



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	CBPF-MSL: Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hubei Province		
Country(ies):	People's Republic of China	GEF Project ID:	4870
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4823
Other Executing Partner(s):	Forestry Department of Hubei Province	Submission Date:	April 5, 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (months):	60
Name of parent program: For SFM/REDD+ n/a	China Biodiversity Partnership Framework and Action Plan (CBPF) and Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening Programme	Agency Fee (\$):	238,929

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative grant amount (\$)	Indicative co-financing (\$)
BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1. New protected areas (1) covering 50,000 ha of unprotected ecosystems and improved management of existing (200,000 ha) PAs	GEFTF	2,029,271	16,150,314
	Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.	Output 2. Sustainable financing plans (1)	GEFTF	500,000	1,149,900
Sub-total				2,529,271	17,300,214
Project management cost			GEFTF	125,500	858,420
Total project cost				2,654,771	18,158,634

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK:

Project Objective: <i>To strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system of Hubei province in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services</i>						
Project Component	Grant type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative co-financing (\$)
Enhancing Provincial capacities for WPA system management	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened provincial development and sector planning frameworks provides safeguards from sector practices in and near wetland PAs resulting in reduction of pressures on wetland biodiversity from tourism, aquaculture and agriculture sectors (e.g. balancing wetland conservation with fishery and agriculture production; reducing impacts from tourism infrastructure and activities) Wetland conservation stressed as a mainstream task in the Provincial five year plan and integrated into core Provincial Forestry Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of “value of wetland ecosystem services” including role played in water management at the Province level proven through economic valuation of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem leading to revised Provincial development and sectoral planning guidelines that integrates implications of wetlands biodiversity and ecosystem services for economic sectors and social welfare Provincial PA system financing strengthened through development of mechanisms for incorporating new funding sources from eco-compensation initiatives and new financing investments from the public and private sector especially eco-tourism companies Sector specific standards and safeguards developed and enforced to protect wetland PAs from biodiversity threatening sector practices (e.g. overuse of fertilizer and pesticides in agriculture, drainage of wetlands, inappropriate mining, clear felling in forestry etc.) including setting up of regulatory standards for tourism development and operation and 	GEFTF	505,800	3,460,000

		leads to increased availability of funds from the national and provincial level for wetlands management – specifically at least 20 % increase in operational funds for Honghu lake NR (from the current baseline of US\$ 1.5 million)	<p>issuance of official guidelines for fisheries and aquaculture and establishment of an appropriate coordination mechanism to monitor and enforce implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linked to above, impact on wetland made mandatory and used strategically during EIA and CBA studies for decision-making on development projects (e.g. dam and major contaminating enterprise construction, tourism and transportation infrastructure, mining) which may have significant impacts on wetlands ▪ Systems for sharing knowledge and good practices on wetland management within the Provinces established and lessons and knowledge contributed to the MSL programme at the national level 			
Strengthening basin-level coordination for sustainability of the WPA system	TA	Systems in place for co-ordination and sound management of WPA at basin level that: a) establishes a collaborative mechanism of water and wetlands resources planning and management; b) specifies systems for improving water distribution for economic and ecological uses within the basin; c) demonstrates integrated models for pollution control, land and other economic sector management. This results in: i) reduction and mitigation of common threats to the wetlands PA covering a basin area of around 332,000 ha increasing sustainability of wetland PAs; ii) enables maintenance of base flow and water discharge potentials (baseline to be established during PPG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate basin level consultative coordinating mechanism established (with detailed TORs and operating guidelines) to facilitate decision making on issues that affect WPA such as wise use of water, management of land and other natural resources and dam operation to reduce impacts on wetland PA at the basin level. This basin coordination mechanism will transcend County boundaries and will also entail inter-county coordination as required ▪ Basin wetlands management plan formulated and implemented that integrate wetland conservation, water supply, flood management and pollution mitigation. This plan will: i) set standards to be achieved such as water quantity and quality, healthy wetland ecosystems; ii) establish sustainable water allocation for different users; iii) regulate and monitor the impacts from various uses including water level and discharge potential monitoring; iv) elaborate and test appropriate and acceptable cost-sharing mechanisms that underwrite costs of river basin management (e.g. transfer of resources from downstream beneficiaries to the protection and management of upper catchments – PES) ▪ Systems for sharing knowledge and good practices on wetland management within the Honghu lake basin established and joint lessons and knowledge contributed to the MSL programme at the national level (cross-linked with the component 1 and 3) 	GEF TF	505,800	3,460,000
Reducing on-site threats to biodiversity at the Honghu Lake NR	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved management effectiveness (measured by METT) delivers enhanced protection to 9 WPAs covering around 200,000 ha by strengthening operational capacities of Honghu NR and adjacent 8 WPAs ▪ Effective implementation and monitoring of PA site management plans and enforcement of laws results in reduction of threats (e.g. infrastructure developments; un-sustainable use such as over-fishing and collection of aquatic biomass) and ensuing improvement of biodiversity status of the wetland NR – as evidenced by i) the population of key species (e.g. Anatidae water birds) remaining stable or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised Honghu Lake Nature Reserve management plan implemented that provide for: (i) zonation of different uses and management types – as per the national guidelines for WPA developed as part of the national project; (ii) emplace a coordination mechanism for regulation and management of land and natural resources in the adjacent areas in a way they are rationalized and in line with reducing impacts on the lake; (iii) effective governance and law enforcement e.g. to control poaching, wood harvesting in the adjacent areas and other lake resource use (fishing, harvesting of lake / river biomass) ▪ Implementation of community co-management of wetland nature reserves comprising i) increased say in the sustainable use and management plans of the NR; ii) strengthened role in collective social patrolling, monitoring and enforcement; iii) increased benefits from wetland resources ▪ Training programmes designed and incorporated into the curriculum of formal training for Nature Reserve and Provincial Forestry staff on key wetland PA management functions such as: (i) on ecosystem- 	GEF TF	1,517,671	10,380,214

		increase; ii) improvement in biodiversity health index ¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened institutional and individual staff capacity of Honghu Lake Nature Reserve Authority to manage wetland PA – as indicated by increase in the capacity scorecard (baselines to be established during the PPG) 	based planning and management including identifying, monitoring, mitigating and reporting on the impact of anthropogenic and natural threats; (ii) participatory management, business planning and facilitating of income generating activities for local communities; (iii) law enforcement and conflict resolution; (iv) designing and implementing outreach and awareness activities including wetland PA role and functions related communication, awareness and education programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland PAs equipped with monitoring facilities (data collection and recording devices) and trained in their use 			
Sub-total					2,529,271	17,300,214
Project management cost				GEF/TF	125,500	858,420
Total project costs					2,654,771	18,158,634

X. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and BY NAME if available (\$)

Sources of Co-financing for baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Local Government	Hubei Provincial Government	Grant	10,238,000
Local Government	Hubei Provincial Government	In-kind	4,661,060
Local Government	Jingzhou Municipal Government	Grant	630,000
Local Government	Jingzhou Municipal Government	In-kind	1,929,574
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	700,000
Total Co-financing			18,158,634

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) SHARE AND COUNTRY(IES):

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name	Project Preparation	Grant Amount	Agency Fee	Total
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	China	97,523	2,654,771	247,706	3,000,000
Total Grant Resources				97,523	2,654,771	247,706	3,000,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

The project is aligned with the GEF BD-1 objective: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area (PA) Systems. More specifically, the project contributes to Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new PAs and Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for PA systems to meet total expenditures required for management. The project will contribute to the objective and outcomes by putting in place a model for basin level coordination mechanism for reducing and mitigating common threats, creating a strong provincial system that integrates the management of wetland PAs into the greater PA estate and increasing the management effectiveness of the one priority wetland PA site (Honghu Lake NR) and adjacent PAs in the Province. The project will develop and implement scientifically sound Lake Nature Reserve Management plans for Honghu Lake NR that will among others focus on rationalised allocation of lake areas for conservation, sustainable use and research. In taking an ecosystem approach the project will emplace systems for monitoring and managing impacts on the water level and discharge potential of the lakes from various threats. Support to the PA operations will also improve the governance of the PA and management of the surrounding landscape including also facilitating and promoting participation by local communities in PA management. To deliver all these, the project will help upgrade the skills of the PA staff and ensure that training programmes designed are sustained beyond the project period by integrating them into regular formal training programmes of the Provincial Forestry Administration. The improvement of PA management achieved will deliver increased protection to at least 200,000 ha of important wetland PA sites in the Provinces while reduced threats will safeguard key species such as the Oriental White Stork, the Chinese Merganser, and the Swan goose.

The project will seek to mainstream wetlands issues into Provincial level development planning. It will support the generation of economic valuation study results that demonstrate the importance of wetlands to the Provincial decision-makers. It will put in place coordination apparatus at the Provincial levels to facilitate decision-making on wetland resource management. Integration

¹ This is a programme wide indicator. For more details please see the PFD

of wetlands issues into Provincial level decision making process and structures will ensure increased and sustainable sources of funding for wetland PA management. As part of the intra-basin management, water management including regulating flows, pollution control to achieve the necessary hydrological conditions for maintenance and improvement of biodiversity conservation, the project will also institute systems both at the province and PA sites systems for monitoring and improving efficiency of water distribution, use and allocation including assigning roles to units that have the required expertise. In addition, the project seeks to reduce the impacts from the various production sector activities on the lake and freshwater biodiversity by developing sector specific standards and safeguards and also in parallel engineering a shift towards sustainable use of lake and fresh water biodiversity resources by local communities. In addition, the Project directly contributes to the goals of Programme 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 2.2: To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders; 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 3.4: To ensure financial sustainability of PAs and national and regional systems of PAs; Goal 4.1: To develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and regional PA systems; and Goal 4.2: To evaluate and improve the effectiveness of PA management.

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS:

The proposed Project is well aligned with national and provincial policies and programmes. The 12th National Five-year Plan (2011-2015) urges environmental protection and sustainable growth, enhancing “ecological conservation and restoration”. The plan urges the reinforcement of biodiversity conservation, strengthening monitoring in Nature Reserves (NR) and improving their management and protection. The project will support the objectives of the State Forestry Administration (SFA) to achieve its target of adequately protecting 55% of the natural wetlands in China by the end of 2015, mitigating further loss of natural wetland areas and degradation of their functions. Meanwhile, the newly approved National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2011-2030) also recognizes the importance of addressing threats and conserving wetlands biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will address key priorities under the NBSAP, through implementing its priority strategy of strengthening the effectiveness of the PA system in China and contributing directly to the achievement of the following action programmes under Plan Action lines 12,13 and 14 respectively, including: coordinating action to implement and improve the national nature reserve plan; enhancement of biodiversity conservation in priority areas of protection; and standardisation of nature reserves to carry out actions to improve the quality of nature reserve management. Specifically, the NBSAP highlights WPA expansion, strengthening and management as a priority. Further, it also identified the Middle and Lower Reaches of Yangtze River Basin (including Honghu) was identified as one of the key area for strengthening WPA management and networking. The Hubei Province attaches considerable importance to the conservation and management of the Honghu Lake which is the target site of the project. The project is also in line with the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action (CBPF), which is China’s primary investment strategy for biodiversity conservation through the GEF and other partners. This project has been designed to address urgent, priority and catalytic issues identified under the CBPF, in particular under Theme 3: Investing and Managing Effectively in Reducing Biodiversity loss in PAs. It will contribute directly and substantially to Results 4, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the agreed CBPF Framework which are respectively: financial flows to biodiversity conservation increase over current baseline; effective governance and legal framework for the national protected area system; harmonised and effective national system for selecting, designing, managing and monitoring protected areas; NRs and PNRs are effectively managed; National NRs and PNRs have stable and sufficient finance. The project is part of the GEF/UNDP Programme *Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation*, which is a sub-programme of the CBPF. The project is one of the six provincial level initiatives under the umbrella framework programme, and will contribute to the national level programme outcomes under the three programmatic components.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

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

Context and Global Significance

Hubei Province is located at the mid-stream point of the Yangtze River. The Province stretches an area of 185,900 square kilometres and has a total population of more than 60 million people. The majority ethnic group is the Han and the main language spoken is Mandarin Chinese. The Yangtze River enters Hubei via the Three Gorges from the west. The fertile Jiangnan Plain is one of the major agriculture and aquaculture bases in China. The area of cultivated land is approximately 3.35 million hectares with rice paddy, wheat, cotton, silk and tea as the main crops. Fishing is a major occupation in the area. The total forest coverage was 7,138,560 hectares in 2010. Hubei has rich mineral resources. At least 138 types of minerals have been found accounting for around 81 percent of all discovered minerals nationwide. Thousands of lakes dot the landscape of Hubei's Jiangnan Plain, giving Hubei the name of "Province of Lakes". The largest of these lakes is the Lake Honghu. There are 570 species of terrestrial vertebrates in Hubei. Many have been listed as rare animals under state protection such as golden-haired monkey, serow, and leopard. There are also 175 kinds of fish with rare species under key state protection such as Chinese sturgeon, Chinese paddlefish, mullet and giant salamander. Hubei boasts large numbers of broad-leaved deciduous species

including the endangered Dawn redwood. There are more than 2,000 species of wild plants, including some 1,300 kinds of medicinal plants and over 30 species.

