



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province		
Country(ies):	China	GEF Project ID: ²	4865
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	719
Other Executing Partner(s):	Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry	Submission Date:	2013-01-16
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	Agency Fee (\$):	252,466

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 1. New protected areas (exact number to be defined) and coverage (112,167 ha) of unprotected ecosystems.	GEFTF	600,000	4,750,000
(select) BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 2. New protected areas (exact number to be defined) and coverage (2,181,153ha) of unprotected threatened species (99).	GEFTF	900,000	4,500,000
(select) BD-2	Outcome 2.1: Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks.	Output 2: Sub-national land-use plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation are developed for the Greater Shennongjia Area (covering 3,099,567ha of protected and unprotected ecosystems)	GEFTF	805,177	4,000,000
(select) BD-2	Outcome 2.3 Improved management frameworks to prevent, control, and manage invasive alien species (IAS).	Output 1: policy and regulatory frameworks for production sectors are developed for the Greater Shennongjia Area.	GEFTF	219,481	1,000,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Sub-Total				2,524,658	14,250,000
Project Management Cost ⁴			GEFTF	132,876	750,000

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

Total Project Cost		2,657,534	15,000,000
---------------------------	--	-----------	------------

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the expansion and strengthening of the Protected Area Network in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)

1. Development of An Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Plan	TA	1.1 A new and integrated biodiversity conservation plan is developed, adopted and implementation is started for the Greater Shennongjia Area, based on Shennongjia's objective conditions and taking stock of international best practices.	<p>1.1.1 Improved knowledge-base: studies and assessments produced as a basis for the Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Plan, covering all key issues and including, but not limited to: current effectiveness of existing protected areas, status and threats to biodiversity of global importance, coverage and gaps in the existing PA system, priorities for the establishment of new PAs, valuation of critical ecosystem services provided by PAs, community group and stakeholder assessment, socio-economic development options for the Greater Shennongjia Area, status and threats posed by invasive alien species (IAS) and priority IAS management actions, access and benefit sharing issues, development of predictive models to adjust PA design in the face of climate change, options for community co-management of selected PAs of portions thereof, etc.</p> <p>1.1.2 Development, sharing, extensive consultation, validation, and finalization of the plan with all key stakeholders and particularly with all community groups in the target area.</p> <p>1.1.3 Formal endorsement, adoption, and initial steps for plan implementation taken and fully financed by the GoC, including formulation of all underlying legal instruments and by-laws to support the legal enforcement of the plan. This will include piloting of selected activities including i.e. PES/ecotourism schemes, monitoring and enforcement activities.</p>	GEFTF	1,305,177	7,400,000
--	----	---	--	-------	-----------	-----------

2. Capacity Development	TA	2.1 The capacity to design and implement the above multi-disciplinary plan is significantly enhanced within the executing agency and key stakeholders.	<p>2.1.1 Based on the initial “training needs assessment” conducted during the PPG, a comprehensive capacity development programme is developed and implemented for national staff of all relevant branches of the executing agency, protected area managers, community groups, key government departments and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>2.1.2 Establishment of new and strengthening of existing ecological monitoring, data management, and protected area management structures for the Greater Shennongjia Area.</p>	GEFTF	700,000	4,975,000
3. Education, Awareness & Communication	TA	3.1 Enhanced understanding and willingness to adopt and support PA co-management, BD conservation and sustainable development options among decision makers and at all levels of society in the Greater Shennongjia Area.	<p>3.1.1 Design and implementation of a province-wide communications and outreach campaign including ecosystem services, focusing on the benefits of biodiversity conservation, inclusion of ecosystem services in regional planning, and taking stock of the outputs of Green Economy reports, Natural Capital, and TEEB.</p> <p>3.1.2 Establishment of a public education and awareness center in the Shennongjia UNESCO Reserve, including the design of facilities and equipment for communication and education, as well as a center for the collection and preparation of rare plants that characterize the natural and cultural heritage of the Greater Shennongjia Area.</p> <p>3.1.3 Establishment of a website on the conservation in the Greater Shennongjia Area.</p>	GEFTF	519,481	1,875,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		

	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Sub-Total					2,524,658	14,250,000
Project Management Cost ⁵				GEFTF	132,876	750,000
Total Project Costs					2,657,534	15,000,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Local Government	Regional Government	Grant	8,000,000
Foundation	Shennonjia Reserve Self-financing	In-kind	4,587,310
Foundation	Shennonjia Reserve Self-financing	Grant	1,965,990
CSO	Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences	In-kind	95,200
CSO	Wuhan University	In-kind	155,300
CSO	Central China Normal University	In-kind	96,200
GEF Agency	UNEP	(select)	100,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			15,000,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	China	2,657,534	252,466	2,910,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				2,657,534	252,466	2,910,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF](#) strategies /[NPIF](#) Initiative:

The project is fully consistent with the GEF's Strategic Goal n.1 to "Conserve, sustainably use, and manage biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural resources globally, taking into account the anticipated impacts of climate change", and will contribute to the BD Focal Area Goal: "the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services". In particular, the project will support FA objectives BD-1 "improve the sustainability of protected area systems" and BD-2 "mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors".

The project will support the enhanced management effectiveness of existing Protected Areas (PAs), facilitate the establishment of new PAs, and help improve the conservation status of globally important and threatened habitats and species (within and outside PAs). The project will also promote the sustainable economic development in the Greater Shennongjia Area through improved participation of local communities in the management of natural resources, and the introduction of innovative integrated conservation and ecosystem management approaches based on global best practices. The project will also support the mainstreaming of the models of ecological conservation and sustainable utilization into regional land-use and development planning processes, through the uptake of an integrated ecosystem management and planning framework, and through the capacity development for government officials, community groups, and other key stakeholders.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

n/a

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

n/a

A.2. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

China's NBSAP v1 is already integrated into national policies and legislation to varying degrees and China completed v2 of its NBSAP (2011-2030) in Sept 2010. Part III, article 6th of the NBSAP v2 specifically refers to the Shennongjia Forest Reserve as one of the priority forest ecosystems for protection and regional expansion. In particular, the project area is identified as n.23 among the 32 priority areas (under the name "Daba mountain area of the middle South western Mountainous and hilly areas" of the first article: "Inland and aquatic biodiversity conservation priority area", of the fourth chapter: "Biodiversity conservation priority area". This highlights the importance of the conservation of forest habitats as well as migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats. The conservation of biodiversity in the Greater Shennongjia Area involves the conservation of both forest ecosystems and wetland ecosystems, hosting a broad range of species of global conservation importance. All these issues stand among the priorities and important components of the current China NBSAP.

