



REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: THE GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Piloting Provincial-level Wetland PA System in Jiangxi Province.		
Country(ies):	China	GEF Project ID:	4662
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	613305
Other Executing Partner(s):	Forestry Department of Jiangxi Province	Submission Date:	July 21, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (months):	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> 	Wetland Protected Area Programme (Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation)	Agency Fee:	476,010

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1.1: New protected areas (216,431 hectares) and coverage of unprotected ecosystems.	GEFTF	5,289,000	26,692,000
Total project costs				5,289,000	26,692,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Catalyze the management effectiveness of Jiangxi's wetland protected area system to conserve globally important biological diversity						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. Consolidation of wetland PA system within the larger landscape context in Jiangxi Province.	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the area of effective management and protection of wetlands in the Poyang Lake region, through the improvement in management and protection in existing PA hectares (area within PLNNR, Nanji and Duchang reserves) (96,800 ha). -Hectares within wetland reserves outside of the Poyang Lake region are strengthened through new provincial level management, planning, information, financing and training frameworks 26,274 hectares (5,662 ha (Direct) and 20,612 ha (Indirect) - PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores improved over baseline values across 9 county-level wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 - Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Management Strategy (JPWPAMS), and associated Wetland PA Standards & Guidelines 1.2 – Expanded coverage of operationally effective wetland protected areas in Poyang Lake region, through Establishment and Operations of Wetland PA Field Stations and 3 Demonstration County Wetland Nature Reserves, and Capacity Building of all County Wetland Reserves in Jiangxi Province 1.3 - Strengthened Provincial-Level Wetland PA Coordination and Management Structures in the form of the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee 1.4 - Strengthened Legal, Regulatory and Planning Frameworks for Wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province through strengthened laws/regulations and related community 	GEFTF	1,029,950	5,651,500

		<p>PAs within the Poyang Lake region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jiangxi Province Wetland PA Management Strategy (JPWPAMS) is drafted, which defines approaches, tools, and processes for guiding the expansion and consolidated management of wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province. - Measures for Ecological Compensation Operational Regulations drafted for the existing Jiangxi Wetland Protection Ordinance 	<p>outreach, Economic Valuation of Wetland PA Services, and wetland conservation integrated into governmental Development Planning Processes and Productive Sector Management Plans and Practices</p>			
<p>2. Operational management capacities for PA site management demonstrated in Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem PA (PWEPA) network.</p>	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the area of effective management and protection of wetlands in the Poyang Lake region, through the expansion of monitoring and patrolling (based out of 6-7 newly established PLNNR field stations) to an additional 93,357 ha of wetlands outside the boundaries of the PLNNR, Nanji and Duchang wetland reserves. - 3 county wetland reserves in the Poyang Lake region effectively managed and protected, with adequate capacities and management plans - No net increase in the area of production activities (illegal plantations and aquaculture operations) within Poyang Lake region in habitat areas for migratory bird species - PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores improved over baseline values for 2 national and 1 provincial wetland PAs within the Poyang Lake region - Increase in the Total Capacity Development Score from 66 to 72 in the UNDP-GEF Capacity Scorecard for all PAs within the PWEPA system - 30% reduction in number of illegal resource use incidents (hunting; illegal polders; fishing out of season; etc.) in 3 targeted PAs 	<p>2.1- Cost-effective wetland ecosystem management techniques tested, incorporated into PWEPA for replication, including Enhancing Wetland Resilience to potential Climate Change Impacts, and studies on the impacts of climate change and hydrologic changes</p> <p>2.2 - PWEPA Management Framework through the Poyang Lake Wetland Management Coordination Committee, Management Plans for PWEPA Wetland Reserves and an overall PWEPA Management Framework, including Sustainable Financing Mechanisms</p> <p>2.3 - Strengthened Capacity for Participatory Management of PWEPA Wetland Reserves, through Capacity Building of PWEPA, Site Level Community Co-Management, cooperative management of water bodies for conserving migratory bird habitat, and sustainable employment opportunities for local residents</p> <p>2.4 - Conservation and Monitoring of Priority Habitats and Species, including Ecological Health Monitoring and Species Monitoring and Protection Plans</p>	GEFTF	2,834,650	15,729,500
3. Institutional &	TA	- Jiangxi Wetlands Information	3.1 – Strengthened information and data	GEFTF	1,035,400	2,355,000

stakeholder capacities to manage consolidated wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province	Management System is established and operational for data sharing between PA sites, and providing information to sectoral agencies for improved wetland and PA management - Improved understanding among respondents in Jiangxi Province on the values of wetlands and the wetland PA system, indicated by scores on the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey	system supporting coordinated and cost effective wetland PA management through establishment of Jiangxi Wetland Reserves Information Management System 3.2 - Strengthened Capacity for Coordinated Management of all Wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province through Cross-Sectoral Capacity Building for PA System Coordination and Planning 3.3 - Public awareness and outreach on wetland conservation and sustainable use in local communities through improved Visitor Centre and Education Facilities, Wetland Protection Curriculum and school outreach program, a conservation awards mechanism, and Outreach and Awareness Raising Programs				
			Monitoring & Evaluation		138,000	1,318,000
			Subtotal		5,038,000	25,054,000
			Project Management Cost		251,000	1,638,000
			Total Project Costs		5,289,000	26,692,000

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	Office of Three Gorges	Cash	\$7,530,000
National Government	National Development and Reform Commission	Cash	\$1,600,000
Provincial Government	Jiangxi Department of Forestry	Cash	\$15,850,000
Local Government	Duchang County Forestry Bureau and Nanchang City Forestry Bureau	In-kind	\$1,250,000
NGO	International Crane Foundation	Cash	\$142,000
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization	In-kind	\$320,000
Total Co-financing			26,692,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

NA

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	72,000	320,000	392,000
National/Local Consultants	1,155,500	2,650,000	3,805,500
Total	1,227,500	2,970,000	4,197,500

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT?

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

NA

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF¹

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc

The project is well aligned with important national policies and programs for biodiversity conservation and the conservation and sustainable development of wetland areas. 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. The NBCSAP identifies 39 priority biodiversity conservation programs, of which 19 are directly related to wetland conservation, and 9 focus on wetland protected area management. The Poyang Lake area (as well as Jiangxi Province overall) is listed in the NBCSAP as one of the “Priority areas of inland terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation” (page 15), and 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.” The proposed project supports the NBCSAP’s “Strategic Goals” as they relate to protected areas (PA), namely: 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.

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 the GEF and other financing agencies. Under this Framework, the Project will focus upon supporting two of the five priority themes identified under the Framework: Improving Biodiversity Governance (Theme 1); and Investing Effectively in Reducing Biodiversity loss in Protected Areas (Theme 3). More specifically, it will support the following results identified in the CBPF: biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is mainstreamed into local plans (Result 12); national NRs and provincial NRs are effectively managed (Result 18); and local communities, NGOs and/or the private sector are involved in co-management and development of national NRs and provincial NRs (Result 20). Furthermore, a sub-program of the CBPF is the UNDP/ GEF Program Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation (CBPF-MSL), of which the proposed project is one element.

The *12th National Five-Year Plan (2011-2015)* urges environmental protection and sustainable growth, while “enhancing ecological conservation and restoration.” The plan urges the reinforcement of biodiversity conservation, strengthening monitoring in NRs, and improving their management and protection. Under this framework, cross-sectoral and sector plans identified the conservation and management of wetland biodiversity as priorities. One of the most relevant programs is the *National Wetland Conservation Program (2004-2030)*, and its 12th Five-Year implementation plan, which sets specific targets and tasks for wetland conservation and management. Among the targets set by this Program for 2030 are: a total of 713 wetland Nature Reserves in China, of which 80 will be Ramsar sites; at least 90% of natural wetlands shall be effectively protected; a total of 1,404,000 ha of wetlands will be restored; and 53 national wetlands conservation and wise use demonstration pilots will be established. Poyang Lake has been included in the Program as one of six priority regions in the country, and the Program calls for a focus on the conservation and wise use of lake wetlands in the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River, enforcing of water pollution controls and improvement of the aquatic environment, and strengthening capacities for protected areas with an emphasis on Ramsar sites and wetlands that are a part of flyway networks.

Other relevant programs associated with the overall 12th National Five-Year Plan include the *12th Five-Year National Forestry Development Plan (2011-2015)* and the 2nd phase of the natural forest conservation plan (2011-2020) both

¹ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question

prioritize wetland conservation and wise use, in particular the management of Ramsar sites, wetlands of national importance, and wetland protected area systems. The Plan also gives priority to specific types of wetlands, including coastal wetlands, high altitude wetlands, and trans-boundary wetlands, and notably for this project, migratory flyway wetlands. The *12th Five-Year National Water Resource Conservation Plan (2011-2015)* identifies six major tasks, two of which focus on the enhancement of wetland service in flood mitigation, and ecological rehabilitation of key rivers and lakes. The *12th Five-Year Environmental Protection Plan (2011-2015)* focuses on environmental issues related to water pollution control and enhancement of aquatic environment quality, implementation of integrated approaches on air pollution, strengthening of soil environment protection, and enforcement of ecological protection and inspection.

Additional relevant information is provided in the FAO Prodoc, including: description of the Institutional, Policy and Legal Frameworks at the national and provincial levels (Section 1.2), and description of the key baseline planning processes for wetlands conservation (Section 2.2).

A.2 GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

GEF eligibility

China ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on January 5, 1993. In accordance with paragraph 9(b) of the Instrument for the Establishment of a Restructured GEF, China is an eligible recipient of World Bank and/or UNDP technical assistance. The country is also a member nation and eligible to receive assistance from FAO.