The project proposes to improve the on-site management effectiveness of the priority WPA namely the Honghu Lake Nature Reserve. The Honghu Lake NR is located in mid-south Hubei (see map in annex 1) and has an area of 41,412 ha. It is the seventh largest lake in China. It has cold and dry winters hot and rainy in summers with average temperature of 15.9 to 16.6 degrees Centigrade. The annual average rainfall is between 1000 mm and 1300 mm but varies greatly from year to year, often resulting in drought or flood. The Honghu Lake Nature Reserve was established in 1996 and upgraded to provincial level² in 2000. It is part of the WWF Global top 200 ecological sites and also a Ramsar site since 2008. There are 3 endangered (Oriental stork, Swan Goose and Chinese Merganser) and 4 vulnerable (Baer's Pochard, Baikal Teal, Great Bustard and Lesser White-fronted Goose) species of IUCN's Red List in the area. Likewise, there are 19 species of birds under the first and second class of national protection that includes 2 species of fishes, 1 species of amphibian and 2 species of mammals under national key protection. 38 species of birds are also under provincial protection. There are 231 species of vertebrates, 379 species of zooplanktons, 92 species of bottom-living animals, 472 species of vascular plants and 280 species of phytoplanktons. In addition the Honghu Wetland is located in the "East Asian - Australasian" migratory route, an eastern route of global bird migration. It is reported that more than 100,000 waterfowls (e.g. Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, Greylag Goose etc.) migrate to Honghu in winter annually. Besides, it is also a major production site of Chinese freshwater fishery that has huge economic significance especially for communities dependent on it.

Threats to the wetland ecosystem: Despite the local, national and global importance of these wetlands and the significant achievements in wetlands conservation in the Province, unfortunately, the wetland system in the Hubei Province is facing a number of threats as described in the following section. The *conversion and degradation of wetlands habitats* is a serious threat in many wetland areas. With a long history of wetland reclamation, large areas of the lake are lost to create farmland, fishponds and residential areas. This means that there is less foraging areas for water birds including important birds such as the Hooded Cranes. Human pressures in general on the wetlands and lake persist mainly because of considerable size of settlements around lakes. For instance Honghu wetland has 13 townships around the lake with more than 15000 people directly dependent on the lake. Also, harmful practices such as the use of electric fishing, poisoning or hunting of migratory birds and over-fishing are common problems across many lakes and wetland sites. In addition, anthropic activities such as seine fishing could have an adverse impact on wintering water birds as water birds are very sensitive to human disturbance in the early wintering period.

Changes in seasonal river flow and splitting-up of lakes with the river is another significant set of threats. The construction and operation of big water infrastructures has changed the seasonal flow of water and could affect the wetlands downstream. In Honghu, cutting off the lake from the River has reduced natural runoff from the river which disrupts both the water level and self-purification capacity of lake water, and importantly impacting the migration routes for fresh water fish. In addition this is also affecting the overall ecosystem function of the lakes. The Honghu Lake which is an important flood storage area has now considerably reduced its flood storage capacity (around two-thirds of their former capacity). This gained prominence during the floods and droughts of recent years underscoring the importance of re-connecting the lakes to the river.

Pollution, invasive species and climate change: The wetlands in the Province face unprecedented pollution as a result of rapid, large-scale industrial and domestic development, and agricultural runoff. Large amounts of pesticides from rice and cotton fields that seep into the adjacent lakes and the river are a major source of pollution. Another major cause of pollution is the sharp increase in aquaculture areas. This high level of pollution in the lakes is leading to serious problems such as Lake Eutrophication and significant deterioration of the water quality in the lakes. At Honghu Lake, the water quality has been downgraded now to Grade IV³ from Grade II in the 1980s. Wetlands are increasingly affected by invasive species with agriculture and aquaculture practices providing the most common pathways coupled with climatic factors including climate change. Nationally, official statistics⁴ indicate that 10 animals and 11 plants have been detected as invasive species in the wetlands. Species such as water hyacinth and water peanut occur in most lakes including in Honghu calling for appropriate invasive species management. Climate change is another major threat. It is expected to not only cause major redistribution of ecological zones resulting in species distributions but will also compound the effects of the threats through increased frequency of extreme weather events. Honghu lake area experienced floods in 1998, drought in 2000, snow disaster in 2008 and again drought in 2011.

Weaknesses with existing WPA: In tandem with the significance of wetlands, many important wetlands in the country including 9 in the Hubei Province have the status of being under protection as nature reserves (see table 1). The management effectiveness of these protected areas however remains weak on account of various factors. Threats to PAs stem from the issues such as the PA management institution not having adequate authority over developments outside the PAs – activities happening in adjacent areas such as infrastructure development (e.g. tourism related infrastructure) have tremendous impact on the integrity and effectiveness of the PAs. There is also the need to establish new nature reserves to enhance representatives and also to halt

² It also applied for up-gradation to National NR in 2007 but was not approved at that time.

³ A very low grade of water quality indicating it is not suitable for human consumption or recreation. Grade I-II are considered drinkable.

⁴ Li, Z. and Xie, Y. 2002 in Shuqing An et. al., China's Natural Wetlands: Past problems, Current Status and Future Challenges

degradation of important wetlands that are currently not protected. Many wetland nature reserves at present may include either only a portion of the lake area or where the whole lake area may be encompassed, it may not be sufficient to adequately contain the threats.

