollution (deployment of staff, infrastructure and equipment). To elaborate a solid, ecosystem plan, targeted surveys will be conducted to better establish the biodiversity and ecological health of the Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem; (iii) The cost-effectiveness of different rehabilitation and restoration techniques tested and best practices documented for replication across the wetland biome; (iv) Practical and affordable interagency biodiversity and ecological health monitoring programme operational in PWEPA; (v) sustainable financial mechanism for PWEPA piloted.

24. Under Outcome 2.2 key wetland species will be conserved in priority protected areas, with the population numbers of migratory waterfowl at minimum of 500,000 and remain stable (<5% variance) including at least 3,000 Siberian cranes. The primary output under Outcome 2.2. is: (i) species management plans for wetland fauna of special concern that provide the strategic framework for the cost-effective deployment of funds, staff and equipment to mitigate threats to their conservation. Under Outcome 2.3. PA enforcement and compliance effectiveness will be increased, with an incremental reduction of 10%/annum of reported incidents of illegal resource use in two priority areas. This will include the training of local communities in wetland biodiversity monitoring and conservation. The primary output under Outcome 2.3 is: (i) PA staff competence levels cover key skills required for the operational management of wetland PAs (enforcement, compliance, wetland ecosystem management, faunal species surveys and monitoring, restoration and rehabilitation works).

25. Component 3. Institutional & stakeholder capacities to manage consolidated wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province. Under this component capacities will be strengthened at the PA system level, building upon the strengthened site level capacities in the pilot sites under Component 2 and replicating those best practices in other PA within the wetland PA network in Jiangxi Province. Under Outcome 3.1, protected area planning, information management systems and governance structures will be strengthened to provide for the effective administration of wetland PAs and a better integration of PA programmes and activities into the local and

regional development agendas, as measured by the PA Systems Scorecard. Primary outputs include: (i) a new inter-agency coordination committee established for Jiangxi Province Wetland PA System (JPW-PAS); (ii) at least 300 national and provincial PA staff trained in approaches to, and mechanisms for, cooperative governance; (iii) a co-management framework is developed for wetland PAs and directs the establishment of co-management structures in 3-5 wetland PAs: representation, ToR, constitution and inception meeting; (iv) management plans for 3-5 other expanded/ consolidated wetland PA are consultatively prepared (goals and objectives, development plans, action plans, financing plans, budgets, staffing, governance arrangements); (v) agreements between PA agencies and other sectoral government agencies developed to guide the clear delineation of wetland PA functions and responsibilities and to support joint management planning and operations: research and monitoring; enforcement; education and awareness; (vi) A knowledge management system is developed for the PA system: spatial and non-spatial database; management tools and mechanisms; best practice in wetland conservation and user interfaces. This will include publishing an annual report on the ecological health and biodiversity of the Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem.

26. **Global Benefits:** The project will generate the following **global environmental benefits:**

- Coverage of wetlands in the Jiangxi Province wetland PA network increased by 216,200 hectares.
- Improved management effectiveness of 209,305 hectares of existing wetland protected areas.
- PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) Score improved to a specific target value over the baseline value<sup>7</sup> across 14 wetland PA in Jiangxi Province.
- 11 wetland PA operationalized.
- 40% improvement in PA Systems Scorecard over baseline score.
- At least 300 national and provincial PA staff trained in approaches to and mechanisms for cooperative PA governance.
- Improved conservation of at least four critically endangered or endangered IUCN-Red List species (see below for details).

27. The wetlands of Jiangxi Province occur in an ecologically rich and diverse landscape with a range of habitats and abundant biodiversity with high global significance, including the Yangtze River and lakes Global 200 Ecoregion and 15 Important Bird Areas. By applying an ecosystem approach, the project will secure the wetland habitats for rare and endangered species. Jiangxi's wetlands support an estimated 476 species of plants, 45 species of mammals, 61 of amphibians and reptiles, 122 species of fish, and 15 species of mollusks. Two critically endangered fish species are protected under China's Class 1 designation: the Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*<sup>8</sup>) and the Chinese paddlefish (*Psephurus gladius*<sup>9</sup>). Strengthened wetland PA will provide critical spawning habitat for 1 or both of these species. Among the 310 bird species that rely upon Jiangxi's wetlands, 52 are considered either First or Second Class protected species in China and are priority conservation targets at the international level. Most of the world's critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*<sup>10</sup>) and the endangered Oriental White Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*<sup>11</sup>) depend on the wetland ecosystems of Jiangxi Province. The project's work will ensure the maintenance of a stable population of Siberian cranes and Oriental white storks (<5% variance in priority areas). Significant populations of Greater and Lesser White Fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons* and *A. erythropus*), Swan Geese (*A. cygnoides*), Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) and White-naped Cranes (*Grus vipio*) depend on Jiangxi wetlands in the winter months. Many of these species are protected in international agreements between the (PRC) and the Governments of Japan and Australia, respectively. In recognition of the international significance of Jiangxi's wetlands, the Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem was declared a Global Ecological Region by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF in 2000) and through the Poyang Lake NNR, became a member of the East Asian-Australasian Shorebirds Site Network (2006) and the NE Asian Crane Network (1997). Project-strengthened wetland PA will overall population numbers of migratory waterfowl to be maintained at a minimum of 500,000.