GEF Strategy conformity

The project is aligned with GEF's BD-1 Objective: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area (PA) Systems. It directly contributes to Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new PAs. The project focuses on strengthening and expanding the wetland PA sub-system in Jiangxi Province, recognizing that wetland PAs are much more directly affected by externalities from development activities outside their borders, which can undermine ecosystem functions vital to the protection of biodiversity. The project will contribute to the BD-1 objective and outcomes by creating a strong provincial system for managing wetland PAs, improving the spatial design of the wetland PA system, and bringing an additional 93,357 ha under various forms of protection, thereby ensuring better wetland ecosystem representation and filling ecosystem coverage gaps. These results will increase the resilience of the sub-system in the face of climate change by maintaining connectivity between core areas, allowing the gradual redistribution of component species of different wetland ecosystems, and contributing at the provincial level to the protection of upstream non-wetland habitats such as forests and grasslands that serve as vital catchment areas for the wetlands themselves.

The project will also consolidate and strengthen the enabling legal, planning and institutional framework for the effective management of globally significant wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province, and strengthen capacities (strategies, tools, mechanisms, knowledge, skills, and resources) to support the operational management of the wetland PA sub-system. This stronger wetland PA system will indirectly improve management of over all of the natural wetlands in Jiangxi Province. Given the vulnerability of wetland PAs to external threats, systemic capacity not only to manage the PA sites but also to manage activities in the immediate landscapes will be critical for conserving the functioning of protected wetland ecosystems. Furthermore, the project will support mainstreaming of wetland PAs within sector practices to reduce outside pressures, making them more sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change.

The project directly contributes to the goals of the CBD's Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), in particular: Goal 1.2, to integrate PAs into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function; Goal 1.4: To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management; Goal 1.5: To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas; Goal 3.1, to provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for PAs; Goal 3.2, to build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of PAs; Goal 3.5: To strengthen communication, education and public awareness; Goal 4.2, to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of PA management; Goal 4.3: To assess and monitor protected area status and trends; and Goal 4.4: To ensure that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area Systems. The Project, furthermore, directly contributes to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and specifi-

cally Target 11 – “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”. The project will contribute to Target 11 through increasing significantly the coverage and connectivity of the wetland protected areas in Jiangxi Province with high biodiversity importance and significant ecosystem services, and by increasing management effectiveness of the PA system in a way that is integrated into the wider landscapes.

A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage:

N/A

A.4 The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

The baseline has not changed since the PIF approval. Nonetheless, the FAO Prodoc does contain significantly more detail about baseline programs and activities (Section 2.2) and about the proposed project components, outputs and activities (Sections 3.1 - 3.2). The budget has changed slightly through the re-allocation of GEF funding from Component 3 to Component 1 (most of the re-allocation) and Component 2. This change does not reflect a fundamental change in actual project outputs and activities, but rather a reorganization of the outputs and activities to better reflect the project strategy for provincial-level systemic interventions, focused interventions at demonstration sites, and strategies for replication at other wetland protected area sites in Jiangxi Province (see Section 3.1 of the FAO Prodoc for additional details).

A.5 Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: the incremental (GEF Trust Fund) activities requested for GEF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) to be delivered by the project:

There is no fundamental change. The GEF contribution will build on and benefit from previous and on-going baseline activities, including significant investments in infrastructure and management of the existing national and provincial wetland reserves by national and provincial institutions, as well as investments by county authorities in county-level wetland reserves and in promoting community participation and co-management. Of particular importance are the baseline investments in infrastructure and management capacities of national and provincial wetland reserves in the Poyang Lake region, which encompass significant areas of wetlands that are critical for wetland ecosystem functions and as habitat for migratory birds and other globally significant species, and can act as effective demonstration sites for testing wetlands conservation strategies and promoting their replication throughout the province. This baseline spending paves the way for GEF’s incremental investment in wetland PA network effectiveness, which has not been a focus of any previous investments to date, so that attention will be focused for the first time on the provincial network of wetland PAs and improving the management effectiveness of this network. The GEF contribution to the project will be used to support activities that produce global environmental benefits and cannot be adequately funded by national and local stakeholders at present. The PPG phase allowed the definition of the global environmental benefits to be delivered with more precision, as reflected in the FAO Prodoc (Project Outcomes in Section 3.3 and Results Framework in Annex 1).

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

The risk table has been updated as below based on findings during the project preparation phase:

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
Inter-institutional Coordination: Poor PA management coordination	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders have committed to the project and to the establishment of a new, permanent inter-agency Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
between the Bureau of Forestry and different line agencies could undermine the wetland PA network's achievement of conservation objectives by limiting the effectiveness of PA management.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will facilitate formal agreements between PA management authorities (National and Provincial Reserves, possibly County Forestry Departments) and other sectoral government agencies to guide the clear delineation of responsibilities for wetland PA functions / conditions.
<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.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will support the creation of various mechanisms to support the adoption and application of new policies by key stakeholders. For example, by establishing specific regulations under the new Jiangxi Wetland Protection Ordinance to enable the consolidation and strengthening of wetland PA practices, a clear legal mandate will be in place requiring action by relevant agencies. • Similarly, the new Wetland Protected Areas Strategy for Jiangxi Province will help to establish coordinated and system-level decision-making for the management of all wetland PAs in the province, while the PA Coordination Committee (see above) will act as a mechanism to ensure implementation of the strategy and a clear delineation of responsibilities for that implementation among different stakeholders. • The project also will work directly with provincial development and sector plans, especially the Poyang Lake Ecological Economic Zone (PLEEZ) plan, to strengthen the details and enforcement of existing regulations and zoning restrictions in the PLEEZ plan that will support newly established conservation priorities and policies. • Finally, the project will implement 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.
<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.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will integrate <i>inter-alia</i> climate risks and climate proofing measures into PA system planning and PA unit management plans to promote the integration of adaptation measures. • The project will emphasize the importance of PA protection measures in enhancing the resilience of wetland ecosystems in the face of possible climate change impacts, and 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.	N	This risk has been addressed by incorporating a 3% contingency line item in the project budget.
<u>Financial risks and sustainability of incentives</u>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's work to enable county PAs to establish co-management arrangements with local communities will include improved livelihood related management priorities (as determined by local communities and PA management), as any conservation activities will need local support in order to be successful, and this in turn depends greatly on addressing the economic concerns of local residents. • In order to provide benefits for local inhabitants, and increase their support for wetland conservation objectives, the project will provide training to increase the number of local villagers employed in the management, monitoring and protection work of the reserves, including participation on ecosystem and species monitoring teams, on migratory bird protection teams, in routine patrolling for environmental violations, and in rapid response measures for illegal hunting, point source pollution, and other urgent ecological problems. • The project also will work to provide other sustainable livelihood opportunities for local residents so as to sustain local support for wetlands conservation. Several pilot villages in the Poyang Lake region will be assisted in securing funding for and establishing mutual-assistance microfinance funds focused on financing sustainable pro-

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
		<p>duction activities in areas bordering the wetland reserves, such as flower growing operations. This work will also include developing village-level livelihoods strategies and developing training materials for local leaders and residents, and working with village committees on the joint development of ecological tourism activities, such as establishing an annual Siberian Crane festival, and hiring local fishermen to be tour guides for migratory bird enthusiasts (boats are by far the best way to see the birds).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, the project will facilitate discussions with provincial and municipal financial authorities to explore the design of an ecological compensation mechanism to compensate fishermen who allow PA management authorities to control the drainage of lakes and ponds to lower at a natural rate.
<p>Risk of low or no cooperation of communities associated with the wetland PAs or their buffer zones</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted above, various incentives and programs will be put into place to encourage local residents and leaders to support wetland PA conservation measures. • In addition, the project will assist nature reserve staff and 13 existing village committees to jointly develop and implement co-management activities to strengthen conservation of wetland nature reserves and provide conservation-related benefits to local communities. • To oversee these efforts, two community co-management committees (one for the PLNNR and one for the Nanji Nature Reserve) will be established, with the participation of staff from the PA headquarters and the fields, representatives from local communities, and local associations / NGOs. • In addition, specific field stations and their counterpart village committees will sign agreements for participatory management; for example, field stations will agree to take enforcement action against villagers committing illegal hunting / fishing activities if so notified by the village committee. Agreements also will be signed on communication and information sharing to support environmental education, to disseminate updates on new regulations as they are put into place, and to ensure timely communication of alerts about ecological violations (e.g. through a phone/text alert system). • Training will be given to selected community leaders and residents in sustainable wetlands management principles
<p>Risk that <u>economic development and land reclamation</u> will overtake plans for wetlands and biodiversity protection</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically, land reclamation was responsible for a significant decline in the area and volume of Poyang Lake. However, land reclamation in the region was substantially reduced in the 1970s and has been banned since the 1980s. Economic development activities, including commercial fishing, sand dredging, aquaculture, and agricultural development, continue to pose a threat to conservation of wetland ecosystems in the Poyang Lake region. • The project will undertake an economic analysis valuing the goods and services provided by wetland protected areas in Jiangxi Province, the results of which will be used to help decision makers to select among different wetland PA management priorities (including those identified in the JPWPAMS), and to strike the optimal balance between wetland PA conservation objectives and economic development goals. • The project will work to ensure that wetland nature reserve conservation objectives are incorporated into development plans and processes in Jiangxi Province, with the objective of ensuring that provincial development and sector planning frameworks provide safeguards from sector practices in and near wetland PAs and reduce pressure on wetland biodiversity. The primary focus will be to integrate these objectives into the existing Poyang Lake Ecological Economic Zone (PLEEZ) plan, and to strengthen the details and enforcement of regulations and zoning restrictions in the PLEEZ. For example, regulations on agricultural pollution (pesticides and fertilizers) can be strengthened; strategies could be implemented to decrease the negative impacts of sand dredging, including controlling the dredging magnitude, limiting the dredging period, and regulating the areas where dredging is allowed; and provincial authorities could prioritize the growth of new industries that use less water and have low pollution impacts. • The project will work with productive sector partners to develop and enforce sector