Table 1: List of Priority Wetland Protected Areas in Hubei Province

	<i>Name of Nature Reserve</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>NR Area (ha)</i>	<i>Key Habitat / Species Protected</i>	<i>Number of Staff</i>	<i>Annual Operational Cost (thousand US\$)</i>
1	Tian'ezhou Dolphin NNR	Shishou City	2,000	White-flag dolphin, finless porpoise and their habitat	18	278
2	Tian'ezhou David's Deer NNR	Shishou City	1,567	David's deer and its habitat	16	242
3	Xinluo Dolphin NNR	Honghu City, Chibi City and Jiayu County	13,500	White-flag dolphin, finless porpoise and their habitat	30	425
4	Longgan Lake Hooded Crane NNR	Huangmei County	35,950	Hooded Crane / <i>Grus monacha</i> and its wintering sites	15	226
5	Honghu Lake PNR	Jianli County, Honghu City	41,412	Aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora	101	1,500
6	Liangzi Lake PNR	Ezhou City	37,946	Wetland ecosystem	62	930
7	Danjiangkou Wetland PNR	Danjiangkou, Shiyan City, Henan Province	64,027	Secondary inland estuarine wetland	20	305
8	Wanghu Lake PNR	Yangxin County	20,495	Endangered fauna and flora	16	240
9	Chenhu Lake PNR	Wuhan City	3,400	Endangered water birds and fauna	15	229

Baseline projects: The baseline project is estimated to cost US\$ 144.2 million and consists of three parts as described below:

(a) *Investments in conservation and management of biodiversity outside the protected areas in particular forest management:* This consists of forest management activities such as scientific management of forests, protection of natural forests, forest rehabilitation, integrated watershed management and agroforestry programmes especially shelterbelt plantations. The Hubei Provincial Forestry Department that is responsible for these activities estimates expenditures in the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) of 64 billion RMB *yuan* (US\$10.3 billion) or around US\$ 2.1 billion annually, a large part of which is targeted towards ecological conservation including wetlands restoration. The reforestation and ecological restoration programmes are expected to increase forest coverage by 1.35 million ha. A very conservative estimate of 5 percent of the total investment is calculated to directly relate to wetland protected areas amounting to around US\$ 105 million over the next five years. Of this around 65 percent can be categorized as investments targeted towards PA level while 30 percent are investments at the Province level. A very small proportion (around 5 percent) currently goes towards basin level activities such as funding integrated watershed management.

(b) *Operational support for protected areas:* The Provincial government provides an outlay of around USD 20 million per annum (US\$ 1.5 million to cover recurrent and operational costs of Honghu Lake NR alone) to cover the costs of operational support to all the protected areas in the Province. These include support for recurrent cost such as personnel salaries and wages, operational expenses such as fuel and maintenance, monitoring and compliance costs and other general administration. It does not include capital investments (e.g. property, visitor and research facilities and purchase of major equipment) and costs for on-site specific programmes such as restoration of PA vegetation, wetland restoration, IAS management and removal, wetland conservation etc. These are covered under the next category of investments. The operational support costs for investments are solely those relating to PA level. Province level functions related to PAs are funded separately.

(c) *Specific lake conservation, restoration and related investments:* In addition the Province and local government provide support in the form of a number of specific projects such as lake conservation, vegetation restoration and development of alternative livelihoods for local communities. With regard to Honghu Lake NR, 5 such important projects can be described. First, Honghu Lake conservation and restoration demonstration project (US\$ 4.4m) covers investment in a number of categories including capital expenses such as construction of essential infrastructure, wetland restoration and also cover capacity building activities such as trainings. Second, the comprehensive ecological treatment of Honghu Lake project has a total fund of US\$ 10.3m and focuses on activities such as paying for the removal of fences, helping rehabilitation of displaced fishermen, planning and development of eco-fishery and general nature reserve management. Third, Honghu wetland conservation and compensation project (US\$ 0.9m) targets vegetation restoration including removal of invasive, improving patrolling and surveillance facility. Fourth, the Honghu wetland conservation and compensation project concentrates on increasing vegetation

coverage, restoring the plant area and bird habitat damaged by the drought in 2011 and has a budget of US\$ 0.5m. Finally a related investment Honghu wetland conservation and restoration project has a total budget of US\$ 4m and will expand the restored area of hygrophytes, improve ecological functions of the Lake and improve the habitat of birds and fish. These investments are specifically targeting PA site level activities.

Long-term vision and barriers to achieving it: The long-term solution that this project proposes is to build on the strong baseline to safeguard wetland biodiversity by emplacing an integrative mechanism for basin level management of water and wetland resources to mitigate common threats, mainstreaming of wetlands into Provincial structures and plans with secured financial support and implementing measures to reduce on-site threats. The focus on basin level coordination will help foster internal cooperation and partnerships at the basin level – in tandem with issues that emanate from areas beyond administrative boundaries – and in turn remove overlaps, improve cooperation and enable wise use of water and natural resources for ecological and economic reasons. To improve management effectiveness of WPAs, the existing Nature Reserves protection status will be upgraded from Provincial to National. Economic sectors such as tourism, aquaculture and agriculture will adopt practices that do not pose negative impacts on the biodiversity within the wetland PAs in line with standards developed for specific sectors. On-site threat reduction will be achieved by equipping the NR authority and staff with the approaches, tools and skills to effectively manage them. However, the following barriers prevent the long term solution from emerging.

Barrier 1: Limited integration of wetlands issues into Provincial structures and plans: The WPAs in Hubei face extreme pressures from a number of users such as poor local communities, economic sectors and stakeholders. This is compounded by the fact that the land tenurial arrangements of WPAs and in particular lacustrine ones (only Honghu Lake has land rights) are problematic in that they are governed and claimed by many sectors. Several government agencies such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water resources operate inside PAs alongside the local county governments. These agencies tend generally to operate independently from the PA management authorities. This has led to promotion of many activities such as the development of large tourism infrastructure and agricultural activities without much thought given to the impacts they have on the wetlands ecosystem and biodiversity. While the WPAs are accorded protection as nature reserves, overlapping jurisdictions and mandates over different elements of PAs thus exist and it is extremely difficult for PA authorities to exert strong control of the activities within wetland NRs and protection is dependent on developing good coordination and negotiation with different stakeholders. This speaks to the need for an effective inter-sectoral coordination mechanism and also a need to integrate biodiversity conservation principles into development plans and production sector practices to reduce pressures on biodiversity. An underlying issue behind this disconnection and the associated chronic shortage of budget for PA management is insufficient understanding of the economic value of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services. As with many threats, the main underlying cause is the distribution of the costs and benefits of exploitation of wetland areas and products. The benefits of conversion and over-harvesting (reclamation of wetlands; over-harvesting of fish etc.) are concentrated among a small number of individuals, whereas any costs (in terms of damage to wetland habitat integrity; depleting stocks) are distributed across the population, and are discounted into the future. How the loss of these will economically affect various economic sectors (e.g. tourism) and peoples' livelihoods need to be clearly shown and accepted by the government planners and decision makers, industries and local communities. Also, opportunities for developing the eco-compensation schemes in direct support of wetland PA management need to be explored. Given the significance for biodiversity conservation and provision of ecosystem services of provincial WPAs and the tremendous threats faced that will result in degradation of wetland PAs with compromised habitat integrity, these WPAs will benefit from up-gradation. This will lead to higher protection and securing higher allocation of PA budgets. In addition, WPA sustainability can be enhanced if they form part of the core business of Provincial Forestry Departments.