**B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF.:**

<sup>7</sup> To be measured during the PPG using the METT.

<sup>8</sup> IUCN Red List Category "Critically Endangered" or CR.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> IUCN Red List Category "Endangered" or EN

28. The effective protection and sustainable use of the Jiangxi wetland ecosystems supported by this Project will support national and local social and economic benefits by: (i) sustaining the ecosystem goods and services of wetlands to support the development of Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone in a sustainable way; (ii) helping to strengthen the ecosystem resilience of and water balance in the Yangtze River, China's biggest river supporting the livelihood of tens of millions of people and providing freshwater availability for populations downstream; (iv) reducing and mitigating the impact of climate-change induced flood events by providing enhanced flood protection and avoiding the loss of human lives and property downstream along the Yangtze River; (v) providing scenic beauty, recreation and diversity for bird watchers allowing for income generating tourism businesses benefiting the local population.

29. The project will emphasize economic issues that are important to PA system effectiveness, such as raising the awareness among the communities and local and provincial decision makers as to the value of the wetland ecosystem goods and services under Component 1. In addition, the project's work to enable county PA to establish co-management arrangements with local communities will include improved livelihood related management priorities as determined by local communities and PA management. To be sustainable, any conservation activities will need local support whose mobilization often entails economic concerns. In China there exist a number of successful examples (e.g., medicinal herbs, honey making, bamboo rat, plants for greening urban landscapes etc.). PPG work will draw upon examples such as the ICF supported "Community-based Nature Protection" project in Caohai, Guizhou Province. Co-funded activities included providing the poor villagers with small poverty relief grants, setting up village funds, working out village plans and developing training materials. Local villagers will also be employed by county PA as part-time or full-time bird protection workers. PPG work will also include analysis of gender issues to ensure that the Project applies adequate gender sensitive approaches during project preparation and implementation securing involvement of women as well as men in project preparation activities, village committees and activities for co-management of NRs.

**B.4. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:**

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
<u>Inter-institutional Coordination.</u> Poor PA coordination between the Bureau of Forestry and different line agencies could undermine a wetland PA network's achievement of conservation objectives by limiting the effectiveness of PA.	Low to Medium	Stakeholders have committed to and the project will support the creation of a new, permanent inter-agency coordination and management committee for wetland PA in Jiangxi Province.
<u>Policy Formulation.</u> Slow uptake of policy recommendations stemming from project supported policy studies could prolong the current situation characterized by growing threats to wetland biodiversity, low management effectiveness and limited inter-institutional collaboration in response to existing threats and constraints.	Medium	The project will strengthen the existing Provincial Wetlands Conservation Law and promote a number of capacity building and public awareness raising activities in support of relevant policy reforms directed at both key decision makers as well as the public at large. To monitor performance, the Project will integrate tracking tools (in its M&E system) with well-defined triggers to ensure a timely integration of policy reforms into municipal policy frameworks.
<u>Climate Change.</u> Climate change as manifested through increased variability in water levels and duration and the occurrence of extreme events (e.g., floods and drought) could undermine the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives.	Low	The Project will integrate <i>inter-alia</i> climate risks and climate proofing measures into PA management plan preparation processes to promote the integration of adaptation measures. The project will emphasize the importance of PA enhancing the resilience of wetland ecosystems in the face of possible climate change impacts. Those management measures that enhance resilience will be prioritized. PA management training will also emphasize the importance of adaptive management practices, informed by a practical monitoring program, to enable PA management to respond to climate stresses more effectively.
<u>Currency Risk.</u> Significant fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates may pose a risk to the achievement of all project outputs and outcomes.	Medium	To be addressed through incorporating appropriate price contingencies in the project budget.
<u>Water management impacts:</u> Water is a critical resource in China, which has extensive water management programs in place. There is always a risk that any wetland in China may be impacted by present or future water management priorities. With respect to Jiangxi, there is a low level risk	Low	Control of the sluice gate will rest with the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission whose mandate requires it's actions to be protective of the Yangtze River Basin's ecosystem health. In addition, the Chinese Government and Jiangxi Provincial Government give high priority to ecological and environmental protection including the long-term sustainability of the Poyang