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
		<p>specific standards and safeguards to protect wetland PAs from practices that threaten wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services, including: i) standards for infrastructure development and operation; ii) an agreement with the Water Resources Department to reduce the sand mining quota for the Poyang Lake region; and iii) official guidelines for tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and land conversion in and around wetland PAs.</p>
<p><u>Sand mining:</u> Current levels of sand mining in Poyang Lake region have negative impacts on ecosystem services; decisions on sand mining permits are made by county governments who derive significant income from these permits</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will undertake advocacy through the mechanism of the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee to reduce the overall sand mining quota for the Poyang Lake region (set by the Provincial Water Resources Department), which will thereby limit the amount of permits that county governments can issue. • In addition, by strengthening overall monitoring and enforcement capacity of wetland nature reserves in the Poyang Lake region (including all areas of the region, within and outside of reserves), the project will increase the capacity to prevent illegal sand mining operations.
<p><u>Water management impacts:</u> The proposed Poyang Lake water control programme includes the possible construction of a sluice gate between Poyang Lake and the Yangtze river. If approved and built, the sluice gate will be kept closed during the dry season (winter months), which has the potential to contribute to changes in wetland ecological dynamics, particularly in the timing and degree of the lake's water level, which in turn could impact inter-tidal areas, vegetation zones and the availability of food resources for migratory birds; and could produce eutrophication in parts of Poyang Lake. If constructed, the sluice gate also would constitute a seasonal impediment to the migration of the finless porpoise between Poyang Lake and the Yangtze River. In addition, there are also risks from the construction of upstream dams (primarily for hydropower) in the Poyang Lake watershed (approx. 95% of Jiangxi Province), which could also create changes to wetland ecological dynamics in the Poyang Lake region (though likely at a smaller scale than the potential sluice gate).</p>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jiangxi Provincial Party Committee and Jiangxi Provincial Government supported by national Chinese Academy of Science are actively conducting research into the proposed sluice gate. Any decision on the sluice gate is likely to still be several years off into the future. This will provide an opportunity for the Poyang Lake Project to establish clear scientific and economic information that will be a powerful tool to help decision makers decide on large-scale hydrological management and development activities in the region, including the possible construction of a sluice gate on the Yangtze River. • It will also enable the project to undertake policy coordination activities and awareness raising to ensure that the needs of the Poyang Wetland Ecosystem are effectively communicated to key stakeholders, including the new Governor (as of March 2013) of Jiangxi Province, prior to taking any decisions. Activities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will carry out detailed studies of the hydrological requirements of the consolidated system of wetland protected areas in Jiangxi province, in particular with regard to the impacts of changes (from natural cycles; human activities; and potential climate change impacts) in water supply, flows and quality on wetland ecosystem services and habitat for globally significant biodiversity. • The project will use the results of these studies to bring together the Wetlands Department, the Water Resources Department, and wetland PA managers to jointly agree on policies, goals and procedures to ensure water supply, flows and quality for the wetland PA system. The project also will coordinate with and build on any findings of the ongoing International Crane Foundation research project "Study on Relations of Waterbirds, Water levels and Aquatic Plants", which is assessing ecologically viable minimum and maximum water levels. • The project will contract national experts to undertake an economic analysis valuing the goods and services provided by wetland protected areas in Jiangxi Province. The results of this analysis will be used to help decision makers to select among different wetland PA management priorities (including those identified in the JPWPAMS), and to strike the optimal balance between wetland PA conservation objectives and economic development goals. Within the current development paradigm in China, support for wetland conservation by central decision makers and representatives of various development sectors will depend greatly on the capacity to demonstrate the overall economic values of wetland ecosystems and the potential direct economic returns to local and provincial governments from the sustainable commercial outputs of wetland ecosystems. • Creation of the permanent inter-agency Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee, and establishment of the Jiangxi Wetland Reserves Information Management System, to bring together all key provincial-level stakeholders and to provide them with the most up to date and comprehensive data on the ecological and economic values of wetlands and the potential impacts of various water infrastructure schemes

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing awareness among decision-makers at the provincial level, and also helping to coordinate the efforts of national experts who are working to ensure that the decision on the sluice gate and other water infrastructure schemes is based on accurate data and an appreciation of wetland conservation values • In addition to the efforts of this project, because the risk of dam construction is common in all wetland PAs in China, the overall MSL Programme will take a proactive approach to this potential risk, through ensuring that national development and sector planning framework provides biodiversity safeguards at the national and provincial levels. The MSL Programme will also support development of concrete mechanisms to reduce negative impacts from dams at the provincial and site levels; for example integrating wetland biodiversity concerns in dam design, siting and operation • It is also important to note that the size and water level of Poyang Lake has decreased in recent decades, and this is one of the motivating factors for the construction of a sluice gate. The estimated area of Poyang Lake was 5,160 sq. km. in 1954, and reduced to 3860 sq. km. in 1998 and observations show that the lake area further decreased significantly in the last decade. Some studies² have suggested that the factors normally responsible for variations in lake volume, namely precipitation, evapotranspiration and outflow discharge, do not explain the changes at Poyang Lake. Annual precipitation increased but was statistically insignificant while potential evaporation decreased significantly for the Poyang Lake Basin, and annual stream flow to the lake increased, for the period from the 1950s to 2003. Thus, none of the major hydrologic components or their combinations fully accounted for the regime shift of the lake. Instead, it is believed that the blocking effect of the Yangtze River on Poyang Lake has decreased, and this has triggered the regime shift of Poyang Lake. The decrease of the river may be attributable, though this is widely argued, to both climate change and water impoundment at the Three Gorges Dam established upstream of the Yangtze River in 2003 (Yang et al 2006, Dai et al 2008, Yuan et al 2011, Guo et al 2012). Thus, construction of a sluice gate, which would maintain minimum lake water levels in the dry season, could in fact be of benefit for wetland conservation and maintenance of critical habitat for migratory birds. Clearly, a great deal of additional research and analysis is required to understand the potential impacts that the sluice gate could have on the Poyang Lake region. • It is important to note that the decision on the sluice gate will rest with the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission, whose mandate requires its 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 wetlands ecosystem. Recent evidence of this commitment and assurance from Government includes the following: (i) an address by the vice-governor of Jiangxi Province on Oct. 10th, 2011, stating that China is one of the signatories to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and it will maintain its commitments under the convention with respect to Poyang Lake is both an important task of Jiangxi Province as well as the State. To ensure that these commitments are maintained and that the conservation of the wetlands are fully integrated into the Poyang Lake Eco-economical Zone he assigned specific tasks to relevant departments at all levels of government. He specifically highlighted that enacting the protective measures must be combined with the goal of the whole Poyang lake wetland protection. Specific measures identified as priorities in the speech were: (i) passage of a new wetland protection provincial law (achieved in 2012), (ii) preparation of a Poyang Lake wetland protection and use plan and (iii) number of good projects in support of Poyang Lake wetland protection

² Recent declines in China's largest freshwater lake: trend or regime shift? Yuanbo Liu, Guiping Wu and Xiaosong Zhao, Nanjing Institute of Geography & Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, IOPscience. 2013 Environmental Research Letters 8 014010 (<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/8/1/014010>)

Risk	Risk Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
		and sustainable use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, additional details regarding the rationale for the sluice gate, the fundamental principles governing its potential development (including regulation of water flows only during the dry season, with no management for flood control purposes; the goal of restoring the historical relationship between the Yangtze river and Poyang lake as it was prior to control projects on the upper stream of the Yangtze River; and minimum comprehensive impact, etc.), and various studies and measures that have been and continue to be carried out to assess, minimize and mitigate potential impacts of the proposed sluice gate, can be referenced in the letter from the Jiangxi Forestry Department to the FAO and GEF Secretariat dated March 13, 2012.

H = High (greater than 75 percent probability that the outcome/result will not be achieved).

S = Substantial (50 to 75 percent probability that the outcome/result will not be achieved).

M = Medium (25 to 50 percent probability that the outcome/result will not be achieved).

N = Low or negligible (probability of less than 25 percent that the outcome/result will not be achieved).

A.7 Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

China's State Forestry Agency (SFA), GEF, UNDP and FAO have developed the national-level Program "CBPF-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 and will consist of a set of seven interlinked projects that will create a strong national system for managing wetland PAs, will transform management practices in seven different provinces (including the wetland PAs of Jiangxi Province) that harbor important wetland biodiversity, will address the management needs of different wetland types, and will develop a data base and networks to inform the management of these wetland types country wide.

The proposed project will, through its work to strengthen the provincial level sub-system of wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province, 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 overall components of the CBPF-MSL:

CBPF-MSL components	Examples of proposed project's links to CBPF-MSL
Component 1. Enhancing management effectiveness of wetland PA sub-system	Strengthened PA wetlands regulations and management frameworks, including: provincial regulation on wetland PA management, standards and guidelines for management of wetland PAs
Component 2. Mainstreaming wetland PAs in development and sectoral planning	Mainstreaming wetland PA objectives into Provincial level development planning processes (i.e. the development objectives of the Poyang Lake Ecological Economic Zone plan)
Component 3: Knowledge management and lessons sharing	A knowledge management system is developed for the PA system, including spatial and non-spatial databases; management tools and mechanisms; sharing of best practices in wetland conservation

Within the overall CBPF-MSL Programme, the Jiangxi project is one of three projects located at sites along the middle Yangtze River, along with the projects in Hubei and Anhui provinces. All three provinces share similar conservation challenges and opportunities, propose similar approaches to wetlands conservation, and will be implemented at roughly the same time (scheduled to commence in mid to late 2013 and to end in 2018). The geographic closeness and programmatic similarities present an excellent opportunity to coordinate efforts, generate economies of scale, and ramp up project results to impact a substantially larger geographic area. During project design, substantial dialogue occurred to help make certain each of these three projects is well aligned and coordinated. This coordination, including opportunities to exchange lessons learned and build replicable models, will be solidified during the inception period for all four projects.