Barrier 2: Limited experience with intra-basin management of wetlands: It is clear that solutions for competing inter-sectoral demands for water and associated impacts need to be found at the basin level, a geographic area that transcends administrative boundaries – or in other words basin-wide threats have the origins and solutions that lie well beyond the reach of WPA managers. Further, the primary powers for decision making on wetlands management and water use allocation and management at present are vested at the Province level. This neither corresponds to river basin boundaries nor is able to effectively balance competing demands (and interests). Cooperation between public, private sector, stakeholder participation and involvement of grass roots organizations (such as creation of awareness, transparency of information, dialogue mechanisms, participation in decision-making, implementation of specific projects etc.) will be important to foster an effective collaboration mechanism at this level. There is however an acute lack of experience with such integrative and novel solutions. Further, in the mid-term there will also be need to adequately create the enabling environment such as incentive frameworks (e.g. financial or regulatory) and in this regard, development of and implementation of an agreed action plan that is responsive to the needs and issues of water use and natural resource management (as it impacts water and wetlands) in the basin operated by a newly created dedicated water allocation and sharing mechanism (prefecture/cross-county institution vested with regulatory powers and enabling participation of multiple actors will be important. Finally there is currently no system that enables systematic capturing of knowledge and good practices on wetland management both at the Province and inter-Province level.

Barrier 3: Limited tools and capacities for wetland PA site management: As described earlier in the threat section, there are 9 WPAs including the Honghu National Lake NR in Hubei. However management of all these PAs is suboptimal and there

is not a systematic approach in place to address multiple inter-related site level threats. There is currently limited models / plans of wetland PA management that provides for an effective coordination system and adequate implementation of conservation actions together with monitoring and enforcement to address site-level threats such as from poaching, over-fishing and illicit occupation and un-sustainable use of wetlands and wetland resources. Although staffing in actual numbers especially at Honghu is not low, technical competence and capacities such as to undertake effective systems planning or biodiversity monitoring particularly when it comes to wetland biodiversity is limited. In addition, PA management is the primary responsibility of field staff that the local governments (prefecture and county) allocate and thus are under local government control and supervision. They have almost no specific training in PA management nor wetland management, and no job standards are applied. Staff performance is also difficult to assess as PAs do not have management plans or business plans, and, thus, progress towards achieving results cannot be measured. This is a not an optimal situation. In addition to serving as front-line guardians against local threats, WPA site managers and staff also have important roles to play in *monitoring* biodiversity and overall environmental conditions at the sites, in *raising awareness and encouraging participation*, particularly among communities living in the vicinity of WPAs and in *managing visitation* to the sites. Furthermore, many wetland NRs have direct livelihood impact with local communities living within and around WPAs heavily dependent on resources inside many of the NRs. There are for instance more than 15,000 people living within the Honghu Lake NR area. The wetland PAs provide an important resource for millions of families in the form of fisheries, shellfish collection and as well as ecotourism related employment and business opportunities. However, daily intrusions into NRs by the local inhabitants are causing serious over-fishing, over-harvesting and resulting disturbance to ecosystems and biodiversity (especially water birds). Without the involvement of the local communities, effective NR management will be difficult. It is essential to develop co-management mechanisms and promote alternative livelihood schemes. Given the fast rise in the tourism industry (e.g. Honghu lake) there are plenty of opportunities to be tried. Negotiations with upstream farmers are also important to regulate the levels of chemical pollutants entering into the water system. However, the NR staff lack capacity to establish and manage co-management arrangements. Similarly, community institutional arrangements do not exist for such management in most areas and their capacities for effective management and legal enforcement are also very weak.

B.2. INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:

The project's seeks to put in place an appropriate mechanism and incentives framework at the basin level backed by adequately mainstreaming wetlands PA management into Provincial structures and plans to secure and conserve wetland biological diversity. It will also trigger up-gradation of 4 provincial WPAs to national level thereby according higher protection status and increased funding for these WPAs. The project will build capacities for WPA management to adequately address site-level threats including engaging local communities in co-management of PAs and developing alternative livelihoods. As such the project will secure through enhanced protection over 200,000 ha important wetland NRs in Hubei Province, containing globally significant species such as Chinese Merganser and Oriental Stork, habitats for a number of migratory water birds including (e.g. Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, Greylag Goose) by removing common threats at the basin level (332,000 ha).

The incremental approach of the proposed project is summarised as follows: *Without GEF investment:* Despite the impressive large scale investments, baseline activities for wetland management will be geared towards on-site ecological conservation and restoration of wetland areas and limited to few areas. Currently majority of the resources are expended on infrastructure and engineering solutions without much thought given to addressing threats in a systematic way. At the PA site level, threats from agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and other sectors will continue to increase with no mechanism for coordination between the different sectors that will promote development of respective sectors without much regard to the impacts of their activities on the fragile wetland ecosystem. There will be no attention paid towards basin level coordination – an aspect of wetland ecosystem management that is very important to recognize, monitor and mitigate common threats at such a geographic level. Further the Province will continue to fail to consider wetland issues in its development planning and policies. Consequently the wetland PA network in the Province will remain weak and lacking in its ability to safeguard globally and nationally significant biodiversity. In addition PA level staff capacities will remain weak and outdated posing a serious setback for increasing management effectiveness of the WPAs.