<p>associated with a proposed Poyang Lake water control programme. The potential issue in question involves a “sluice gate” vs. a dam. This is an important distinction; a dam is a barrier intended to create a reservoir whereas a sluice gate’s purpose is to control the flow of water when needed. If approved and built, the sluice gate will be kept open during flooding season and would only be closed during dry season in times of drought and only to replenish wetland areas with water, not to drown them. The maximum water level the sluice gate would be capable of holding will not affect the wetlands. In conclusion regardless which decision is taken on this issue, Jiangxi will keep its commitment to the Ramsar convention and ensure that the wetlands and migratory birds are protected.</p>	<p>wetlands ecosystem. The project’s work will help to strengthen the management of and stakeholders’ knowledge of the wetland ecosystems in question, as well as quantifying the value of the wetlands’ ecosystem services, which will only contribute to more sustainable management of the wetland PA and a higher value being placed on wetland ecosystems going forward.</p>
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**B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:**

Institutions/Stakeholder organizations	Respective roles and responsibilities
State Forestry Administration	The project’s executing agency and institutional home to national-level PA, the SFA will be the lead actor responsible for project preparation and implementation and will be providing feedback on all project activities and issues to the central and provincial governments, Jiangxi Forestry Department and GEFSEC by way of FAO.
Provincial Government Provincial Development and Reform Commission , Department of Forestry, Fishery, Water Resource, Finance, Public Security, Environmental Protection, Industry and Commerce, and Supervision	Will play a leading role in: (a) the design and formation of coordination and management committee, (b) revision of the existing wetland conservation provincial law, (c) development of the draft provincial ecological compensation law and (d) “mainstreaming” Poyang Lake wetland protection goals into Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone Plan;
Coordination and management committee	Key project stakeholder mechanism for improved wetland PA management to be established by the Jiangxi provincial government and comprised of the following 7 departments: Forestry, Fishery, Water Resource, Environmental Protection, Public Security, Industry and Commerce, Finance and Supervision. The committee will coordinate and supervise cross-sector departmental action.
Jiangxi Provincial Forestry Department (JPDF)	The JPDF is the lead provincial government stakeholder in this project. Together with the SFA, the JPDF is a key co-funder for this project and will be a member of the project steering committee. JPDF is a key actor under this project and its support in policy, human resources and technology to the project preparation and implementation processes will be important.
Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve	Will serve as the key local demonstration site for improved wetland PA management and will play a key role in peer-to-peer training supported by the project for other wetland PA in Jiangxi province.
Local civil society organizations (i.e. Society of Bird-lovers of Jiangxi Province)	Will be key partners in wetland PA co-management work and will be responsible for mobilizing local participation in activities of community publicity and education, and sustainable economic development.
WWF and International Crane Foundation (ICF)	will carry out baseline surveys and publicity education on globally significant wetlands ecosystems in Jiangxi Province.

**B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:**

30. In addition to the close collaboration with the CBPF and the Sub-program Framework on Wetlands described in Block A.2 above, the Project would work closely with the following related initiatives in Jiangxi Province. Several NGOs and institutes are carrying out relevant conservation projects in Jiangxi Province:

- (i) The joint Pride Program of RARE and WWF whose objective is to promote NR staff training, co-

community management and community publicity and education. This GEF project will build upon this work and collaborate closely with it as it works to strengthen wetland PA management at the county, provincial and national levels in Jiangxi Province.

- (ii) The International Crane Foundation research project “Study on Relations of Waterbirds, Water levels and Aquatic Plants” together with the Three Gorges Dam funded project “Poyang Lake National NR (Ramsar site) Capacity Building” will provide significant inputs into the proposed project in the establishing a new baseline survey of biodiversity and ecological health of the Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem and project preparation will make full use of the existing monitoring and survey data developed by the two projects. This research will also shed important light upon ecologically viable minimum and maximum water levels. The GEF project will incorporate such scientific research and findings into its wetland PA training program as part of its emphasis on building capacity of wetland PA to practice science-based adaptive management.
- (iii) This proposed project work to revise the existing Jiangxi Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation provincial law will be supported by data and legal analysis generated under the WWF project “Poyang Lake Wetland Legislation Need and Survey of Implementation and Revision of Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation Provincial Law.”