There are strong opportunities to build synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, and amplify output impact across the three projects, particularly for the three WPA programs. The most apparent areas for coordination revolve around building capacities for protected area management, including training programs to build capacity for management and business planning, species recovery, community co-management, etc. The three projects will investigate the feasibility of holding joint annual meetings (possibly starting with the projects' inception workshops), in order to strengthen project management by allowing project staff to meet; to share information (e.g. provincial-level strategies; PA management plans; best practices in general); to leverage resources and coordinate training; and to explore options for sharing some costs for technical expertise (e.g. for technical consultants working in areas such as PA System Planning; Hydrologic Modeling; Wetland Rehabilitation; Ecosystem Health Index; Information Systems; Community Co-Management; etc.). Other areas of likely collaboration include: 1) information sharing on the design, parameters, and operations of provincial level databases and information systems; 2) sharing of specific ecological data (i.e. for species that migrate between wetlands in these three provinces); and 3) sharing strategies and lessons learned for how best to mainstream wetland conservation into the activities and policies of various productive sectors (water resources; forestry; agriculture; fisheries; etc.). In addition, there are also gains to be made by sharing approaches to basin and provincial level conservation. For instance, if each of the three provinces creates a strategic wetlands conservation strategy using similar approaches and outlines, there will be an increased probability that these three strategies may be up-scaled to improve and coordinate wetlands conservation along the entire reach of the Yangtze. Findings generated by the three projects on the hydrological needs of wetlands may also assist the Yangtze River Basin Commission in making decisions on water infrastructure development and management for this part of the basin.

To facilitate coordination, the managers of each of the four projects will be tasked with working together to complete a detailed plan for coordinating the three Yangtze wetlands projects. Ideally the plan will be formulated during project inception, but no later than the first year of project activity. This joint coordination plan will identify coordination opportunities and specify coordination actions to be taken during project implementation. This will include both formal (e.g., yearly coordination meetings, joint training programs) and informal mechanisms (e.g., expertise sharing, distribution of lessons learned and materials generated) for information exchange. The simple objective should be to build similar programming across all three provinces to encourage national level replication, generate comparable data sets from various monitoring activities and, ideally, lead to a coordinated and strategic management approach for all three provinces.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

The preparatory phase of the project included significant stakeholder participation. Consultations and group discussions were held with most stakeholders, including national, provincial and local government agencies, local stakeholders/resource users in the demonstration areas, and environmental NGOs. The final project document was designed with stakeholders' full involvement and with the validations of key organizations. The METT and EHI scoring exercises and the KAP Surveys included the participation provincial and local staff of government agencies as well as representatives of NGOs and academic organizations. The PPG phase included briefing key government officials regarding project design, and the results framework workshop involved detailed discussions and produced agreement regarding project strategy.

This same inclusive approach will be carried forward during project implementation. This will be achieved through the project steering committee (board) that enjoys representation from all major stakeholder organizations. The project will also benefit from the creation of the provincial consultative committee that will facilitate more broad-based stakeholder involvement with wetlands conservation decision-making. The consultative committee will benefit from representatives of all key sectors (e.g., water, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industry and commerce, etc.), who will participate in the design and implementation of conservation strategies. Under Component 2, specific measures will be taken to more fully include resource users impacted by wetland reserve management actions into the decision-making process.

Stakeholder Organizations

The following table presents all key stakeholders and their roles/responsibilities relevant the proposed project.

Stakeholders	Participation in the Execution of the Project
National Government of China	
State Forestry Administration (SFA)	Responsible for forests, most of China's nature reserves, wildlife issues, wildlife trade, wetlands protection (Ramsar Convention), and the drafting of departmental level regulations for wetlands. The SFA will provide technical guidance on wetlands and protected area management based on their experiences throughout China; will support impact and progress monitoring, and will support information dissemination and national replication / up-scaling of project success.
Office of the State Council Three Gorges Project Construction Committee	The Office of the State Council Three Gorges Project Construction Committee will carry out an Ecological Environment Monitoring System Poyang Lake to track changes in key elements of Poyang Lake's hydrology and water quality; and it will strengthen conservation at the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve and the Nanji National Nature Reserve through management capacity improvements, bird and habitat protection, wetland protection and restoration, and rare species rescue and breeding.
National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC)	The National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC) will undertake construction of a Protection and Management Station and enhanced facilities and equipment such as signs and roads; waterbird and habitat conservation; wetland restoration; wetland ecological public education center and materials; and fixed monitoring sample lines for birds.
Jiangxi Provincial Government	
Jiangxi Provincial Government	Responsible for provincial administration, development planning and implementation (including the Poyang Lake Ecological Economic Zone plan), as well as planning and financing of the provincial PA system. The provincial government is highly important to project success, including support for the design, implementation, financing, and mainstreaming of the provincial level wetlands conservation strategy, policy improvements, and related outputs/activities. Will make certain provincial agency programs and activities, and provincial laws and regulations, are designed and implemented to support wetland conservation objectives. The Vice-Governor will chair the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee.
Jiangxi Forestry Department (JFD)	The JFD is the lead government stakeholder and a key co-financer of the project. The JFD is responsible for planning and managing the provincial PA system; conservation of fauna and flora in the province; and wetland management. The JFD will be a member of the project steering committee, and will provide feedback on all project activities and issues to the State Forestry Administration and to the GEFSEC by way of FAO. The JFD also will provide support in policy, human resources and technology to the project implementation processes, and leadership in developing wetland conservation strategies as they relate to wetland nature reserves. The Jiangxi Wildlife Protection Administration (JWPA) and the Jiangxi Forestry Department Wetland Protection and Management Office (JFDWPMO) will take a leading role on many of the provincial-level activities of the project (as described in Section 3.2). The JFD will fund the annual conservation awards program for Wintering Migratory Birds and Wetland Protection; as well as support the operating expenses of the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, the Nanji National Nature Reserve, the Duchang Provincial Nature Reserve, and the operations of the JWPA and the JFDWPMO.
Provincial Development and Reform Commission (PDRC)	Responsible for coordinating and implementation of development planning in Jiangxi Province. The PDRC will play a leading role in project related legal and policy activities, including: a) the design and formation of the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee; b) revision of the existing wetland conservation provincial law, c) development of regulations and standards for ecological compensation; d) "mainstreaming" Poyang Lake wetland protection goals into Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone Plan
Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Coordination Committee (JPWPACC)	Restructuring of the existing committee for the Poyang Lake region into the new JPWPACC will establish the key project stakeholder mechanism for improved wetland PA management in Jiangxi Province, bringing together representatives from all relevant provincial and local level departments and administrations (see Section 1.2 for details). The JPWPACC will take a leading role in overseeing implementation of the Wetland Protected Areas Strategy for Jiangxi Province.
Mountain – River - Lake Office of Jiangxi Province	Has played a leadership role in developing an integrated approach for management of the entire Poyang Lake Basin (approx. 95% of Jiangxi Province), including lessons learned from the Mountain – River – Lake program. Will participate in provincial level consultative groups.
Finance Department of Jiangxi	Responsible for managing / facilitating the co-financing contributions to the project from national and provincial government agencies. Also will help to make certain financing mechanisms exist to implement and incentivize realization of wetland nature reserve conservation management objectives.
Agriculture Department of Jiangxi	Responsible for both agriculture and fisheries. Major stakeholder in terms of water use and sources of agricultural water pollution. Will participate in provincial level consultative groups. Will make certain agricultural and fisheries activities both inside and outside of protected areas is compatible with achievement

Stakeholders	Participation in the Execution of the Project
	of wetland reserve management plan conservation objectives. Will take leading role in developing wetland conservation strategies that address agricultural sector activities that impact wetland ecosystems; also partnership in coordinating species conservation plans in aquatic nature reserves (managed by the Agriculture Department) with wetland reserves.
Water Resource Department of Jiangxi	Responsible for planning and controlling water resource planning and allocation. Critical stakeholder in the effort to ensure sufficient water flow to the target wetlands. Will participate in provincial level consultative groups. Will play leading role in Poyang Lake Water Resource Management, including participation in hydrological systems studies and planning.
People's Congress of Jiangxi	Will take a leading role in the development and revision of laws and regulations relevant to wetlands conservation and sustainable use, and protected areas.
Sub-Provincial Government Agencies	
Wetland Nature Reserves	The Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, Nanji wetlands National Nature Reserve, and Duchang Provincial Nature Reserve encompass much of the critical habitat for wintering migratory birds and other significant biodiversity in the Poyang Lake region, and employ most of the trained wetland protected area staff in the Province. These three reserves will serve as the key demonstration sites for improved wetland PA management and will play a key role in peer-to-peer training supported by the project for other wetland PAs in Jiangxi province. The Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, given its extensive resources and technical capacities, and its mandate for conservation activities throughout the Poyang Lake region, will take the leading role among these three wetland PAs, and will house the Project Management Office.
Municipal Forestry Bureaus; County People's Governments	These agencies are responsible for county-level wetland reserves. They will participate in developing local wetland conservation and management policies, in providing political and financial support to wetland PAs. In addition, a number of County Wetland Reserves will be the site of capacity building and in some cases on the ground conservation activities.
Local Communities / Resource Users	
Local Communities (within or adjacent to wetland reserves)	Numerous local communities in Jiangxi Province rely greatly upon wetlands for a variety of commercial and subsistence uses, including fishing families, agriculturalists, developers, tourism operators, urban dwellers, recreational visitors, etc. (many rural community members follow traditional modes of living, but none may be accurately described as an indigenous community). These persons / groups will be engaged by the project in a myriad of ways. Local residents will be employed in species monitoring and protection activities in and around wetland nature reserves; will participate in various forms of community co-management of wetland reserves, including communications and outreach as well as priority setting and discussions of regulations; and will benefit from pilot activities for alternative livelihoods. Fishermen will participate in developing and testing more sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices, and in ecotourism work as well as monitoring activities. Local farmers will participate in management of rice paddies to better maintain wintering habitat for birds and reduce non-point source pollution. In and around many of the wetland nature reserves, women are largely responsible for land and water based commercial and subsistence activity. Women and issues of gender will be critical to the success of conservation in Jiangxi province.
Private Sector	
Private Companies / Groups	The role of the private sector as a contributor to the conservation of wetlands and the integrity of ecosystem services will be promoted and reinforced in several ways. Agreements will be developed between PA management authorities (National and Provincial Reserves, possibly Country Forestry Departments) and other sectoral government agencies that oversee private sector activities to facilitate sustainable economic development while securing wetlands conservation objectives. Possible agreements include an agreement with the Department of Agriculture to implement pilot organic agriculture projects (with the potential for replication); and agreements with tourism agencies to develop and implement eco-tourism guidelines, especially to control the activities of bird watching tourists. In addition, the project will work with productive sector partners to develop and enforce sector specific standards and safeguards to protect wetland PAs from practices that threaten wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services, including: i) standards for infrastructure development and operation; ii) an agreement with the Water Resources Department to reduce the sand mining quota for the Poyang Lake region; and iii) official guidelines for tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and land conversion in and around wetland PAs. In addition, the Provincial Department of Industry & Commerce will participate as member of the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Co-ordination Committee, thereby representing the interests of economic development stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of protected area management plans and province-wide wetlands conservation strategies and investments.