With GEF investments: The GEF investment will engineer a paradigm shift towards managing wetland PAs as part of a network of PAs and strengthening management effectiveness by removing threats at both the basin and individual PA levels. Further, the GEF funds will aim to enhance the capacities of the Province to mainstream wetlands into their development policies and plans. More specifically it will help to elaborate standards and safeguards that specific sectors can use to reduce their impacts on the wetlands ecosystem and biodiversity. It will also eliminate the current tendencies among the Provincial Forestry Department to consider wetland management as a separate lower priority activity of the Department by integrating wetland management into its structures and processes. The GEF funds will be catalytic in mobilizing resources and action by Provincial, Municipal and local actors to overcome existing barriers and introduce new strategies such as basin level coordination and management to safeguard wetland ecosystems and biodiversity. With GEF investments, a change will be made in how water and natural resources are managed and utilized at the basin level especially in response to the need to address problems that are best handled at the basin level (e.g. water allocation; monitoring and enforcing water quality standards and mobilizing finance to

implement joint actions). The aim is to engage and coordinate the different sectors at the larger basin landscape to promote management and use of water and other natural resources that balances ecological, economic and livelihood needs of various groups. At the PA level in addition to building skills of PA managers to anticipate, monitor and address site-level threats, it will also promote the participation of local communities in natural resource management by undertaking co-management of WPAs.

Three components are envisaged in this project under the **objective: *To strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system of Hubei province in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.*** The interventions of the project at the three levels (components) are expected to be complementary and integrative. Lessons learnt and information flow between the partners involved in the three levels will also be an important focus to ensure effective linkages.

Component 1: Enhanced Provincial capacities for WPA system management

This component will strengthen the capacities of the Hubei Province for PA system management. It supports the integration of wetland PAs, their objectives and functions into provincial development plans and government eco-compensation schemes.⁵ The project will support embedding of wetlands concerns in major sectoral Master plans of Tourism, Agriculture and Livestock sectors – those that have a significant bearing on the wetland PAs in Hubei Province. During the PPG, a thorough review of the provincial development and sectoral planning process will be conducted to identify bottlenecks and areas for interventions for mainstreaming wetland PAs and the PA system as a whole in the planning and budgeting process. In order to operationalise the mainstreaming, sector specific standards and safeguards will be developed to protect wetland PAs from biodiversity threatening sector practices. This could include setting up of standards for tourism development and operation and issuance of official guidelines for fisheries and aquaculture. In support of mainstreaming and achieving sustainable financing for the PA system, the project will support compilation of the synthesis on the economic values of wetland PA sub-system (marketed and non-marketed values) following the internationally recognized methodologies and making use of existing studies as much as possible. Sectoral standards and guideline developed under this component will be applied in component 2 while formulating the basin management plan and also in component 3 under the PA site level activities. The economic work should include roles of wetlands in climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation. Implication of the wetland loss and degradation of various economic sectors also will be clarified in the economic and financial terms. The product will be designed with the clear objective of mainstreaming wetland PAs (and the PA system as a whole) in the 13th Five-Year Development Plan, and accompanying communication products especially targeted for policy makers and for mass media, and use of these product will also be supported. Economic valuation and mainstreaming will be geared towards increasing government financing for operational budget (as opposed to development budget) which is hampering effective management of wetland PAs. This will be done by mainstreaming wetlands into the principles and processes for planning and budgeting at the Province level and also linking to efforts at the national level (through the national project under this framework programme. The project will also support exploration of innovative funding mechanisms from various sources (government and private sector) by integrating wetlands conservation activities inside other on-going development programmes of the government and the private sector (e.g. eco-compensation scheme of the government). Some of these identified activities will be piloted at the basin and PA levels.

In addition the project will also trigger the shift towards treatment of wetlands management as a core area of the Provincial Forestry Department and in turn enhancing support and increased allocation of resources. Building on the tried and tested approaches of eco-compensation schemes, the project will support development of a scheme which directly supports NR management and local communities. This process will also be linked to the output under the basin component on identifying appropriate cost-sharing mechanisms. As currently EIA and CBA studies if applied are done so in a case by case basin and fails to capture wider collective implication of large scale infrastructure and other development projects (e.g. dam construction, tourism infrastructure etc.). With project support this will be changed to make EIA and CBA mandatory and used strategically for decision-making on development projects. Finally, the project will facilitate the establishment of a wetland PA data sharing (e.g. on-line database) based on information collected from routine monitoring and reporting system especially from the Honghu Lake NR. Lessons and information will be shared within the Province and through the CBPF-MSL Programme disseminated to other Chinese wetlands while also receiving lessons to Hubei from other wetlands.

Component 2: Strengthened basin-level coordination for sustainability of the WPA system: The key to addressing many of the threats that emanate at the basin level lies within what may be termed ‘enforceable co-ordination,’ i.e., the establishment and operation of inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanisms having enforcement powers. Such powers will need to extend to areas such as water allocation, dam building, natural resource management, alien species introduction, as well as land use management and erosion control. It will also ensure participation by water regulating authorities, private sector and also local communities’ representatives. Once established this mechanism will facilitate decision making on issues that affect WPAs such as wise use of water, management of land and other natural resources and dam operation to reduce impacts on wetland PAs at

⁵ Ecological Compensation Scheme, which is being developed, aims to expand and strengthen existing measures such as payment for wildlife reserves, environmental levies imposed on mines, compensation from upstream river polluters to downstream users and economic redistribution schemes that aim to close the income gap between manufacturing hubs on the east coast and rural hinterland.

the basin level. It is expected that activities being supported under this component will provide water resource and wetland managers with the necessary tools needed to ensure that adequate water is available both for economic development needs as well as for the ecological needs of globally significant biodiversity. Opening lines of communication among a wide variety of stakeholders and demonstrating new approaches to persistent problems will be an important theme of this work.

The project will also support formulation of an integrated basin management plan that will prescribe standards and conditions for water allocation and management to meet required water quantity and quality, healthy wetland ecosystems etc. This plan will serve as a tool allowing wetland managers to develop scenarios and for the entity to make and enforce basin-wide, inter-sectoral water use and allocation decisions. This management plan will receive incorporate guidance from the sectoral planning guidelines developed in component 1 and will in turn inform allocation of resources from the Province to different sectoral line agencies within the basin to integrated basin management activities. To ensure continuance of basin level ecosystem functions while addressing issues of equity between resource users, the project will elaborate and test appropriate and acceptable cost-sharing mechanisms such as Payment for Ecosystem Services that can underwrite costs of river basin management. Finally, success stories from the implementation of the basin management approach and wetland PA management from the Province will be documented as good practices and shared with other projects in the programme through the MSL programme especially as part of the knowledge management component of national level project. Lessons documentation and sharing will also be actively encouraged in between the other sister projects from the experiences in mainstreaming and on-site capacity development components.