#### **C. DESCRIBE YOUR AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

31. FAO’s comparative advantage is comprised of its long and productive history working in the PRC and its well-known expertise in conservation and management of natural resources. FAO has cooperated with the PRC for more than 20 years in the project relevant sectors of agriculture, forestry and natural resources management. FAO has a long record of cooperation with the Chinese Forestry Department at both the national and provincial levels. Indeed, China’s Ministry of Finance (MOF) approached FAO in late 2009 requesting the Organization’s support in project preparation. It was explicitly stated in that meeting that it was MOF’s intention to build bridges with GEF’s other EAs in support of future GEF projects. This at least in part, was viewed as an indication of satisfaction with FAO’s provision of support to other GEF preparation activities. FAO’s selection by MOF seems to be fully in support of GEF’s policy to promote increased country ownership. Finally, it should be noted that GEF’s CEO has voiced on several occasions the desire for the Executing Agencies generally and FAO specifically to increase and diversify their participation in GEF supported projects and programmes.

32. The FAO is a leading international organization in the area of natural resources management and sustainable development. The proposed project will benefit from FAO’s extensive work on conservation and management of natural resources (primarily forestry and fisheries resources) within the ecosystem context. FAO expertise has been built on a number of past and on-going initiatives directly relevant to project objectives. FAO has a long record of cooperation with the Chinese government in natural resources management; programs and projects that include agricultural biodiversity, conservation agriculture, integrated pest management and promoting sustainable aquaculture. Examples include the on-going provision of technical assistance to support the Sustainable Management of Freshwater Aquaculture in Pingjiang County (Hunan Province) bordering Dongting Lake, where FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme is evaluating and promoting the development of improved technologies designed to reduce environmental impacts of freshwater aquaculture; an input directly relevant to the proposed project. In addition to these activities, FAO’s Investment Center has supported a number of preparation and supervision missions of biodiversity conservation projects in China (primarily for GEF). Examples include: (i) the Protected Area’s Management Component of the National Sustainable Forestry Development Project (2002) and (ii) Guangxi Integrated Forestry Development and Conservation Project (2006), both with the World Bank as Implementing Agency through the FAO-WB Cooperative Programme; and (iii) An IEM Approach to the Conservation of Biodiversity in Dryland Ecosystems (2008) with IFAD as GEF’s Executing Agency through FAO’s Investment Support Programme.

33. FAO is the designated GEF Implementing Agency with China’s State Ocean’s Agency (SOA) in the on-going preparation of the Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration and Protected Areas Network Project in collaboration with the Bureaus’ of Ocean and Fisheries of Shandong and Guangdong Provinces and the preparation of the Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China’s Dongting Lake Protected Area in Hunan Province. Furthermore, given the Organization’s administrative and financial support for project concepts through the provision of national TCP grants, there is a unique opportunity to replicate the proposed project approach to other FAO supported initiatives both in China and elsewhere. FAO will support national project implementation through its country offices in China, its regional office in Bangkok and its headquarters in Rome.

**C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT YOUR AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:**

34. FAO will provide the following in co-financing: USD 60,000 (grant) and USD 325,000 (in-kind).

**C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO YOUR OWN AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND YOUR STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

35. FAO has worked with other UN agencies in China in developing the UNDAF for 2011-2015. One of the outcomes to be achieved is to strengthen the policy and implementation mechanisms to manage natural resources. FAO, together with other UN agencies in China, will implement programmes to strengthen government capacity to effectively manage land and water resources, enhance government capacity to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, empower communities to increasingly benefit from the development of eco-based livelihood resources and strengthen government capacity to develop and implement policies that ensure compliance with environmental health and safety requirements. With respect to in-country capacity, during GEF 4, FAO China increased its involvement with GEF particularly with respect to biodiversity projects and established good working relationships with the Chinese government at the national and provincial levels. The FAO Office in China recently assigned programme staff for GEF projects including the preparation and implementation of the current one. Additional support and expertise will be mobilized from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) and Headquarters' technical divisions as well as from other sources (government institutions and international experts) when and if needed. This commitment and resulted in a growing portfolio of GEF supported projects in China including Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake Protected Area (under preparation) and Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation Restoration and Protected Area Networking in China (under preparation).