Stakeholders	Participation in the Execution of the Project
Universities & Research Institutes	
Academies of Sciences; Universities (Nanchang University, Beijing Forestry University, Chinese Science and Technology University, etc.)	Provide high quality technical support through long-term ecological observation stations and ongoing research programs.
Civil Society	
International Crane Foundation (ICF)	ICF has been conducting research and conservation programs in the Poyang Lake region for several decades, including playing a key role in the GEF-supported Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. ICF will implement 4 projects in collaboration with the PLNNR and other stakeholders during the period of the proposed project, including a study of the interactions between migratory birds, aquatic plants and hydrological conditions; a survey of migratory bird populations; a research program on small lake management; and development of an on-line database on ecological factors in the Poyang Lake region.
Society of Bird-lovers of Jiangxi Province	Established in 2003 as the first provincial level society of bird lovers in China, the Society has 50 member organizations (including 30 media related companies; 8 universities; and 8 protected areas) and 100 individuals. It has been monitoring the population of Oriental Storks in Poyang Lake for 14 years; done outreach and education on migratory birds, trying to build public support and appreciation for migratory birds; has participated in various international fora, including 13 th Wetlands Conference, and has enlisted local inhabitants to help monitor for illegal hunting, injured birds, etc. Will work with the project to strengthen awareness on importance of wetlands among both national and international stakeholders; to protect habitat for important species; to increase public understanding and control over the lake, and to improve technical methods for monitoring migratory bird populations
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	WWF will be sought as a partner to carry out baseline surveys and public education on globally significant wetlands ecosystems in Jiangxi Province, and to provide technical expertise in wetland PA management, public awareness, and development of financial incentives
Development Organizations	
FAO	
UNDP and the GEF MSL Project Office	Responsible for coordinating implementation of the overall national level Main Streams for Life programme, and 6 other GEF projects (1 national, 5 provincial) within the programme, of which the proposed project is also a part. UNDP is supporting the other two of the three wetlands conservation projects funded in part by GEF that are located in the middle-Yangtze river region. These two projects, along with the proposed project, will be closely aligned with synergies built throughout implementation, so that compatible approaches taken in each of the three locations will result in economies of scale and replication for wetlands conservation at all three relevant provinces.

B.2 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/NPIF):

The project's national and local social and economic benefits will result from the maintenance of critical ecosystem services delivered by wetlands. This includes: mitigation of floods and other natural disasters and avoiding the loss of human lives and property downstream along the Yangtze River; pollution control, water filtration and storage; and providing subsistence and livelihood opportunities from fisheries, tourism, and the collection of other natural wetlands products. National, provincial, and local stakeholders will have an opportunity to build their knowledge and capacity related to wetlands conservation. Government agencies will be able to better coordinate effort, hopefully streamlining decision-making and saving both time and effort. Protecting the ecosystem services provided by wetlands represents a substantial cost-savings for national, provincial and local governments. Helping to strengthen the ecosystem resilience of and water balance in the Yangtze River will help to secure the livelihoods, provision of freshwater, and protection of property and human live from climate-change induce flood events for tens of millions of people downstream of the Poyang Lake region. However, the project benefits will be felt most directly by residents who live within and/or on the

boundaries of the targeted wetland reserves. For example, 55.5% of peasant households within 5 miles of Poyang Lake are engaged in economic activities closely related to wetlands, and thus each of these persons is dependent upon wetland health for their quality of life and livelihoods. The project's work to enable county PAs to establish co-management arrangements with local communities will include improved livelihood opportunities as determined by local communities and PA management, and local villagers will be employed by county PA as part-time or full-time bird protection workers. By protecting scenic beauty and biological diversity that support income-generating tourism businesses, the project will generate significant benefits for the local population.

As wetland ecosystem services are degraded, the welfare of local communities is increasingly at risk. This is particularly true for women in the rural areas of Jiangxi province that constitute most of the wetland reserves and their boundary communities; because many men from local communities migrate to the cities, women take more responsibility for rural production and natural resources utilization. However, women (as well as other disadvantaged groups such as low income households and the handicapped), frequently are ignored by local authorities, with the result being that rural women and families of women headed households are often the poorest of the rural poor and the most vulnerable to the loss of wetlands ecosystem services. This project will help to stabilize these valuable ecosystem services. Furthermore, gender balance will be prioritized in project implementation activities, including village committees, activities for the co-management of nature reserves, and training local residents, which will include activities that recognize the central role of women in livelihoods and in the home.

B.3 Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

During project design, several alternative strategies were considered from the point of view of cost-effectiveness. One alternative considered for the project was to establish new wetland reserves in Jiangxi Province. However, the project will focus on expanding effective management to areas that are already within existing PAs, for several reasons: 1) existing PA units already cover the vast majority of critical wetland ecosystems and migratory bird habitat in the province; 2) large areas of the two national and one provincial level wetland PAs are not included in any management / conservation activities; 3) none of the twenty existing county-level wetland PAs, which contain important wetland ecosystems, are demarcated or actively managed; and 4) the project has more chance of success through expanding existing PA units "unofficially" through 6-7 new field stations, as there is little political support for "official" expansion through establishing new wetland reserves.

Another alternative that was considered was to focus project efforts on upgrading the Duchang Provincial Wetland Reserve to become a national reserve and/or to seek Ramsar designation for some of the existing wetland reserves in Jiangxi Province. These options were not included in the final project design for several reasons. With regard to upgrading the Duchang reserve, a similar process was completed for the Nanji reserve in 2008, and this process took almost 8 years and generated resistance from the Department of Agriculture (regarding controls on fishing). Furthermore, the Provincial Government has not provided funding for the Nanji Reserve, which has limited its effectiveness. For these reasons, it was considered more cost effective to strengthen the management of the Duchang Reserve as a provincial-level reserve and not to spend resources on an uncertain effort to upgrade the reserve. With regard to Ramsar designations, these require a significant investment in biodiversity surveys, bringing management planning in line with international standards, training of staff, and the provision of monitoring and patrolling equipment, all of which must be approved and funded by the Wetlands Office of the National Forestry Bureau. This office has not selected any reserves in Jiangxi Province (apart from Poyang Lake, which already has Ramsar designation) for this process; it is however more likely to do so after the survey, planning and capacity building activities of the proposed GEF project have been completed.

The design of the proposed project incorporates cost effectiveness measures. Highly costly activities, such as wetlands ecosystem restoration, have been limited to demonstration-level activities and are supported by significant co-financing. Similarly, infrastructure spending is almost entirely co-financed, with GEF funds for infrastructure limited to the design of a new environmental education centre. The project also will make use of national consultants for almost all of the technical inputs, and will focus most of the training and information sharing on best practices on exchanges with other projects in the CBPF-MSL Programme within China. Furthermore, by developing and strengthening community co-management structures and the participation of local residents in the management of wetland reserves, the project will help to mobilize social resources and county and village level governments in wetlands conservation. In addition, each

of the full-time project staff persons will be housed within the project management unit of the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, thereby eliminating the costs associated with setting up an independent project office and ensuring that the PLNNR is well positioned to absorb lessons learned and carry forward and expand the project outcomes and outputs.

This project represents a total GEF investment of approximately US\$5.29 million. This investment will catalyse the improved use of baseline conservation investments of approximately US\$35 million. The targeted GEF investment will re-align nearly the entire baseline to strategically support the achievement of ecosystem-based conservation objectives. The result is a relatively small amount of financing leveraging the long-term conservation of critical landscapes and associated global benefits.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN

The project's M&E Plan is thoroughly described in the FAO PRODOC. For more detail, refer to Section I, PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget. The table below provides a summary.