The proposed GEF project is also aligned with ecosystem services-based conservation approaches being promoted by the Government of China and entailing "establishing technical support models for restoring the functions of diverse ecosystems and maintaining their improvement". The project approach is fully consistent with the objective of "functional restoration and reconstruction of ecosystems in ecologically vulnerable areas", which is stressed in China's National Medium- and Long-term Program for Science and Technology Development (2006-2020).

Since the Second National Report to the CBD, Shennongjia is listed among key national areas for in-situ conservation, while the Fourth National Report to the CBD underlines China's commitment and priorities towards the establishment and management of additional nature reserves, emphasizing ex-situ

conservation of rare and endangered species and genetic resources through mainstreaming of ecosystem and visual landscape conservation, and preventing and controlling invasive alien species.

The Greater Shennongjia Area is identified as a critical ecological resource and Natural Capital for Central China, hosting the watershed between the Yangtze River and the Han River. The area is of national importance for the preservation of critical ecosystem services such as water supply protection, soil conservation, climate change mitigation, and promotion of low-carbon sustainable economic growth, all contained within and around the nature reserves in the Greater Shennongjia Area. National assessments of climate change impacts indicate the need for significant mitigation as well as adaptation efforts to reduce impacts of human activities on natural resources such as those held in the project area. Therefore project activities are also fully consistent with the priority areas and policies of China National Climate Change Programme.

The Medium- and Long-term Program for Forestry Science and Technology Development (2006-2020) also lists among national priorities "the basic research in the conservation biology of the rare and endangered species" and "the rapid assessment technology for the endangered status of the rare and endangered species", and both objectives are supported by the present project.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

The Government of China (GoC) is investing significant resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area (GSA) of Hubei Province, to implement several major ecological restoration and conservation projects, as parts of national programmes to address climate change and environmental protection. The total area of project intervention (the GSA) is of 3,099,567ha, which includes the Shennongjia Forest District (SFD - 311,447ha), where the majority of natural and semi-natural habitats of the SGA are found. The SFD in turn includes the Shennongjia Nature Reserve (SFR - 70,467ha). See attached map in Annex 1).

Ongoing and planned government investments provide a very significant baseline which the GEF intervention will build upon and complement. An outline of main ongoing and planned government initiatives is provided below:

(1) Natural Forest Protection Project (NFPP): The NFPP involves three levels of work: completely stopping the exploitation of natural forests in the upper reach of the Yangtze River, and the upper and middle reaches of the Huang River; largely reducing the level of commercial timber extraction in the key state-owned forests in Northeastern China and Inner Mongolia; the protection of natural forests in other areas of China by local governments. The NFPP is expected to reduce the level of timber extraction by some 19,910,000 cubic meters, and to improve the management and protection of about 94,330,000 hectares of natural forests. The natural forest in the Greater Shennongjia Area is currently relatively well protected, and the proposed Shennongjia GEF project will build upon and support the overarching objectives of the NFPP. In the Greater Shennongjia Area, the GoC is investing \$300,000,000 (and \$300,000,000 are allocated for the next 5 years) to implement the Natural Forest Protection Project.

(2) "Grain to Green" Project (GGP): The GGP is a major strategic decision of China to invest in habitat restoration, to address the steep decline of water resources and land degradation. By 2010, the GGP is expected to reduce the level of soil loss in about 22,670,000 hectares of land and about 26,700,000 hectares of sand area, and to reduce by 260,000,000 tons the release of sediments into the estuaries of the Yangtze and Huang Rivers per year. The implementation of the GGP in the Greater Shennongjia Area will provide the baseline investments for the GEF project policy framework, and will complement and support the local community awareness efforts of the Shennongjia GEF project. Some \$530,000,000 (and \$120,000,000 are planned for the next 5 years) are being invested by the GoC for the "Grain-for-Green" Project.

(3) "Shelterbelt Construction" Project (including the "3 North" and the "Middle & Lower Reaches of the Yangtze River") (SCP): The SCP is the shelterbelt construction project covering the largest area in China. The areas covered include the "3 North" areas, coastal areas, plain areas, the Zhu River, the Huai River, the Taihang Mountain, the Dongting Lake, the Poyang Lake, and the middle & lower reaches of the

Yangtze River. The SCP is expected to restore some 26,700,000 hectares of forests and to improve the management of some 71,867,000 hectares of existing forests. The Greater Shennongjia Area is covered by the SCP, and therefore the SCP will provide a significant forest policy and technical support framework as an additional baseline for the implementation of the Shennongjia GEF project.

(4) "Wild Plants & Animals Protection and Nature Reserve Construction" Project: This government initiative mainly addresses the issues related to the protection of species, natural resources, and wetlands. As of 2010, 10 sub-projects focusing on wildlife rescue and 30 sub-projects on the conservation of key ecosystems have been implemented, and a series of new reserves have been established. Within this programme, the GoC is supporting the improved protection of biodiversity and critical ecosystem services in the Greater Shennongjia Area with the investment of \$26,710,000, through supporting the gradual establishment of a series of new nature reserves or forest parks (a total area of 230,728 hectares). Some of these have already been established, including: Shennongjia National Nature Reserve, Shibalichangxia Provincial Nature Reserve, Duheyuan Provincial Nature Reserve, Dajiuhe Provincial Nature Reserve, Yerengu Provincial Nature Reserve, and Longmenhe National Forest Park in Hubei Province, and Wulipo Municipal Nature Reserve and Yintiao Ridge Municipal Nature Reserve in Chongqing Municipality. The Greater Shennongjia Area is one of most important areas where this government programme is being implemented, and this will provide the most important baseline and a significant supporting framework for the implementation of all aspects of the proposed Shennongjia GEF project.

(5) As outlined above in table C (part I of this PIF) the Regional Government and the Shennongjia Reserve are also committed to support the gradual execution of the integrated conservation plan for the GSA that will be developed with GEF support.