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (PWEase attach the country endorsement letter(s) or regional endorsement letter(s) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Ms. Jiandi Ye	Deputy Director, IFI Division III, International Department	Ministry of Finance	

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Charles Riemenschneider Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Dept FAO; Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy		April 5, 2012	Jeffrey Griffin Environment Officer FAO Investment Centre Division FAO Rome, ITALY	+3906 5705 5701	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org">Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org</a>
Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:Barbara.Cooney@fao.org">Barbara.Cooney@fao.org</a> Tel: +3906 5705 5478					

NO.	Protected area name	status	Size in hectares	2-3 Primary species/significant species the NR is protecting	Main type of ecosystem protected	current situation
1	Jiangxi Poyang Lake national nature reserve	national	22400	Siberian Crane( <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> ), Oriental White Stork( <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> ), Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> )	Inland wetland	have administration, financial budget, staff, and equipment for conservation
2	Jiangxi Poyang Lake Nanji wetland national nature reserve	national	33300	Oriental White Stork( <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> ), Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> )	Inland wetland	
3	Duchang migratory birds nature reserve	provincial	41100	Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> ), Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
4	Baishazhou NR	county	40900	Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> ), Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> ) Little Egret( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	Inland wetland	No administration, no financial budget, no staff, no equipment, just have the name
5	Kangshan migratory NR	county	35000	Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> ), Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
6	Qinglan Lake NR	county	1000	Geese and ducks	Inland wetland	
7	Gutang wetland NR	county	5300	Geese and ducks	Inland wetland	
8	Liaohuachi NR	county	3333	Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
9	Nan Lake NR	county	3330	Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
10	Yao Lake NR	county	2050	Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> ), Greater White-fronted Goose( <i>Anser albifrons</i> )	Inland wetland	
11	Pingfeng NR	county	491	Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
12	San Lake NR	county	17100	Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> ), Greater White-fronted Goose( <i>Anser albifrons</i> )	Inland wetland	
13	Hukou Grey Heron NR	county	1	Grey Heron( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> )	Inland wetland	
14	Hexi wetland NR	county	4000	Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> ), Swan Goose( <i>Anser cygnoides</i> )	Inland wetland	
15	Saicheng Lake NR	County	4400	Siberian Crane( <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> ), Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> )	Inland wetland	Budget and number of staff are limited and not stable; hardly have facilities and equipment for conservation
16	Chi Lake NR	County	4006	Siberian Crane( <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> ), Tundra Swan( <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> )	Inland wetland	
17	Mount. Longhu Chinese Mergansers NR	County	1600	Chinese Mergansers ( <i>Mergus squamatus</i> )	Wildlife	
18	Yiyang Chinese Mergansers NR	County	2827	Chinese Mergansers ( <i>Mergus squamatus</i> )	Wildlife	
<b>Total Hectares</b>			<b>222,138</b>			
National NRs			55,700			
Provincial NRs			41,100			
County NRs			125,338			