<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Time-frame</i>	<i>Budgeted costs</i>
Inception Workshop	PLNNR, PMO, FAO LTO/PTM, LTU, GEF Coordination (TCI), FAO Representation China	Within two months of project start up	USD 20,000
Project Inception Report	PLNNR, PMO, FAO LTO/PTM, LTU, GEF Coordination (TCI)	Immediately after workshop	None
Design and set-up of project monitoring system including training of staff	PLNNR, PMO, FAO LTO/PTM, LTU		5% of the time of the Project Manager – co-financed
Field based impact monitoring	PLNNR, PMO, local beneficiary communities, farmers	Continually	None (reflected in project activities)
Supervision visits and rating of progress in PPRs and PIRs	FAO LTO/PTM with inputs from PLNNR and PMO	Quarterly	Visits of the FAO LTU/LTO and the GEF Coordination Unit to be paid by GEF agency fee. Visits of the PM/PMO to be paid from project travel budget
Project Progress Reports - PPRs	PLNNR and PMO	Quarterly, semi-annual and annual (see above)	5% of the time of the Project Manager – co-financed
Project Implementation Review - PIR	LTU, FAO LTO/PTM	Annual	Paid by GEF Agency fee
Annual project progress review and planning workshops	PLNNR, PMO	Annual	USD 40,000
Co-financing Reports	PLNNR, PMO	At mid-term and at end of project based on annual tracking of co-financing execution	None
Steering Committee Meetings		Twice a year	Financed by PLNNR co-financing
Multi-stakeholder replication workshop	PLNNR, PMO	End of year 4 of the project	USD 10,000
Mid-term evaluation	External Consultant, FAO independent evaluation unit in consultation with the project team and other partners	At mid-point of project implementation	USD 32,000

<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Time-frame</i>	<i>Budgeted costs</i>
Final evaluation	External Consultant, FAO independent evaluation unit in consultation with the project team and other partners	At the end of project implementation	USD 36,000
Terminal Report	PLNNR, PMO, LTU, FAO LTO/PTM	At least one month before end of project	-
Total (GEF funding)			138,000

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):
 (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFF endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Ms. Jiandi Ye	Deputy Director, IFI Division, International Department	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	AUGUST 31, 2011

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Gustavo Merino Director, Investment Center Division, FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome Italy		July 21, 2014	Jeffrey Griffin Officer-in-Charge, GEF Coordination Unit (for daily matters) / Environment Officer, TCIB	+39 065755680	Jeffrey.griffin@fao.org
FAO-GEF Coordination Unit					GEF-Coordination-Unit@fao.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Objectively verifiable indicators				
Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Target (at end of project)	Risks and Assumptions
Goal	Contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant wetland biodiversity in Jiangxi Province, China			
Project Objective: Catalyze the management effectiveness of Jiangxi's wetland protected area system to conserve globally important biological diversity	Increase in the area of effective management and protection of wetlands in the Poyang Lake region, through the improvement in management and protection in existing PA hectares (area within PLNNR, Nanji and Duchang reserves)	0 hectares	96,800 hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County governments and line agencies for land resources support zoning and zone-based management Neighboring communities support and participate in co-management Government development and land use planning incorporates the JPWPAMS³, and bans illegal use activities
	Increase in the area of effective management and protection of wetlands in the Poyang Lake region, through the expansion of monitoring and patrolling (from 6-7 newly established PLNNR field stations) outside of the boundaries of the PLNNR, Nanji and Duchang wetland reserves	0 hectares	93,357 hectares Total: 190,157 hectares	
	Increase in the area of wetland reserves outside of the Poyang Lake region that are strengthened through new provincial level management, planning, information, financing and training frameworks	0 hectares	5,662 hectares (Direct) 20,612 hectares (Indirect) Total: 26,274 hectares	
Component 1: Improved and	No. of county wetland reserves in the Poyang Lake region effectively managed and protected, with adequate capacities and management plans	0 County Wetland Reserves	3 County Wetland Reserves ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Forestry Bureau reports County Forestry Bureau reports EHI Monitoring Protocols Reports of the Project Management Unit JPWPAMS document
	Improved score on Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) ⁵	50% 87% 60%	64% Stable or improved Stable or improved	
	No net increase in the area of production activities (illegal plantations and aquaculture operations) within Poyang Lake region in habitat areas for migratory bird species	To be determined during year 1 of project	0% increase	
	Jiangxi Province Wetland PA Management Strategy (JPWPAMS) is drafted, which defines approaches, tools, and processes for guiding the expansion and consolidated management of wetland PAs in Jiangxi	No strategy exists	Strategy developed and adopted by end of year 3 of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial government line

³ Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Management Strategy

⁴ The 3 County Wetland Reserves are: Nan Lake Nature Reserve (3,330 ha); Xieshan Grey Heron Nature Reserve (3 ha.); and Kangshan Lake Area Migratory Bird Nature Reserve (35,000 ha.). These 3 reserves are part of the area that will be monitored and protected by the 6-7 new field stations; thus their area of 38,333 hectares is a subset of the 93,357 hectares in the second indicator.

⁵ Biodiversity health is reflected in the ability of a site to maintain its biodiversity values. Many wetland sites are very dynamic and it is important to measure this ability, as this will become increasingly important as climate and water flow patterns change. During the project preparation phase, an ecosystem health index was established to measure habitat suitability in each site for important biodiversity and to monitor its status as a means of measuring biodiversity health and potential to adapt to climate induced change. However, the targets indicated for the Guanshan and Jiangxi Yiyang reserves are only estimates of what it is hoped will change by the end of the project, since these two sites are control sites and outside of the direct influence of the GEF project.

consolidated wetland PA system within the larger landscape context in Jiangxi Province	Province. Partnership with relevant sectoral line agencies strengthened to disseminate Wetland PA Management concepts and incorporate them into sectoral development planning and project appraisals	Very low levels of cooperation among various government agencies on activities that can support wetland conservation	Facilitate the development of organic agriculture pilot projects and their replication (with Dept. of Agriculture); and develop / implement eco-tourism guidelines (with tourism agencies), by end of year 3	Reports of agriculture pilot projects; eco-tourism guidelines	agencies agree to implement the JPWPAMS • County governments in nearby and outer regions accept and implement the JPWPAMS and support wetland reserve management • National regulations in place to support implementation of ecological compensation measures
	Measures for Ecological Compensation Operational Regulations (Draft) in the framework of the existing Jiangxi Wetland Protection Ordinance	No measures allow for implementation of ecological compensation	Measures formulated and put into operation by end of year 3	Draft regulations	
	PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores improved over baseline values across 9 county-level wetland PAs within the Poyang Lake region	To be determined during project inception	To be determined during project inception	Tracking Tool (filled out at start, midterm, and end of project)	Tracking Tool (filled out at start, midterm, and end of project)
	County forestry bureaus implementing activities with approved management plans for 3 county wetland reserves in Poyang Lake region	0	3	Management plans for county wetland reserves	
	Output 1.1: Wetland Protected Areas Strategy for Jiangxi Province Output 1.2: Expanded coverage of operationally effective wetland protected areas in Poyang Lake region Output 1.3: Strengthened Provincial-Level Wetland PA Coordination and Management Structures Output 1.4: Strengthened Legal, Regulatory and Planning Frameworks for Wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province				
Component 2: Wetland PA Management Capacity is strengthened at selected demonstration sites	PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores improved over baseline values for 2 national and 1 provincial wetland PAs within the Poyang Lake region • Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve • Nanji National Nature Reserve • Duchang Provincial Nature Reserve Management plans approved and under implementation for two national and 1 provincial wetland PAs	69	83	Tracking Tool (filled out at start, midterm, and end of the project).	• Communities within and around targeted PAs support and participate in co-management processes • Provincial and county agencies agree to support the PWEPA Management Framework and individual PA management plans
		61	79		
		44	64		
	Cost-effective wetland rehabilitation and restoration techniques tested and best practices documented for replication across the entire Poyang wetland biome ⁶	No techniques tested	Wetland vegetation restoration techniques tested in field conditions	Official management plans Reports from 2 field sites	
	Strengthened capacity for PA management, as measured by an increase in the Total Capacity Development Score in the UNDP-GEF Capacity Scorecard, for all PAs within the PWEPA system.	Total score 66 (69%) Capacity Level Systemic 20 (66%) Institutional 31 (69%)	Total score 72 (75%) Capacity Level Systemic 23 (77%) Institutional 32 (71%)	Capacity Scorecard filled out at project start and end of	

⁶ Wetland restoration strategies and techniques will be tested in wetland field settings, and if any of them prove to be effective and cost efficient, those practices will be documented and promoted for replication throughout the province (replication would only happen after the GEF project).

	Individual	21 (71%)	Individual	17 (81%)	project
Strengthened staff competence levels of nature reserve staff in PWEPA demonstration sites cover key skills required for the operational management of wetland PAs (co-management, enforcement, compliance, wetland ecosystem management, species surveys and monitoring, restoration and rehabilitation works).	Current staff have limited capacities in many aspects of wetlands management	No. of staff who received training: 150	Performance and qualification assessment results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Committees agree to lease small lakes to Wetland Reserves on a short-term basis to allow for seasonal draining at controlled rates County/village authorities help to capitalize mutual-assistant microfinance funds Provincial authorities (e.g. Forestry and Agriculture Departments) actively collaborate on species conservation activities 	
No. of co-management agreements signed between wetland reserve field stations and village committees (e.g. agreements that the field stations will take action against villagers committing illegal hunting / fishing activities if they are so notified by one of the village committees, and agreements on communication and information sharing)	0	10-11	Signed agreements		
Number of village level sustainable livelihood strategies developed and adopted by villagers with project support.	0	10-11	Simple strategy documents and village committee meeting interviews.		
Reduced number of illegal resource use incidents (hunting; illegal polders; fishing out of season; etc.) in 3 targeted PAs attributed to protection effort, strengthened regulations, establishment of new field stations, and training of PA staff and local residents.	To be determined during year 1 of project (all 3 PAs have record systems, but these will need to be consolidated)	30% by end of project	PA records of illegal resource use incidents		
Species conservation plans, including strengthened monitoring, patrolling and training in species-level management, increases the number of globally significant and threatened / endangered species under targeted protection in the Poyang Lake region, for the following species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siberian Crane (<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>) Oriental Stork (<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>) Swan Goose (<i>A. cygnoides</i>) Tundra Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>) Chinese Water Deer (<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>) Finless Porpoise (<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>) 	0 species conservation plans	6 species conservation plans developed and implemented	Annual reports of each conservation plan		
Output 2.1: Cost-effective wetland ecosystem management techniques tested and incorporated into PWEPA for replication Output 2.2: PWEPA Management Framework Output 2.3: Strengthened Capacity for Participatory Management of PWEPA Wetland Reserves Output 2.4: Conservation and Monitoring of Priority Habitats and Species	Cost-effective wetland ecosystem management techniques tested and incorporated into PWEPA for replication PWEPA Management Framework Strengthened Capacity for Participatory Management of PWEPA Wetland Reserves Conservation and Monitoring of Priority Habitats and Species				
Component 3: Institutional & stakeholder capacities to manage con-	No. of staff from all county forestry bureaus in Poyang Lake region and three counties outside of Poyang Lake Region trained in migratory bird monitoring and protection, including use of equipment; knowledge of relevant laws and regulations; identification of migratory birds; dissemination of information on laws, regulations, wetland conservation to	0	30	Performance and qualification assessment results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial and county government line agencies utilize and