In addition to the above baseline projects, other recently completed projects will provide relevant lessons, experience, and policies for the implementation of the proposed Shennongjia GEF project. These include (i) the GEF-funded "Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China" Project, and (ii) the EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP – completed September 2011, with a total investment of more than 50,000,000 EUR) which promoted the commitments of China within the CBD, supporting the enhancement of biodiversity conservation and management, and the protection of China's unique ecosystems. The results of the ECBP will provide an important basis and the essential legal framework to support the implementation of this proposed GEF Shennongjia project.

Main threats and barriers, gaps and opportunities: In spite of the above significant investments and conservation efforts, some of the ongoing developments are causing significant damage to the environment and to the livelihoods of the local population. While these issues are now gradually being addressed by the GoC at the local level, the observed trend in the conservation status of critical habitats biodiversity, and critical ecosystem services in the Greater Shennongjia Area remains yet one of decline. There is a risk of irreversible loss of the unique habitats and species, with associated socio-economic losses for the local and national economy. This risk appears to be linked with the rapid development of man-made infrastructure and increased settlements encroaching natural or semi-natural habitats in the area. The existing low levels of professional capacity in the environmental sectors among government officials, and the limited awareness on the key principles of sustainable development, ecosystem management, and the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, represent a major constraint for the region to take a sustainable development path and to secure its global important biodiversity and ecosystem assets. In the above background context, the main issues that the project will seek to address include:

(1) Information and data gaps: Most baseline surveys and scientific studies have been conducted only in Shennongjia National Nature Reserve (i.e. approx. 10% of the Greater Shennongjia Area). Most of these existing studies are now over three decades old, and need to be expanded to cover the Greater Shennongjia Area.

(2) Need to increase Protected Areas coverage: The total area protected is currently only 9% of the Greater Shennongjia Area (which is 3,099,567ha), and thus several rare and endangered species and critical habitats are not yet effectively protected. Considering the national and global values that would derive from the conservation of the ecosystem of the Greater Shennongjia Area, there is a clear need to

increase the coverage, habitat representativeness, and connectivity of the current protected area system in the area.

(3) Habitat fragmentation: Rapidly increasing economic development is leading to severe habitat fragmentation. This is an additional reason to increase the coverage and management effectiveness of protected areas, to optimize the design and boundary demarcation of an integrated PA system, to establish PA management plans, and to establish a comprehensive new PA Network including protected areas, buffer zones, and corridors.

(4) Invasive alien species: The spread of invasive alien species is identified as an increasing threat to biodiversity conservation in the Greater Shennongjia Area. There is a need to establish a monitoring, prevention, and control system. This should be developed as an integral part of a new integrated PA system management plan.

(5) Poverty & illegal activities: The uncontrolled illegal exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity is linked to severe forest destruction and animal poaching recorded across the Greater Shennongjia Area. The severity of these threats and appropriate measures to address them have to be developed in partnership with resident communities and on the basis of adequate consultative processes that will seek to address conservation and poverty issues at the same time.

(6) Inadequate conservation management capacity: There is insufficient awareness and knowledge of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and sustainable development issues within relevant governmental institutions and local stakeholders alike. In addition, the professional capacity of PA management staff on participatory co-management systems, as well as PA conservation effectiveness, and biodiversity and ecosystem services monitoring capacity all need to be strengthened, through enhanced education and training.

(7) Inadequate capacity to understand and prepare for the anticipated impacts of climate change on conservation and development efforts: The existing capacity to understand climate change issues and develop scenarios to support the planning and design of the new protected area system is not in place or suboptimal, and will be established and improved through the project.

Therefore the principal aim of the proposed GEF project will be to address the above threats and fill identified gaps in an integrated manner, capturing available opportunities to engage with ongoing land-use planning processes and support the gradual establishment of an enhanced PA system (by improving the management effectiveness of existing PAs and establishing new PAs, buffer zones, and corridors at the greater landscape level), as well as fostering a shift towards sustainable use of the natural resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area. This will be achieved through the promotion of innovative approaches based upon ecosystem services valuation and scenario-planning, strengthened landscape-level connectivity for BD & critical ES conservation, and promoting a higher degree of community involvement in PA management. The project envisages the following components:

Component 1: Development of An Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Plan

Main outcome: 1.1 A new and integrated biodiversity conservation plan is adopted and implementation is started for the Greater Shennongjia Area, based on Shennongjia's objective conditions and taking stock of international best practices. Expected outputs:

1.1.1 Improved knowledge-base: studies and assessments produced as a basis for the Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Plan, covering all key issues and including, but not limited to: current effectiveness of existing protected areas, status and threats to biodiversity of global importance, coverage and gaps in the existing PA system, priorities for the establishment of new PAs, valuation of critical ecosystem services provided by PAs, community group and stakeholder assessment, socio-economic development options for the Greater Shennongjia Area, status and threats posed by invasive alien species (IAS) and priority IAS management actions, access and benefit sharing issues, development of predictive models to adjust PA design in the face of climate change, options for community co-management of selected PAs or portions thereof, etc.

1.1.2 Development, sharing, extensive consultation, validation, and finalization of the plan with all key stakeholders and particularly with all community groups in the target area.

1.1.3 Formal endorsement, adoption, and initial steps for plan implementation taken and fully financed by the GoC, including the formulation of all underlying legal instruments and by-laws to support the legal enforcement of the plan. This component will entail site specific baseline surveys on landscape-wide resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area. Initial steps for plan implementation will be taken and fully financed by the GoC, including formulation of all underlying legal instruments and by-laws to support the legal enforcement of the plan. This will include the piloting of selected concrete on-the-ground activities envisaged in the Plan including i.e. PES/ecotourism schemes, monitoring and enforcement activities. This component will also include trans-boundary network design for the Greater Shennongjia PA Network, buffer zones, and multiple use zones, consistent with SCBD guidelines, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), the Aichi Targets, and MDGs, and integrating national laws and regulations on ecological protection and local economic development planning.

This component will assist the executing agency (Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry) in the development of the required knowledge basis for integrated landscape-wide biodiversity conservation planning, as well as key species protection plans and PA management plans. This process will be closely linked with component 2 (capacity development), and will entail the strengthening of the existing GIS and database and management capacity, the set-up of a comprehensive and cost-effective BD and ES mapping and monitoring system, and the establishment of a system for monitoring BD and ecosystems status and trends.