Component 3: On-site threats to biodiversity at the Honghu Lake NR reduced: The project will support the revision of the Honghu Lake Nature Reserve management plans. The revision will be carried out so that it will take cognizance of the work undertaken as part of the national level project on the definition of an appropriate zonation system for lacustrine wetlands. Once that output is available from the former project, the current project will establish zonation for different management and uses in the lake NR. As many of the on-site threats emanate from the adjacent areas with overlapping mandates residing with multiple institutions (e.g. tourism authority, agriculture and livestock sectors and local communities), the project will set up a site-level WPA coordination committee that will be tasked with consideration of rationalized use of wetlands resource in order to reduce impacts on the lake and wetland biodiversity. The constitution of this committee, to a large extent will mirror the multi-sectoral committee at the basin and Province levels and where possible also maintain adequate linkage through information sharing and accountability. The project will also support the Honghu lake NR improve its capacities for effective governance and law enforcement such as to control poaching, over-harvesting etc. through targeted training programmes – that are embedded into Provincial Nature Reserve and Forestry staff training programmes to ensure sustainability post-project. The curriculum can include but not limited to the following: (i) ecosystem-based planning and management including identifying, monitoring, mitigating and reporting on the impact of anthropogenic and natural threats; (ii) participatory management, business planning and facilitating of income generating activities for local communities; (iii) law enforcement and conflict resolution; (iv) designing and implementing outreach and awareness activities including wetland PA role and functions related communication, awareness and education programmes. The training programme will be rolled out to both NR and Province Forestry Department staff recognizing the fact that staff can be transferred and to ensure easier transfer of skills between these levels. In order to address the community level threats and to engage local communities as stewards of wetlands biodiversity, community co-management models will be explored and implemented. The project will also support the Lake NR management bureau to build the case for better equipment, infrastructure and facilities.

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. AS A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF:

Wetland conservation will have direct socioeconomic benefits locally through enhanced provision of services such as conserving breeding grounds of economically important fish species, provision of water and other wetland products. The Honghu Lake NR has huge economic value for the local communities in terms of material production, water purification, and tourism opportunities. Additional socioeconomic benefits will also be realized through the project's work under co-management of wetland PAs and development of alternative livelihoods to reduce impacts of current livelihoods to move towards wetland friendly livelihoods. This will benefit for example many residents that live in and around the Honghu lake NR. Social and economic feasibility of modifying existing and promoting alternative livelihoods and their likely impacts on achieving global biodiversity conservation will be assessed during project preparation and presented in full project document. The socioeconomic benefits of the project will be fully quantified during the PPG implementation phase. As women among the local communities are more often engaged with gathering natural resources and collecting water, they are the primary beneficiaries of sustainable and quality supply of these resources. The project will ensure that strong gender concerns are built into its actions, and a proper gender analysis will be undertaken during project preparation as well as in its review. The project will also ensure that there is strong involvement of indigenous communities and their traditional knowledge and beliefs are incorporated into management plans of protected areas and wider landscapes. In particular the project will ensure that adequate representation of

ethnic minority group namely the Hui group (that occupy around 0.7 percent of the area) in all community level consultations. Project interventions will be assessed in terms of impact on the ethnic minority group and measures to reduce negative impacts and optimize positive impacts will be identified and implemented.

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

The following potential risks and mitigation measures have been identified. These will be reviewed and updated during the project preparatory (PPG) phase.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Mitigation Measure</i>
Mainstreaming wetland PAs into sectoral policies will be hindered by lack of incentives for other sectors and poor enforcement of agreed priorities and plans that may be incompatible with larger tourism development, land conversion or other development programmes.	Low to medium	The project will support enabling institutional framework for mainstreaming, development of tools for mainstreaming such as the consolidated information data base on wetland PAs, wetland PA system review, and economic valuation studies. Sector specific standards and safeguards development will offer a practical measure for improving sector practices. Efforts will be made to develop viable partnership between different (and sometime competing) agencies.
Water quality seriously deteriorates beyond the ecological threshold due to upstream development activities.	Medium	Water quality will be closely monitored. It is expected that the government's accelerated pollution control efforts upstream will ensure the minimum quality of water.
Government sectors may not provide appropriate level representation or cooperation may not be forthcoming from sector representatives in the Provincial and Municipal Coordination Committees	Medium	The establishment of appropriate multi-sectoral coordination committees at the Province, basin and municipal levels be important outputs under the three respective components. The design of this will involve active dialogue opportunities with sectoral stakeholders at the highest level to ensure full ownership and participation in the agreed final structure. Further, the project will make sure to include a high ranking Provincial Government Official who has jurisdictional supervision over various line departments (such as the Planning Department) in the committee to ensure better representation in the Committee. In addition, building capacity and awareness among officials regarding wetland resources and biodiversity, their national and global values, and link to long-term economic interests of the sectors will be the focus of the project (with a dedicated output under component 1 and capacity building activities under component 2 and 3).
Trained staff may not continue in current roles	Medium	This is a risk particularly in government agencies where there are frequent transfers. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring that training sessions are accompanied by associated manuals/ handbooks/ compendiums that can be a useful resource for existing and in-coming staff. In addition the training programmes will be incorporated into the curriculum of formal training for Nature Reserve and Provincial Forestry staff.
Severity of climate change induced floods and drought may undermine conservation efforts promoted by the project through extreme changes in water level and lake bottom conditions.	Medium	Given that climate change impacts are likely to increase over the long term, the project will assess these changes and propose actions and approaches to increase ecosystem resilience.

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:

Key stakeholders and roles and responsibilities in the project are:

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Finance	Operational Focal Point (OFP). Coordination and implementation of GEF projects
State Forestry Administration (including National Wetland Conservation Centre)	Responsible for forest lands, most of China's nature reserves, wildlife issues, wildlife trade (CITES), wetlands protection (Ramsar Convention), drafting of departmental level regulations especially wetlands.
Hubei Provincial Government	Executing Agency of the Project. Responsible for provincial administration, development planning and implementation, as well as planning and financing of the provincial PA system. Will take primary responsibility for Provincial coordination among different Provincial departments including Forestry, Land Resources, Water Resources, Agriculture, Navigation etc.
Municipal Government	Will take primary responsibility for the basin level coordination especially among different Municipal Bureaus such as Forestry, Land Resources, Nature Reserve etc. It will also coordinate with different Counties and districts within the basin on implementation of project actions at the basin level.
Forestry Department at provincial and local governments (including NR bureau and wildlife protection bureau)	Responsible for planning and managing the provincial PA system, and conservation of fauna and flora in the province. Also responsible for wetland management. The Provincial Forestry Department will be the main executing agency of the project.
Standing Committee of People's Congress of Hubei Province	Responsible for coordination of legislation and regulation functions in Hubei, including the provincial regulation of nature reserve management and regulation of wetland conservation.
Water resource department of provincial and local governments	Responsible for planning and controlling water resource planning and allocation. Critical stakeholder in the effort to ensure sufficient water flow to the target wetlands.
Hubei Tourism Department	Responsible for planning and implementing tourism development plans. High levels of collaboration and mainstreaming required to ensure tourism plans do not threaten NRs.
Environment protection department of provincial and local governments	Coordination of environmental issues, pollution and CBD implementation and reporting, execution of CBPF. Processing and coordination of drafting new legislation. Must be involved in any proposed regulatory revisions.
Agriculture department of provincial and local governments	Responsible for agriculture and fisheries. Major stakeholder in terms of water use and sources of agricultural water pollution responsible for freshwater and brackish fisheries. Should mainstream biodiversity and PA protection within their plans and avoid causing pollution of wetland sites. Can help monitor wetland biodiversity on agricultural lands adjacent to NRs. Need cooperation in controlling fishing within sustainable limits.
Land department of provincial and local governments	Responsible for land use planning and land allocation. Critical partner to ensure sound coastal land use planning under development and sectoral plans.
Honghu PNR management Bureau	Responsible for the planning and management of the Honghu PNR. The main implementer of the site level component.
WWF	Supports biodiversity conservation in the Yangtze Ecoregion. It has launched the Yangtze Ecoregional Action Programme and has developed the Central and lower Yangtze and Yangtze Estuary Conservation Strategy. It also supports research and pilot on aquatic plants restoration in Honghu NNR to provide scientific base for Honghu Lake wetland restoration. Available for technical support, consultancies, training and monitoring. High capacity for grass roots action with local communities.
Chinese Academy of Sciences, several specialized and regional academic and research institutes	Technical expertise available on hydrological, botanical and zoological aspects. Possible collaborator and consultants.
Local communities	Primary resource users. Local communities around the target NRs will be participants in the co-management activities as well as being beneficiaries of the livelihood support.

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

The CBPF will provide a national platform to ensure strong coordination between approved and planned GEF biodiversity projects as well as other relevant initiatives of the Government and development agencies. Under the CBPF, the MSL Programme has been established, comprising a national level coordination project and six provincial projects executed by the provincial bureau of the SFA of which this project is the component dedicated at addressing WPA threats in Hubei Province.

A programme level steering committee will be established chaired by the SFA, to ensure complementarity, synergetic outcome and lessons and experience sharing. Under the CBPF, there are a number of GEF supported projects that have a focus on wetland conservation. These include the WB/GEF supported Mainstreaming Biodiversity Protection within the Production Landscapes and PAs of the Lake Aibi Basin (2009-2014), the ADB/GEF supported Jiangsu Yancheng Wetland System Protection Project (2011-2103), the FAO/GEF supported Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and PA Networking Project (2011-2016), Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China's Dongting Lake PAs (2011-2016). The current project will benefit from the efforts by the national level project on maximizing lessons and cross-fertilization of ideas between these projects. It will also contribute to lessons and good practices generated during the course of implementation through the Wetland PA programme (established at SFA as part of the CBPF) that will in turn be disseminated to other wetland projects in the country. To ensure complementarity and coordinate with the proposed UNEP-GEF project entitled "Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province" joint project governance such as a single Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the two projects will be maintained. Activities especially those relating to strengthening Provincial capacities for PA estate management of the two projects will be planned and implemented jointly to reduce duplication and enhance synergy. Further a joint Task Force that will lead the implementation of the Provincial level activities of the two projects chaired by a National Project Director (common for both projects) will be set up. These and further design complementarities will be identified and confirmed during the PPG phase.

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

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

UNDP is providing a grant of US \$ 700,000 to this project.

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:

Protected Areas are one of UNDP's signature programmes and the agency has a large portfolio of PA projects globally and across Asia including China. In particular, UNDP is equipped with a wealth of accumulated knowledge and experience from projects around the world in promoting PA system objectives in development and sectoral planning. UNDP has been supporting natural resource management, biodiversity and ecosystem management in China for over three decades, and has a large biodiversity portfolio in the country. UNDP implemented/is implementing a number of GEF supported projects that are complementary to this project, and is also the implementing agency for the €51 million EU-funded ECBP programme. In addition, since 2007, UNDP has been the co-executing agency of the GEF supported CBPF. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2011 to 2015 provides the framework for the UN-China partnership over the coming five years, coinciding with the period of China's 12th Five Year Plan. One of the three priority areas, or UNDAF Outcomes, is Outcome 1: Government and other stakeholders ensure environmental sustainability, address climate change, and promote a green, low carbon economy. The components of this programme are a strategic way of achieving this outcome, in particular through directly contributing to Output 1.1. Policies and regulations are strengthened to create a green economy; Output 1.2. Policy and implementation mechanisms to manage natural resources are strengthened, with special attention to poor and vulnerable groups; and Output 1.3. China's vulnerability to climate change is better understood and adaptation responses are integrated into Government policy. Corresponding to the UNDAF, the UNDP Country Programme (2011 to 2015) seeks to reduce the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change impact and safeguard local communities potentially affected by negative impacts of climate change by building ecosystem resilience, which is the fundamental building block of ecosystem's provisioning, regulating and support services essential for China's social and economic development. The proposed programme will contribute directly to its Outcome 4: Low carbon and other environmentally sustainable strategies and technologies are adapted widely to meet China's commitments and compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and Outcome 5: The vulnerability of poor communities and ecosystems to climate change is reduced.

The country office has a large biodiversity portfolio, with one Programme Manager, one Programme Coordinator and one Programme Associate specifically assigned to biodiversity related projects and broader support from the policy, administrative and financial sections. The UNDP Regional Technical Adviser based in Bangkok will provide technical support to the CO for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.


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):

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Jiandi Ye GEF Operational Focal Point	Director: International Financial institution Division III, International Department	Ministry of Finance	03/12/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, GEF Executive Coordinator, UNDP		April 5, 2012	Doley Tshering, Regional Technical Adviser – EBD, UNDP	+66-2-304- 9100 Ext 2600	doley.tshering@ undp.org