<p>solidated wetland PA system in Jiangxi Province</p>	<p>the public; and cooperative management of county wetland reserves with PLNNR field stations</p> <p>Jiangxi Wetlands Information Management System is established and operational for data sharing between PA sites, and providing information to sectoral agencies for improved wetland and PA management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of institutions (PA units; provincial and county agencies) using the wetlands database platform to input and update wetland data in Jiangxi provincial wetland PAs Number of people per year who visit the wetlands database platform website to find data about wetlands in Jiangxi Province <p># of visitors per year to Poyang Lake Nature Reserve Visitor Centre (if established in Nanchang)</p> <p>Improved understanding on the values of wetlands and the wetland PA system, indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices surveys</p> <p>All Respondents in Jiangxi Province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Attitudes Practices Overall Average <p>Key Groups (decision makers and rural residents; evenly weighted) in Jiangxi Province with a significant impact on wetland conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Attitudes Practices Overall Average 	<p>No system in place</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Information system is operational by end of year 3</p> <p>At least 5 by end of year 3</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>30,000</p>	<p>contribute to the Jiangxi Wetlands Information Management System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County and village leaders help to disseminate and promote messages regarding new regulations / restrictions to protect wetland ecosystem functioning and wetland biodiversity, as well as the socio-economic values of wetlands <p>Data reports generated by Information Management System</p> <p>Visitor center records</p> <p>KAP Survey filled out at project start and end of project</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Strengthened information and data system supporting coordinated and cost effective wetland PA management</p> <p>Output 3.2: Strengthened Capacity for Coordinated Management of all Wetland PAs in Jiangxi Province</p> <p>Output 3.3: Public awareness improvement and outreach on wetland conservation and sustainable use in local communities</p>		<p>50%</p> <p>73%</p> <p>48%</p> <p>54%</p> <p>52%</p> <p>73%</p> <p>54%</p> <p>56%</p>	<p>65%</p> <p>85%</p> <p>62%</p> <p>70%</p> <p>68%</p> <p>90%</p> <p>70%</p> <p>73%</p>	

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).

1. STAP REVIEW

STAP Review Questions	FAO Responses to STAP Review <i>Include where eventual changes have been incorporated in the project document and or annexes to respond to the comment.</i>	Reference in Documents
<p>The analysis of threats and barriers to overcome them is well written and provides a clear agenda for the project actions. In many cases the resulting project concept is convincing but in others less so. The system level threat of wetland fragmentation and incoherent watershed scale actions remain relatively weakly addressed, as does the threat from invasive species. The proposed actions do not directly address these more systemic threats, but are addressed more directly to the needs and opportunities within the protected areas identified.</p>	<p>The project has been designed to take an ecosystem-based approach to wetlands conservation that encompasses wetlands and other ecosystems both within and outside of protected areas. Where the boundaries of wetland protected areas generally coincide with the extant of wetlands themselves, as in Jiangxi Province, then conservation and management interventions must also be applied outside of official protected areas, through coordinated, collaborative decision-making across multiple land and water use sectors and on multiple scales.</p> <p>Component 1 of the project will establish integrated provincial-level legal, planning and oversight frameworks for all wetland protected areas in the province, and integrate the management of wetland PA systems with the operations and practices of productive sectors / landscapes. Component 1 proposes to take an overall ecosystem management approach for wetland PAs so that management activities are designed and implemented across a wider landscape instead of a geographically circumscribed area limited to each nature reserve itself. Integrated ecosystem management is the key to reducing and controlling threats that come from outside the boundaries of most wetland PAs, such as pollution, land use changes, agricultural use of fertilizers and pesticides, etc. Among the activities under this component will be the formulation of the Jiangxi Province Wetland Protected Areas Management Strategy (JPWPAMS). The intent of the JPWPAMS is twofold; 1) to implement coordinated and systemic level decision-making for the management of all wetland PAs in the province, taking into account the wider landscape in which the wetlands are set; and 2) to establish a clear and logical process for the long-term expansion of the provincial wetland protected area system. This ecosystem-level approach also will incorporate systemic planning for potential climate change impacts, based on a review of wetland PA coverage in relation to climate change threats and adaptation needs to increase resilience and connectivity, and analysis of hydrologic flows and their importance for wetland ecosystem functioning. To support the second goal, the project will carry out a gap analysis of wetlands in Jiangxi Province and their coverage in the existing wetland PA system, in order to select priority sites (based primarily on the value of wetlands for ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation) for the establishment of new wetland protected areas, for the upgrading of existing wetland PAs (i.e. from county to provincial level or provincial to national level), for the selection of sites to apply for Ramsar designation, and for redefining the status of some aquatic reserves (e.g. those for the finless porpoise or fisheries) into ecosystem management reserves. Development of the JPWPAMS will include all agencies responsible for wetland protected areas in the province, as well as related authorities and agencies actively involve the planning process, such as</p>	<p>FAO Prodoc (Section 3.1; page 38)</p> <p>FAO Prodoc (Section 3.2, page 40)</p>

	<p>environment, water resources, agriculture (including fishery) and land management, and NGOs and community groups.</p> <p>In addition, under Component 2, the project will develop and implement a system-level PWEPA Management Framework for the three PWEPA wetland reserves in the Poyang Lake region, which will establish a consolidated, long-term management framework for the overall PWEPA network. and a prioritized list of key objective with specific milestones, targets and cost estimates. The PWEPA Management Framework will enable the three wetland reserves to reduce significant threats to wetland ecosystem functioning through such actions as coordinated rapid response to illegal hunting and point source pollution, and coordinated control and eradication of on-going threats from invasive species (reeds and poplars; other plants; crayfish; etc.). Finally, the framework will coordinate the activities of the PWEPA reserves to orient natural resource decision-making (including productive sectors such as agriculture and industry) in the Poyang Lake region around the priority of wetland conservation.</p>	<p>FAO Prodoc (Section 3.2; Output 2.2, page 48)</p>
<p>It may be that the inter-agency committee for PWEPA will consider all relevant factors; nevertheless STAP advises that the proponents should explicitly mention how the project will elicit the required planning and preferably modeling of the hydrological requirements of the consolidated areas. This is essential in order to drive discussions with responsible agencies to ensure that the water supply, flows and quality are well understood and that water budgets and criteria for management action are specified. Without a water regime that is well understood and adaptable, existing and future wetland PAs will not be sustainable, especially within a changing climate. A practical and well-tested framework for water allocation is available published by the Convention on Wetlands to assist the reconciliation of the often conflicting interests at national level and below (see Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2010), based on a synthesis of relevant national experiences. Reference: Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2010. Water allocation and management: Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands. Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 4th edition, vol. 10. Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland. (See also relevant water-related Handbooks 8, 9 and 11).</p>	<p>The project design as described in the Prodoc includes GEF funding for detailed studies of the hydrological requirements of the consolidated system of wetland protected areas in Jiangxi province, in particular with regard to the impacts of changes (from natural cycles; human activities; and potential climate change impacts) in water supply, flows and quality on wetland eco Poyang Lake Wetlands Ecosystem PA (PWEPA) network system services and habitat for globally significant biodiversity. This work will be supported by co-financed activities, including a project of the Office of the State Council Three Gorges Project for an Ecological Environmental Monitoring System Poyang Lake (US\$3,120,000), which will track changes in key elements of Poyang Lake's hydrology and water quality, as well as the long-term impacts on species diversity from the Three Gorges Reservoir impoundment and seasonal water adjustment.</p>	<p>FAO Prodoc (Output 2.1; page 47)</p>
<p>Within Component 2 (and related capacities developed in Component 3), the PIF outlines proposals for co-management including with communities, however, it is not explained what incentives will drive these actions, nor how the parent Program or the present project will assess the value of environmental services or opportunity costs which STAP assumes will be needed as inputs for developing the proposals. Additionally, the conservation outcomes in terms</p>	<p>The project will undertake an economic analysis to value the goods and services provided by wetland protected areas in Jiangxi Province, which will help in the design of community co-management and livelihoods activities. The project also will take a leading role in drafting operational standards for a wetland ecological conservation compensation program, which may include programs to compensate fisherman for prohibitions on fishing from March to June of each year; payments to farmers who leave rice paddies flooded and untouched after harvesting (which benefits migratory birds) or who cease</p>	<p>FAO Prodoc (Section 3.2; Output 1,4, page 44)</p>