This improved knowledge, analytical, and planning capacity will provide the basis for the design of an integrated network of protected areas (including existing and additional areas), with associated comprehensive zoning system and management plan. The plan will be based on a clear 20-year vision and objectives for the sustainable development of the Greater Shennongjia Area, in line with the national GoC policies on sustainable development. The plan will support the preservation of critical ecosystem services, globally important biodiversity and natural resources, as well as historic & cultural values in the Greater Shennongjia Area of 3,099,567 hectares. The plan will also seek to enhance the link between BD conservation and economic development plans in the existing protected areas. It will foster collaborative approaches between nature reserve managers and all resident communities, through the establishment of "conservation alliances" between local governments, townships, reserve managers, and CSOs, and all key local stakeholder groups. The plan will also provide the basis for establishing and strengthening local and regional legal instruments in support of sustainable development and will be the basis for all future development planning processes in the target region. The initial studies and plans will also include an assessment of the status and impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystems, and a provincial-wide IAS management framework. In this component, the role of UNEP and its international partners will be to ensure synergy with the experience and lessons learned from the TEEB and Natural Capital projects, the network of UNEP and GEF initiatives on Ecosystem Services, IPBES, CBD and IUCN guidelines and PoW on Protected Areas, the UNEP Forest Strategy, UN-REDD+ and UNEP's Mountain Forest Ecosystem Programme, UNEP/CMS and migratory species initiatives, etc. through overseeing the participation of representatives and experts from the above initiatives in the project technical advisory body and in the review of major project deliverables.

Component 2. Capacity Development

This component will be closely linked with component (1) and will be instrumental in developing the required human capital supporting both the design and subsequent implementation, and long-term sustainability of the integrated conservation and development for the Greater Shennongjia Area. The main outcome will be that the capacity to design and implement the above multi-disciplinary plan is significantly enhanced within the executing agency and key stakeholders. And expected outputs include:

2.1.1 Based on the initial "training needs assessment" conducted during the PPG, a comprehensive capacity development programme is developed and implemented for national staff of all relevant branches of the executing agency (Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry), protected area managers, community groups, key government departments, and other key stakeholders.

2.1.2 Establishment of new and strengthening of existing ecological monitoring, data management, and

protected area management structures for the Greater Shennongjia Area.

The activities envisaged on-the-ground to achieve the above outputs will be defined in more detail during project preparation and in synergy with ongoing government-funded programmes and where appropriate, in collaboration the UNDP-GEF wetland project (GEF ID 4823). In this component, the role of UNEP and its international partners will be to ensure synergy with the experience and lessons learned from relevant international experience and best practices, development of tailor made learning programmes in all technical issues addressed by the project. This component will focus on developing the professional capacity especially of the new generation of Chinese conservation planning professionals, through close linkages with component 1 where on-the-job training will be used as the main avenue to develop local capacity during the initial ecological surveys. The training materials developed under this component will also be usable and will benefit several other parts of China where similar issues are being tackled.

Component 3: Education, Awareness & Communication

This component will support and be critical for the achievement of objectives 1 and 2 above, and is expected to enhanced the understanding and willingness to adopt and support PA co-management, BD conservation and sustainable development options among decision makers and at all levels of society in the Greater Shennongjia Area. The project features this strong element of capacity building for existing government bodies, which is also expected to enhance the capacity of existing and newly recruited government staff to work in a more coordinated fashion both horizontally (e.g. between government departments) and vertically (e.g. central-local levels) through the demonstration of a joint and participatory development process of the integrated plan for the GSA. Expected outputs of this component:

3.1.1 Design and implementation of a province-wide communications and outreach campaign, focusing on the benefits of biodiversity conservation, inclusion of ecosystem services in regional planning, and taking stock of the outputs of Green Economy reports, Natural Capital, and TEEB.

3.1.2 Establishment of a public education and awareness center in the Shennongjia UNESCO Reserve, including facilities and equipment for communication and education, as well as a center for the collection and preparation of rare plants that characterize the natural and cultural heritage of the Greater Shennongjia Area. GEF support is expected to focus on the TA required to (a) design the centre according to best international practice and models, (b) develop its educational and awareness programmes and materials, and (c) provide training and capacity development for the centers' staff. The Government will provide the funding for infrastructure and premises.

3.1.3 Establishment of a website on the conservation in the Greater Shennongjia Area

In this component, the GEF funds will complement government funding for the development of a new science and education center (of approx. 2,200 square meters of floor area). The project co-financing will establish the center, and GEF financing will help to train its operators and populate it with information and interactive displays. The center will include a specimen room, an archive room, a network studio, a meeting room, and a publicity and education office. A small botanic garden will also be developed in the education center grounds. (2) A website of the center will be developed in both English and Chinese. The system of visitor information signs will be improved. Flora and fauna specimens (30,000) will be collected and prepared. Through the above avenues, the project experience and lessons learned will be further disseminated nationally and internationally, and will also feed into the GEF learning objectives. The capacity of national staff in the field of communications will be developed, to promote the conservation of natural and cultural/historic heritage in the Greater Shennongjia Area and in the rest of China. The IUCN and UNEP's Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI) will also be involved and provide support to this component.

- B. 2. [Incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The Government of China (GoC) is investing significant resources for the conservation and sustainable development of the ecosystem of the Greater Shennongjia Area. This effort has resulted in the establishment of the first set of Protected Areas with associated PA management structures, one of which is the UNESCO nomination as a Man and Biosphere Reserve (Shennongjia National Nature Reserve). Other GoC baseline investments are outlined in section B.1 and will be further elaborated during the project preparation phase.

Baseline Scenario without GEF contribution: under the current scenario, ongoing and planned government baseline investments would continue to support essential conservation and sustainable development actions within and outside existing PAs and Forest Parks in the GSA, such as i.e. reduction of timber extraction levels; improved management and protection of natural forests; habitat restoration; and the establishment of new nature reserves or forest parks (as outlined in more detailed above in section B.1). However these efforts would remain fragmented and not well integrated, resulting in non-synergic interventions that would also not effectively cover the entire GSA as one integrated landscape. This is because the current policy and institutional framework and existing technical, managerial and coordination capacity do not provide an adequate basis for the development of a well-integrated and environment-oriented land-use and development plan for the GSA. The “business as usual” scenario would not be sufficient to address the wide range of threats and pressures associated with population increase and development, as outlined in B.1. The status quo would thus not ensure the long-term conservation of the biodiversity and critical ecosystem services provided by the core area of the GSA. Without the GEF catalytic intervention, baseline government conservation programmes, investments and infrastructure developments would continue to be implemented in the traditional and non-integrated fashion, resulting in the loss of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services (as outlined below).