**Annex 2: Past and Ongoing Conservation Projects in Poyang Wetland**

#	Project title	Fund agencies	Investment	Implementation time	Main Construction Content	Project achievements/Areas of Cooperation with new GEF project <sup>12</sup>	Process Status
1	China Nature Reserve Management Project	GEF	¥ 6,639,800	1996-2001	Carrying out ecological/environmental and social/economic baseline investigation, making NR management plan, public education, co-community management, buying a large number of facilities for protection, scientific research, office work, transportation and telecommunication.	Improved working condition of the reserve, improved the ability of protection management, scientific monitoring and public education, improved and promoted the implementation of the project "Administration of NR relocation and the continued construction".	Finished
2	Administration of NR Relocation and the Continued Construction Project	SFA	¥ 12,023,400	1999-2003	NR's administration relocation, protection equipment maintain and update, buying more public education facilities.	Finished the office building and staff dormitory construction and three protection stations construction.	Finished
3	Identified Boundary markers and Protection and Management Ability Construction	MoEP, MoF <sup>13</sup>	¥ 700,000	2003	Setting up boundary markers, maintaining patrol line, buying management and protection equipment.	Identified reserve boundary markers and improved the ability of protection.	Finished
4	Poyang Lake Wetland Protection and Restoration	Provincial finance (BOF)	¥ 10,000,000	2007-2009	Solving the problem of basic old-age insurance and medical insurance of fishery staffs in the NR, long-time leasing three lakes for conservation.	Solving the problems left over by the relocation of fishery staffs, leasing three lakes and increasing habitat for waterbirds.	Finished
5	Studies of Ecological Relationships Among Waterbirds, Water Levels, and Aquatic Food Plant	ICF	\$111,000	1999-2010	Periodic monitoring of waterbirds, aquatic plants and water levels and also collecting meteorological data.	Have got ten-year monitoring data of waterbirds, aquatic plants and water levels in the four lakes and meteorological data of Poyang Lake, and have published a memoir "Ecological Study of Wetlands and waterbirds at Poyang Lake".	Finished
6	The second phase construction of Poyang Lake National NR	SFA	¥ 8,720,000	Beginning in 2007	Include protection and restoration project; scientific and educational project; infrastructure construction project.	The infrastructure of the reserve obviously improved; protection and management facilities and equipment developed; migratory birds and wetland management ability, scientific and public education ability improved	Under Implementation
7	Ecological compensation mechanism survey in Poyang Lake	WWF	¥ 48,800	2009	According to domestic wetland ecological compensation experience and through the actual survey in Poyang Lake, proposing practical advices and making survey report on Poyang Lake wetland ecological compensation.	The first draft of the survey report has been finished according to the survey and existing materials.	Under Implementation

<sup>12</sup> For those projects now under implementation.

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) and Ministry of Finance (MOF)

#	Project title	Fund agencies	Investment	Implementation time	Main Construction Content	Project achievements/Areas of Cooperation with new GEF project <sup>12</sup>	Process Status
8	Survey of waterbirds habitat protection and community co-management mechanism in Poyang Lake National NR	WWF	¥ 47,400	2009	Accumulating experience for promoting effective management mode of Poyang Lake wetland through the exploration of lake leasing and co-management experience in two lakes (Xianghu and Changhuchi), which are inside the reserve.	The first draft of the survey report has been finished. Report's information to be incorporated into this GEF project's ecological health monitoring program demonstration as part of the "science-based adaptive management" capacity building for wetland PA management work.	Under Implementation
9	Pride Program of Rare and WWF	Rare and WWF	\$120,000	Beginning in 2010	Funded by Rare, send the staff to study in American and obtain Master's Degree, and during the study period, carry out the work of co-management and education in community.	This GEF project will collaborate closely with this project on co-management work for all relevant wetland PA for which co-management arrangements will be elaborated.	Under Implementation
10	Poyang Lake Wetland (PLW) Ecosystem Positioning Research Station Construction	SFA	¥ 800,000	Beginning in 2008	Repair an old office building as the positioning research station and purchase experimental equipment, and build the automatic weather station.	This infrastructure is an important part of the baseline project co-funding for this new GEF project.	Under Implementation
11	Demonstration Poyang Lake national NR capacity building	MoEP MoF	¥ 2,500,000	2009-2011	Maintain infrastructure of the three protection stations; carry out comprehensive scientific investigation in the NR; update facilities and equipment of protection management, scientific research, and public education.	This infrastructure is an important part of the baseline project co-funding for this new GEF project.	Under Implementation
12	Demonstration Poyang Lake national NR capacity building	SFA	¥ 1,000,000	Beginning in 2009	Carrying out special investigation on waterbirds, purchasing monitoring facilities in the field, maintaining protection management equipment, training the staffs and making public education manuals.	This infrastructure is an important part of the baseline project co-funding for this new GEF project.	Under Implementation
13	PLW Legislation Need and Survey of Implementation and Revision of PLW Regulation Conservation Provincial Law	WWF	¥ 66,100	Beginning in 2009	Ascertaining the implementation situation of Poyang Lake Wetland Conservation Provincial Law and making preparation for its revise proposal.	This work will help to save time and resources during this project's PPG effort since it will have already done some of the necessary legal and policy analysis.	Under Implementation
14	Jiangxi Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve( wetland of international importance) capacity building and protection management project	Office of State Council Three Gorges Project Construction Committee	¥ 6,000,000	Beginning in 2010	Carrying out ecosystem and wintering migratory birds monitoring, biological resource baseline survey, and establishing Poyang Lake monitoring system and wetland research institution.	To be incorporated into this GEF project's ecological health monitoring program demonstration as part of the "science-based adaptive management" capacity building for wetland PA management work.	Under Implementation