<p>of biodiversity measures are not linked in the PIF to the involvement of communities.</p>	<p>planting exotic tree species in wetland areas; compensate farmers to adjust agricultural or aquaculture practices in areas immediately adjacent to wetlands to protect water quality; compensate selected water consumers in order to reduce demand for water in early autumn; payments by the central government and/or downriver provinces to the Poyang Lake Ecological Economic Development Zone for wetland ecosystem service. These possible mechanisms will be discussed and revised through workshops and other consultations with stakeholders. Once established, the project will undertake awareness raising activities about the intent and details of the measures.</p> <p>With regard to community co-management, prior to commencing any co-management processes or activities, the project will carry out baseline surveys and outreach to better understand the concerns of local residents, to communicate the goals and processes of the project, and to identify existing and potential conflicts between local residents and wetland reserves. In this manner, the project will incentivize community participation by offering local residents the opportunity to directly address and influence wetland management decisions that may impact their use of natural resources and/or other community concerns. In addition, the project's work to enable county PAs to establish co-management arrangements with local communities will include improved livelihood related management priorities (as determined by local communities and PA management), as any conservation activities will need local support in order to be successful, and this in turn depends greatly on addressing the economic concerns of local residents. For example, in order to provide benefits for local inhabitants, and increase their support for wetland conservation objectives, the project will provide training to increase the number of local villagers employed in the management, monitoring and protection work of the reserves, including participation on ecosystem and species monitoring teams, on migratory bird protection teams, in routine patrolling for environmental violations, and in rapid response measures for illegal hunting, point source pollution, and other urgent ecological problems. Finally, the project will ensure that wetland reserve co-management objectives and plans are consistent with and integrated into local development plans and activities as much as possible, so that conservation activities help to promote rather than hinder local economic and social development.</p> <p>With regard to community participation in activities that will benefit biodiversity, achievement of each of the following BD indicators in the project Results Framework will involve the participation of local residents: Review logframe and Outputs-Activities to find / create linkages between BD indicators and community participation: - No net increase in the area of production activities (illegal plantations and aquaculture operations) within Poyang Lake region in habitat areas for migratory bird species (community co-management committees will play a key role in monitoring production activities, assisting in reporting, and disseminating information on new regulations to local communities) - No. of co-management agreements signed between wetland</p>	<p>FAO Prodoc (Section 3.2; Output 2.3, page 49)</p> <p>FAO Prodoc (Annex 1) GEF CEO ER (Annex A)</p>
--	---	--

	<p>reserve field stations and village committees (e.g. agreements that the field stations will take action against villagers committing illegal hunting / fishing activities if they are so notified by one of the village committees, and agreements on communication and information sharing)</p> <p>- Reduced number of illegal resource use incidents (hunting; illegal polders; fishing out of season; etc.) in 3 targeted PAs attributed to protection effort, strengthened regulations, establishment of new field stations, and training of PA staff and local residents (local residents will be employed monitoring and protection activities)</p> <p>- Species conservation plans, including strengthened monitoring, patrolling and training in species-level management, increases the number of globally significant and threatened / endangered species under targeted protection in the Poyang Lake region (local residents will be employed in monitoring activities)</p>	
The risk table should be amended to include mention of (i) financial risks and sustainability of incentives (medium); (ii) raise the rating of water management risks to high to take account of systemic catchment level risks, (iii) risk of low or no cooperation of communities associated with the wetland PAs or their buffer zones; and (iv) risk that economic development and land reclamation will overtake plans for wetlands and biodiversity protection.	The risk table has been amended to explain how these risks may impact project implementation and how the project will mitigate these risks	FAO Prodoc (Section 3.7, Risk Matrix, pages 59-67) GEF CEO ER (Section A.6)
The full project plans should explain how the project achievements will be monitored and evaluated.	A complete Monitoring and Evaluation plan has been included in the project documents	FAO Prodoc (Section 6, page 80-)

2. GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW

GEFSEC Review Questions	FAO Responses to GEFSEC Review <i>Include where eventual changes have been incorporated in the project document and or annexes to respond to the comment.</i>	Reference in Documents
19. No, please provide further information on the GEF financed projects as well as other NGOs and organizations' work, and how the project builds on them. 2 April 2012 Adequate information provided. Additional detail on the coordination mechanism and lessons are expected at the time of CEO endorsement.	Additional details on coordination mechanisms and sharing of lessons learned between the proposed project and other recent and on-going projects (funded by the GEF and/or other institutions and NGOs) have been provided in summary form in the GEF CEO Endorsement Request, and in more detailed form in the FAO Prodoc	FAO Prodoc (Section 2.6, page 31) GEF CEO ER (Section A.7)
25. As noted above, the overall ratio is expected to increase at least to 1 to 5, particularly considering that there has been earlier GEF investment in the area and the baseline actions and commitment from the government and other organizations are essential. 2 April 2012 Please address the issue.	GEF funding for the proposed project is US\$5,289,000; committed co-financing for the project is US\$26,692,000; this equals a ratio of 1 to 5.05	GEF CEO ER (Part I, Table A)

3. GEF COUNCIL COMMENTS - Germany

GEF Council Review Questions	FAO Responses to GEF Council Review	Reference in
-------------------------------------	--	---------------------

	<i>Include where eventual changes have been incorporated in the project document and or annexes to respond to the comment.</i>	Documents
Germany requests that the following requirement is taken into account during the design of the final project proposal: we would like to emphasize that the impact of the proposed water regulation of Poyang Lake (dam), which surprisingly has not been identified as a threat as it is likely to change the ecological character of the wetlands, need to be adequately addressed by the full proposal.	The proposed Poyang Lake Water Control Program, which includes the possible construction of a sluice gate between Poyang Lake and the Yangtze river, has been described in detail in the threats analysis in the FAO Prodoc, and measures to mitigate the risks posed by this possible project have been described in detail in the risk matrix in the FAO Prodoc.	FAO Prodoc (Section 2.1, Threats Analysis, page 18-) FAO Prodoc (Section 3.7, Risk Matrix, pages 59-67)
The full proposal should also take account of the results of the recently terminated GIZ project, Sino-German cooperation platform on conservation of highly carbon-storing and species-rich ecosystems (CSE), which cooperated with Nanji National Nature Reserve.	The GIZ project, which developed strategies to respond to climate change, including monitoring long-term climate conditions and developing corresponding and appropriate management strategies, and building resource and technical capacities, provided staff of the Nanji reserve (and others) with increased capacity to evaluate the ecological vulnerabilities of the reserve in the face of expected climate change. These capacities and related lessons learned and data generated will be drawn upon during the proposed project, particularly in designing activities for enhancing wetland resilience to potential climate change impacts and in climate change impact modeling to develop scenarios for expected climate change impacts	FAO Prodoc (Section 3.2, Output 2.1; and Section 2.6)
The project should seek synergies with the ongoing GIZ project "Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in China".	GIZ is currently implementing the project "Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in China", which is supporting the implementation of an Integrated Ecosystem Approach by state actors and user groups in three provinces to safeguard wetland biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. The targeted areas are located in the industrial provinces of Zhejiang and Shandong and in Heilongjiang. The programme also supports the implementation of national action plans for the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of wetlands in the context of China's international obligations, in particular the conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Wetlands (Ramsar). The primary elements of the project relevant to the proposed project are: i) environmental policy advice and institutional coordination; ii) development of management models; iii) support to municipalities and stakeholders in preparing wetland management plans; iv) preparation of a capacity development programme; v) ecosystem assessment; vi) value chain analysis for selected wetland protection practices including ecotourism measure options; and vii) development of a wetland monitoring system, lessons learned and best practices. During the project preparation phase, consultations were conducted with the GIZ office in China regarding potential synergies between the two projects. Several areas were identified where the proposed GEF project could learn from the experiences of the GIZ project. One area is in the training of local partners (staff of pilot protected areas as well as provincial / national PA administration staff) in understanding and implementing an integrated ecosystem approach and in ecosystem assessment and modeling, including both general tools and approaches to Integrated Ecosystem Management, as well as specific wetland management and conservation tools and approaches. Another area is in the development of Geographical Information Systems (at 2 PA sites) to enable PA staff to better provide clear arguments and rationales for management decisions when negotiating with other stakeholders, as well as the creation of a learning network in the Naoli River watershed that is strengthening information sharing and coordination to tackle urgent management issues among five participating nature reserve	FAO Prodoc (Section 2.6)

	<p>administrations and the Provincial Forestry Department, and will lead to further stakeholder involvement as other sectors controlling pressure issues such as water availability become involved. The GIZ project is also working with the SFA to draft a concept for financial compensation of users affected by land conversion and subsequent natural rehabilitation as well as wetland environmental services, which could help to support eco-compensation schemes in Jiangxi Province. Finally, a preliminary agreement was reached to send some wetland reserve staff from Jiangxi Province to visit one or more of the GIZ project sites in year 1 of the proposed project in order to gain further insights.</p>	
--	--	--

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS⁷

A. FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

NONE

B. DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Assessment of wetland PA (WPA) representativeness and resilience review within the large landscape context in Jiangxi province	16,000	16,000	0
Assessment of operational management capacities of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province and PA site profiling	18,000	18,000	0
Biodiversity status and wetland ecosystem health assessment and assessment of monitoring and reporting needs, adaptation of national level biodiversity health index	18,000	18,000	0
Assessment of institutional wetland PA system and level of awareness within target stakeholder groups	16,000	16,000	0
Assessment of PA and WPA information and data management system in Jiangxi Province	10,000	10,000	0
knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, community participation and gender assessment	24,000	24,000	0
Feasibility Analysis & Budget	31,018	17,677	13,341
Total	133,018	119,677	13,341

*Note: Project preparation covers the following activities as per the PPG request: (1) Assessment of wetland PA (WPA) representativeness and resilience review within the large landscape context in Jiangxi province; (2) Assessment of operational management capacities of wetland PA in Jiangxi Province and PA site profiling; (2a) Biodiversity status and wetland ecosystem health assessment and assessment of monitoring and reporting needs, adaptation of national level biodiversity health index; (3) Assessment of institutional capacity to manage wetland PA system and level of awareness within target stakeholder groups; (3a) Assessment of PA and WPA information and data management system in Jiangxi Province; (3b) Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, community participation and gender assessment; and (4) Feasibility Analysis & Budget

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

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

N/A

⁷ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.