Scenario with the GEF contribution: The incremental GEF contribution will build upon and help improve the environmental sustainability of planned government efforts in the GSA, fostering a shift towards a more integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, and ensuring a continued flow of critical ecosystem services from the core area of the GSA. The project will support the additional engagement with GSA authorities of some of the most relevant international partners and of the best national institutions. These actors will be facilitated to work collectively to define and start implementing approaches that are (a) innovative for China and (b) will support the establishment and participatory management of a wider integrated PA network in the target area. This additional level of integration will be supported by GEF funds and achieved through the application of science-based conservation planning methods for the Greater Shennongjia Area. This approach will also be underpinned by extensive stakeholder consultations and local community engagement in PA management. The GEF incremental contribution will ensure that innovative approaches for China and international best practice contribute to the enhanced conservation of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the other natural, cultural, educational, and socio-economic development values of the area, by fostering a holistic and ecosystem-based conservation and development strategy, and mitigating the threats posed by climate change and uncontrolled expansion of human activities. Through the implementation of the project, the Greater Shennongjia Area will be further developed into a national center for biodiversity conservation, scientific research, education, and demonstration of best practices, mainly centered upon the Shennongjia National Nature Reserve.

Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) generated through the GEF project: The GEF incremental intervention will allow a more integrated planning and action by the Government of China for the entire GSA, and this is expected to set the stage and significantly contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity, habitats and critical ecosystem services that are briefly described below, (based on best available information to date), and that would otherwise be irreversibly lost.

Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity: As outlined in the China NBSAP, the Greater Shennongjia Area is identified among the most significant and globally important areas in China in terms of biodiversity conservation importance. It was nominated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1996, and qualifies as the highest category (A1) for listing as an Important Bird Area as the site is known or thought regularly to hold a significant number of globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern

(source: Birdlife Data Zone: www.birdlife.org/datazone site CN 348). The area's diverse topography and wide altitudinal range, and diverse soils and climatic conditions result in a diversity of habitat types and associated high species richness and diversity. The Greater Shennongjia Area hosts a combination of elements of biodiversity from several regions including Central China, North China, Southwestern China, and Northwestern China, with 13 vegetation types and 42 community types, and with a complete range of the mountainous vegetation, from the lowest to the highest altitude (range: 3,000 m), including: evergreen broadleaf forest, evergreen and deciduous broadleaf mixed forest, deciduous broadleaf forest, coniferous and broadleaf mixed forest, coniferous forest, rhododendron shrub, and arrow bamboo shrub. The vertical zonation of vegetation types is quite clear, with planted forests found below the elevation of 1,000m (including the plantations of palm tung-oil tree and walnut, etc.); from 1,000m to 1,700m: mixed evergreen and deciduous broad-leaved forests including the Dovetree, Henry Emmenopterys, Lacquertree, Yantao Actinidia, Beech, and Oak, etc.; from 2,100m to 2,400m: coniferous forest belt of Farges Fir; from 2,400 to 2,800 m: the belt of combined Farges Fir and Fortune Rhododendron; from 2,800m to 3,000m: the grove belt of arrow bamboos; over 3,000m: alpine meadows. These habitats are increasingly regarded as nationally important also in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, in addition to the biodiversity conservation values and the ecosystem services they provide. Therefore their conservation and sustainable use is receiving increasing attention by the GoC and internationally.

Species Richness and Biodiversity: The Greater Shennongjia Area hosts a unique mixture of species that are typical of the subtropical, temperate, and cold temperate zones. Shennongjia National Nature Reserve is known to host approximately 3,106 vascular plant species, which is 51.59% of the total number in Hubei Province, including 5 first-class and 16 second-class nationally protected plant species, and 116 plant species endemic to Shennongjia (including *Armeniaca hongpingensis* and *Dendranthema indicum*). The reserve also hosts some 493 species of vertebrates, of which 256 terrestrial species are nationally protected due to their important economic and scientific research values, including: *Rhinopithecus roxellana*, *Selenarctos thibetanus*, *Moschus berezowskii*, *Macaca mulatta*, and *Panthera tigris amoyensis*, etc. Shennongjia National Nature Reserve is also the easternmost distribution area of the Sichuan snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*), listed among China's protected endemic species. Birds of national and global conservation importance include the Reeves's Pheasant (*Syrmaticus reevesii* – IUCN Cat.: Vulnerable) and the White-eared Night-heron (*Gorsachius magnificus* – IUCN Cat.: Endangered). Evidence of albinism is frequently recorded, and over 30 species of vertebrates are found in the reserve (including: forest musk deer, monkeys, snakes, bears, and crows). These animals with albinism have been the subject of zoological and genetic research. The reserve also hosts a rich and diverse fauna of invertebrates (with some 4,143 species of insects recorded so far), accounting for over 81.8% of the 33 orders of invertebrates recorded in China. Finally it should be noted that the existing information on the site's biodiversity refers only to the core reserve, Shennongjia National Nature Reserve, while the GEF project will support the extension of biodiversity assessments to the Greater Shennongjia Area, which is some ten times larger in size, with a mosaic of natural, semi-natural, agricultural, and urban environments.

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF](#).

The Shennongjia Forestry District (SFD) is located within the Greater Shennongjia Area (GSA) and hosts the majority of natural and semi-natural habitats found in the GSA. The SFD is a county-level administrative unit (or a special "forestry district") of the Hubei Province, and it is directly subordinated to the Hubei provincial government. It occupies 311,447ha in western Hubei, with a population of approximately 74,000, predominantly (95%) Han Chinese, with the remaining 5% being mostly Tujia (2007 estimates), and Miao. Other ethnic minorities in the area include Dong, Hui, Zang, She, Yi, Zhuang, Li and Man. The district's mountainous and heavily forested nature meant that for a long time the basis of the district's economy was characterized by forestry as the main industry. However, as of the late 1990s, the

focus was switched from logging to forest conservation, and officially, felling of natural forests completely ceased in March 2000. Tea plantations are now found on a valley slope north of Muyu town. The district has a low population density when compared to a typical Hubei county of a similar size and is characterized by a limited amount of agricultural land. There are mining operations throughout the district. On average, the area remains comparatively poor, with the GDP per capita lower than any of Hubei's prefecture-level units. Of course, direct comparison between Shennongjia and a prefecture-level unit of Hubei, such as Yichang or Huangshi, can be misleading, since nearly all of Hubei's prefecture-level units have a large urbanized core (with corresponding higher incomes), while Shennongjia does not. Currently the income of the local farmers in Shennongjia is only 44.1% of farmers' or 15.1% of average citizens' income nationwide.

The project will ensure all national and international norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations are followed. The communities in the Greater Shennongjia Area will be included in the consultations for project development, and consultation mechanisms will be put in place to ensure their full engagement during project implementation. One of the principal objectives of the project is to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly development and biodiversity conservation for the region. Therefore the improved economic, cultural, and spiritual welfare of the local resident communities will be held in highest regard and stand among the principal objectives of the project. As such, socio-economic and gender aspects will be closely monitored throughout all elements and stages of this project. The rights of both men and women will be protected according to the GoC norms and best international practices (including the GEF and UNEP guidelines on Social and Environmental Safeguards, which include specific guidelines for the involvement of Indigenous Peoples, and specifically the recent GEF guidelines on IP involvement as set forth in GEF Council Paper GEF/C.42/Inf.03 of May 7, 2012), and therefore IP related and gender disaggregated data will be collected in consultation with local communities, to monitor project impacts in this respect.

The project will actively seek the engagement of any indigenous or ethnic minority groups identified in the project target area through (a) ensuring and documenting adequate consultation at the project design stage, to assess and incorporate their issues, views and aspirations in the project design, (b) putting in place and IP consultation and engagement plan at the project design stages, entailing adequate mechanisms to ensure continued information sharing and consultation with indigenous or ethnic minority groups during project implementation, including i.e. participation or their representative(s) in the project Steering Committee, and (c) explicitly include the monitoring of the assessment of above level of IP involvement and the impact of the project on the livelihoods of indigenous or ethnic minority groups in the project M&E plan."

The project is expected to generate a range of positive socio-economic impacts resulting from improved sustainable and integrated land use management and BD conservation in the project target area. During the PPG and initial assessments, an in-depth analysis will be conducted to articulate and where possible quantify the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and human well-being, with a focus on the livelihoods and needs of local communities living within, and adjacent to, the Greater Shennongjia Area. An enhanced level of awareness, engagement and participation of local communities and local administrations in the conservation and co-management of the Greater Shennongjia Area is expected as a result of the GEF incremental contribution.

This improved engagement of local communities in BD conservation is expected to generate direct socio-economic benefits for a large proportion of rural communities in the area (to be quantified in more detail during the PPG), as well as in urban areas such as the Muyu town and other smaller settlements where e.g. nature-based tourism is already a significant element of the local economy. In some area of the GSA where mountain residents play an important role in preserving critical ecosystem services for the entire GSA, this may perhaps open the way for the development of new PES schemes that would benefit both downstream and upstream communities and local small-scale industry and agriculture.

The performance of project-related studies, and the subsequent development and implementation of a

wider conservation plan and PA network for the GSA, is also expected to directly involve a larger number of local residents. This will directly and indirectly generate jobs -at various professional and support level- in relation to the new expanded system of PAs.

The strategy of fostering an improved relationship between local communities, governments, and PA managers will not only generate jobs and other socio-economic benefits directly and indirectly, but will also ultimately contribute to achieving an improved community support for conservation and a better framework for the long-term conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Greater Shennongjia Area.

B.4. Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risks	Level	Mitigation strategy
<p>Community Cooperation and Participation A primary risk is that community participation in the project is ineffective/fails due to inadequate approaches being adopted.</p> <p>A second risk related to community participation is the language barriers and cultural understanding, which threaten the ability of the project to assess conditions and generate new knowledge. An important dimension to this is the need to also use local indigenous languages that frame traditional knowledge and understanding of the local livelihoods systems as well as cultural and socio-economic conditions.</p>	Medium	<p>Participatory approaches and clearly defined mechanisms for community participation will be adopted at the start of the project's preparatory phase and employed throughout the project to ensure that all elements are fully demand-driven and well-received. All existing ethical guidelines for linking into indigenous and rural societies will be followed by the project (including the upcoming UNEP guidelines on this topic).</p> <p>The project's initial assessments (component 1) will focus on key target areas where local people will be engaged and trained to participate in the surveys.</p> <p>The project will earmark adequate resources for engagement and training of local people (component 2) as well as for awareness raising, communication and interpretation, and translations. Local community groups will be involved since the first stage of project preparatory work in conjunction with local governments and key project partners.</p>
<p>Climate change impacts Rural communities as well as PA managers are already generally aware of changing climate conditions in the mountain habitats of Shennongjia. However, current rapid climate change in the project area may exacerbate current land use and PA management problems, and jeopardize the project results.</p>	Medium	<p>This project is designed to enhance the sustainability and resilience of PA management and BD conservation efforts, and to generate long-term benefits for rural communities living within and around the protected areas. The initial studies and assessment (component 1) will include the impacts of land-use and climate change. The development of scenarios for medium- to long-range forecasts will also help identify and mitigate risks, and will support the improved the design and expansion of the PA network. In addition, the training of community members in various aspects of ecological monitoring and PA management will generate local benefits and will help detect local-level climate risks and define adaptive responses in a consultative fashion.</p>
<p>Inability of the project and communities to engage with political and private sector interests Protected areas in the Greater Shennongjia Area are located in zones with other potential economic interests, in particular, hydropower generation,</p>	Medium	<p>The project is designed to overcome some of the barriers within the private sectors to engage effectively with local communities, by raising awareness levels in the private sectors (component 3) and providing a platform for open dialogue and exchange of information. Similarly, the project has been designed to enhance the capacity of</p>

<p>mining, intensive agriculture, and timber production. There is a risk that the project fails to engage effectively with these industries to improve land-use planning that directly affects the long-term conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>		<p>local communities in engaging in dialogue with the private sectors, as well as with local, regional, and national governments (components 2 and 3). In this respect, the full engagement of Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry as the main executing agency will ensure proper coordination and contact between local authorities and all key stakeholders in the public and private sectors including CSOs.</p>
<p>Competence on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services issues While there are many scholars and scientific institutions in China that are involved in ecosystem management, PA management, and environmental issues, there are very few of them with experience in the latest concepts of participatory BD conservation, PA management, and ecosystem services valuation and accounting. Even fewer have a cultural competence in the assessment and planning for the mitigation of the future impacts of climate change. At the local level, professional capacity in the above field is yet limited. This might cause insufficient capacity to address and even understanding core issues of BD conservation, PA management, and ecosystem services accounting, thus hampering the achievement of project objectives.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>This aspect will be addressed through a major effort to develop national and especially local capacity in all technical fields addressed by the project. This will be achieved through component 1 (through on-the-job training and participation of young local professional along with leading experts, in the baseline ecological surveys and PA planning process) as well as through component 2 (through tailored formal and informal capacity development programmes designed to build the required professional skills –especially among young generations– so as to support long-term BD conservation efforts and PA planning and participatory management).</p> <p>The project, through UNEP and its partners, will also support the establishment and operation of an international advisory board on key issues to be addressed by the project including, but not necessarily limited to: BD conservation, participatory PA management, ecosystem services, climate change, integrated land-use planning, and ecosystem management, etc. This board will consist of experts from different regions, and will rely on collaboration with a wider range of national and international institutions. This board will offer insights and expert advice on project technical and planning issues as well as on community involvement in the project, and will participate in all phases of project development and implementation, and knowledge development.</p>
<p>Sustainable results It may be a challenge to secure full government uptake of the proposed innovative approach and that resources dedicated into the project contribute to not only short-term effects, but also to long-term effects towards the project goals. This way, the project's results could extend beyond the formal project period.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The challenge of achieving long-term sustainability will be at the forefront of project concerns and will be addressed at the local and national levels from the project outset and throughout the project life-span.</p> <p>The project will seek to involve national and local youth and young professionals in all phases of project planning and implementation. The project should thus contribute to building professional capacity, understanding and generating experience and knowledge on BD and PA management issues, especially targeting the local youth and young professionals in all relevant government agencies and CSOs (components 1 and 2)</p> <p>The project will also review, analyse, and disseminate its findings to other parts of the country and to other sectors, through concerted outreach efforts towards partners, media, and the web (component 3).</p>

		The project will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to secure local ownership and participation, from local rural communities, and local/national governmental authorities and private sectors.
--	--	---

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Category	Stakeholders	Roles and Contributions
National government and affiliated organizations	<p>In this category, the stakeholders that will be most directly involved in the project are expected to include: the Administrative Bureau of Shennongjia National Nature Reserve; the Administrative Bureau of Shennongjia Wetland Nature Reserve; the People's Government of Shennongjia Forestry District and its related departments, towns, and villages; the People's Governments of other involved counties in the Greater Shennongjia Area, and their related departments, towns, and villages.</p> <p>At a more indirect provincial level: the People's Government of Hubei Province and its Departments of Finance, Forestry, Environmental Protection, Agriculture, Tourism, and Science & Technology, and the Development & Reform Commission of Hubei Province; the People's Government of Chongqing Municipality and its related departments.</p> <p>At National Academic level: Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Wuhan University; Central China Normal University; China Three Gorges University; Jishou University (and their respective international academic partners)</p>	<p>The local government and a wide range of government-affiliated institutions will play a major role in the project and contribute a significant baseline investment on which the GEF contribution will build upon. These will include: management of protected areas including staff, infrastructure, equipment and operations; national, regional, and local levels of land-use and development investments (outlined in section B.1) and planning processes, and underlying government staff and infrastructure, including relevant legal expertise; national and local level academic research based on extensive data collection and analysis (both in terms of space and time series) on climatic and environmental parameters, wildlife management and natural resources management; forestry, etc.</p>
Local and indigenous community groups, including women groups	<p>All relevant local community groups (including e.g. the Tujia), including women groups in the Greater Shennongjia Area, will be identified and consulted during the PPG phase.</p>	<p>Participation in project consultation mechanisms and in project activities including policy dialogues and working groups at all stages including project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.</p>
Private sectors	<p>The possible involvement of private sectors will be explored during the PPG phase, focusing mainly on the engagement of small scale, community-based enterprises (SMEs) active within the areas surrounding the project area, as well as private investment groups at the local level, that may be interested in supporting the objectives of this project.</p>	<p>Participation in project consultation mechanisms and in project activities including policy dialogues and working groups at all stages including project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.</p>
International multi-lateral environmental agreements	<p>CBD Secretariat, CMS Secretariat, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, UNESCO WHC, etc.</p>	<p>Provide linkages with relevant international processes; provide guidance and technical expertise to counterpart institutions in China, if and as required; support compliance by China with relevant conventions; assist in internationally showcasing the experience and achievements of the China</p>
UN and	<p>Several UN partners will be involved to a variable</p>	<p>UNEP and its specialized partner</p>

international organizations	degree to support the project's design and implementation. These include: several UNEP branches, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific and its UNEP China Office in Beijing, the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP - China-UNEP), UNESCO, and others	agencies will (in addition to the GEF Implementing Agency functions played by the UNEP GEF team) provide a wide range of technical in-kind contributions to the design and implementation of the project, including: linkages with parallel UNEP programmes of national and global nature and focusing on related issues: protected areas, conservation planning, environmental policy and climate change-related expertise; biodiversity databases, data analysis, decision-support and GIS systems, conflict resolution, and natural resources management, etc. The contributions of each division and UNEP partner organizations will be defined in detail during the PPG phase.
-----------------------------	---	---

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

The project will apply an innovative integrated approach and will be building on information gathered and experience made in relevant initiatives focusing on BD conservation, ecosystem services related issues in China and in the region. Where relevant and possible, formal links will be established with some of these initiatives, through the participation in respective consultative bodies and meetings/activities, and by inviting their representatives to join the project technical advisory board. These relevant initiatives are described in detail in section B.1 (list to be expended during project preparation).

There are also several completed, ongoing, and planned GEF-funded projects focusing on biodiversity conservation in other parts of China, whose experience and lessons learned may have a bearing for the successful implementation of this project in Shennongjia. The experience from these other initiatives will be reviewed during the project preparation phase, and coordination and/or exchange mechanisms will be established as relevant with selected projects:

GEF ID	GEF Focal Area	Project type	Project Title	Status (as of GEF PMIS 11/1/2012)
2435	Biodiversity	FP	CBPF Priority Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development to Implement the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action	ongoing
2634	Biodiversity	FP	Guangxi Integrated Forestry Development and Biodiversity Conservation	ongoing
3465	Biodiversity	FP	CBPF: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Headwaters of the Huaihe River Basin	ongoing

3706	Biodiversity	MSP	CBPF: Emergency Biodiversity Conservation Measures for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Wenchuan Earthquake Hit Regions in Sichuan Province	Project Completion
3864	Biodiversity	FP	CBPF: Strengthening Globally Important Biodiversity Conservation Through Protected Area Strengthening in Gansu Province	ongoing

Specific mechanisms will be put in place to ensure complementarity and coordinate with the recently council-approved UNDP-GEF project PIF on wetlands conservation in the Hubei province (GEF ID 4823). These will include a joint project governance mechanism, such as i.e. a single Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the two projects. Project activities especially those related to strengthening Provincial capacities for PA management of the two projects will be planned and implemented jointly, to avoid duplication and enhance synergy. Further, a joint Task Force will be set-up to lead project implementation at the Provincial level for the two projects. The task Force will be chaired by a National Project Director (common for both projects). These and further design complementariness in the areas of project communications, capacity development and knowledge management will be identified and confirmed during the PPG phase.”

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

UNEP is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. The 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum adopted Decision 25/10 “accords UNEP the mandate to continue to facilitate discussions on strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services”. UNEP possesses a broad environmental perspective expertise in linking climate change to other environment and development issues, and a mandate that allows it both to work on normative frameworks and to undertake activities on the ground in developing countries, building from a science-based approach strongly supported by a network of world-class scientific institutions and UNEP collaborating centers. UNEP provides the following strengths and comparative advantages that will add value and will support the innovative aspects of the project: (a) strong and longstanding linkages to environment ministries, regional environmental bodies and with the business and private sector on environmental issues; (b) technical expertise on the utilization of interdisciplinary approaches to address environmental issues, including the inter-linkages between environmental change, development, and human well-being; (c) access to and ability to generate substantive expertise and knowledge on ways of addressing environmental issues and, notably, the inter-linkages between them, including through its GEF portfolio; (d) extensive experience as a global environmental leader in: working with scientific and technical communities and at the science-policy interface, including providing integrated environmental assessments for priority setting and decision-making; (e) convening power for addressing the full range of environmental issues and extensive experience in establishing networks with governments, United Nations entities, international institutions, the broad scientific community, civil society and the private sector. UNEP has also recently established (in Beijing) the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP) in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences of China and it is expected that his international initiative will contribute to mobilizing high-profile national and international expertise to support this project as well as to showcase the achievements of this project at the international level.

C.1. Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

Several branches of UNEP and UNEP partner institutions are working or have worked in China and will contribute to the design and implementation of this project. These include: the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP - Bangkok), and the UNEP China Office (Beijing) through the ongoing programme of collaboration with China; the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), through several of its units/branches including the UNEP/DEPI Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (TEU - Nairobi) and its forest team, the GEF BD/LD Unit (Nairobi), the Ecosystem Services Economics Unit (ESE - Nairobi); UNEP DCPI and UNEP DRC Major Stakeholders Branch. Other external UNEP partners may include the UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre), GRID Arendal and the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP) based in Beijing. The cumulative direct in-kind co-financing that UNEP is bringing to the project will

therefore amount to a minimum of approximately 100,000 USD over the project period (to be further assessed during PPG)

C.2. How does the project fit into the GEF agency’s program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The project is fully aligned with UNEP’s “Ecosystem Management” Sub-programme, as well as indirectly supports the elements of the Climate Change and Environmental Governance thematic areas. The project therefore fits squarely within the current UNEP Medium Term Strategy and approved Programme of Work. The Expected Accomplishments of UNEP’s Sub-programme on Ecosystem Management include: (a) the capacity of countries and regions increasingly to integrate an ecosystem management approach into development and planning processes is enhanced; (b) countries and regions have capacity to utilize ecosystem management tools; (c) the capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services is strengthened.

The objective of the sub-programme is to ensure that UNEP’s member countries utilize the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being. This sub-programme stems from UNEP’s mandate to improve the scientific understanding of ecosystem functioning as reflected in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and promotes an approach that addresses a whole ecological unit as a single system. The project clearly complements the role and mandate set forth in UNEP’s Programme of Work (PoW). The relevant elements of the UNEP PoW that are supported by the project are summarized below in Table 1.

Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)		UNEP Thematic Priority Areas					
		Climate change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional, and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues	X		X			
	Science to Policy linkages	X		X	X		
	Environmental monitoring and assessment	X		X	X		
	Norms, standards, and guidelines			X			
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies						
2. Cooperation, coordination and partnerships (regional or international)	Trans-boundary cooperation						
	Regional, or South-South cooperation						
	Global transformative actions						
3. Technical assistance and capacity building at country level (contribution to Bali Strategic Plan)	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation			X			
	Capacity building			X			
	Lifting barriers to market transformation						
4. Knowledge management, awareness raising and advocacy		X		X			

UNEP will support project implementation and execution through (a) the development and implementation of


a project supervision and M&E plan that will include periodical site visits and participation to Steering Committee Meetings and stakeholder consultations at the project site, and (b) engagement of the UNEP Beijing office to support activities in China. The UNEP team based in Beijing at the newly established International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP) will also be involved in supporting this project through the Academy of Sciences of China. UNEP DEPI, through its staff based in Bangkok and Nairobi Headquarters, and in close collaboration with UNEP Regional Office in Bangkok and with UNEP's China office in Beijing, will provide oversight to the implementation of the project which will be jointly executed by Hubei Provincial Department of Forestry, with execution support to be provided by IUCN and other national and international partners. A project Steering Committee will be established to provide strategic guidance, and a technical advisory committee will provide technical guidance. Through the UNEP Division of Regional Cooperation, and the one-UN process, the project is also to be anchored in the China UNDAF process, as soon as the PIF is endorsed by the GEF.

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 [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Ms. Jiandi YE	GEF OFP	MINISTRY OF FINANCE, IFI DIVISION III INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT	03/06/2012

- 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 project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		01/16/2013	Edoardo Zandri, Task Manager, BD, UNEP Nairobi	+254 20 762 4380	edoardo.zandri@unep.org