



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**

**PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	CBPF-MSL: Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Anhui Province		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	People's Republic of China	<b>GEF Project ID:</b>	4896
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	UNDP	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	4868
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Forestry Department of Anhui Province	<b>Submission Date:</b>	March 12, 2012
		<b>Resubmission Date:</b>	9 April 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	60
<b>Name of parent program: For SFM/REDD+ n/a</b>	China Biodiversity Partnership Framework and Action Plan (CBPF) and Main Streams of Life - Wetland PA System Strengthening Programme	<b>Agency Fee (\$):</b>	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 1.1. New protected areas coverage increase by 132,000 ha and improved management effectiveness of 434,000 ha	GEFTF	2,029,271	16,149,373
	Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.	Output 1.3. Sustainable financing plans (1).	GEFTF	500,000	1,140,000
Sub-total				2,529,271	17,289,373
Project management cost			GEFTF	125,500	857,882
<b>Total project cost</b>				<b>2,654,771</b>	<b>18,147,255</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK:**

**Project Objective:** *To strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system of Anhui province in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services*

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"> <li>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 aquaculture, agriculture and tourism sectors (e.g.; balancing wetland conservation with fishery and agriculture production; ensuring proper location and reduced impact of tourism infrastructure)</li> <li>By the end of the project, the WPA areas will increase from current 302,000ha to 434,000ha. This will include at least 1 NR (10,500 ha)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 development and sectoral (e.g. Anhui Provincial Development Plan and Forestry Sector Plan ) planning guidelines that integrates implications of wetlands biodiversity and ecosystem services for economic sectors and social welfare.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Provincial wetland conservation regulation enacted by provincial legislation body with implementation plan and related policies as a</li> </ul>	GEFTF	505,800	3,457,800

		<p>listed as a Ramsar site, and 3 WPAs upgraded from Provincial to National status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland conservation stressed as a mainstream task in the Provincial five year plan and integrated into core Provincial Forestry Plans leads to increased availability of funds from the national and provincial level for wetlands management –specifically at least 30 % increase in operational funds for WPA from Anhui Provincial Government and the local governments</li> </ul>	<p>legal base for wetland conservation and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sector specific standards and safeguards developed and enforced to protect wetland PAs from biodiversity threatening sector practices (e.g. use of pesticides in agriculture, drainage of wetlands etc.) including setting up of regulatory standards for tourism development and operation and issuance of official guidelines for fisheries and aquaculture.</li> <li>System for documentation and sharing of lessons and good practices within the Province and contribution of the knowledge products to the MSL programme at the national level</li> </ul>			
Strengthened basin-level coordination for sustainability of the WPA system	TA	<p>Integrated basin management systems emplaced for WPAs along Yangtze River at level that: a) establishes a collaborative mechanism of wetlands resources planning and management; b) sets targets for maintaining healthy wetland ecosystem targets in basin-wide management; c) establish basin-wide WPA survey and monitoring mechanisms. This results in: i) reduction and mitigation of threats to 6 WPAs along Yangtze River covering an area of 217,800 ha increasing sustainability of wetland PAs; ii) enables maintenance of base flow and water storage potentials (baseline to be established during PPG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate basin level consultative coordinating mechanism established to facilitate decision making on issues that affect WPAs such as dam and sluice gate operation, agricultural and livestock practices to reduce impacts on wetland PAs at the basin level. This basin coordination mechanism will entail municipal level coordination as required.</li> <li>Basin wetlands management plan for enhancing wetlands ecosystem sustainability developed and implemented that provides for: i) monitoring and surveys to generate information (e.g. data from bird survey, biological and hydrological monitoring); ii) set targets and standards to be achieved for maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems; iii) regulate and monitor the impacts from various land uses from the upper reaches in the basin (e.g. to control erosion and reduce pollution from fertilizer and pesticide use); iv) monitor and allocate water uses; iv) critical wetland ecosystems identified and protected</li> <li>PA networking system for sharing knowledge and good practices on wetland management in Central and Lower Yangtze Basin established and joint lessons and knowledge contributed to the MSL programme at the national level (cross-linked with lessons documentation and sharing from project components 1 and 3)</li> </ul>	GEF TF	505,800	3,457,800
Reducing on-site threats to biodiversity at the Shengjin Lake NR and adjacent WPAs	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved management effectiveness (measured by METT) delivers enhanced protection to wetland of 33400 ha by strengthening operational capacities of Shengjin Lake NR</li> <li>Effective implementation and monitoring of PA site management plans and enforcement of regulation results in reduction of threats (e.g. un-sustainable use such as over-fishing and collection of aquatic biomass; tourism activities) and ensuing improvement of biodiversity status– as evidenced by i) the population of key species (e.g. Oriental White Stork, Siberian White Crane, Hooded Crane and Swan Goose.) remaining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Shengjin Lake Nature Reserve management plans implemented that considers: 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, fishing, harvesting of wetland biomass; iv) habitat maintenance and restoration for wintering birds, especially endangered species such as hooded crane and oriental white stork; v) integrated management of Huangpen Sluice Gate for ensuring optimum water level during bird-wintering period</li> <li>Implementation of community co-management of wetland nature reserves (e.g. increased community role in decision-making on the sustainable use and management plans of the</li> </ul>	GEF TF	1,517,671	10,373,773

	stable or increase; ii) improvement in biodiversity health index <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened institutional and individual staff capacity of Shengjin Lake Nature Reserve to manage wetland PA – as indicated by increase in the capacity scorecard (baselines to be established during the PPG)</li> </ul>	NR; participation in patrolling, monitoring and enforcement of PA regulations including community patrolling) lead to significant community level benefits and demonstrated support for PA management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training programmes designed, implemented and incorporated for Nature Reserve and Provincial Forestry staff on key wetland PA management functions such as: i) on 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</li> <li>Wetland PAs equipped with monitoring facilities (data collection and recording devices) and trained in their use</li> </ul>			
Sub-total				2,529,271	17,289,373
Project management cost			GEF	125,500	857,882
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>2,654,771</b>	<b>18,147,255</b>

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Local Government	Anhui Provincial Government	Grant	11,687,800
Local Government	Anhui Provincial Government	In-kind	5,759,455
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	700,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>18,147,255</b>

### 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	-	2,654,771	238,929	2,893,700
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>2,654,771</b>	<b>238,929</b>	<b>2,893,700</b>

## 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 an integrated model for basin level resource planning and management that integrates maintenance of healthy wetlands as a water management target and reducing and mitigating common threats to WPAs in the Province. The project will develop and implement scientifically sound Lake Nature Reserve Management plans for Shengjin 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. 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 Bureau. The improvement of PA management achieved will deliver increased protection to at least 434,000 ha of important wetland PA

<sup>1</sup> This is a programme wide indicator. For more details please see the PFD

sites in the Provinces while reduced threats will safeguard key species such as the Oriental White Stork, Siberian White Crane, Hooded Crane and Swan Goose.

The project will seek to mainstream wetlands issues into Provincial level development planning and also into specific relevant Sectoral plans. 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 of wetlands issues into Provincial level decision making process and structures will ensure increased and sustainable sources of funding for wetland PA management. 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 (NBCSAP 2011-2030) also recognizes the importance of addressing threats and conserving wetlands biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will address key priorities under the NBCSAP, 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. This document highlights the importance of WPA expansion, strengthening and management as a priority area and specifically mentions strengthening and networking of “Yantze River Wetland Nature Reserve group” as a key protection focus in the “Huadon Hua plan area in the hills” which includes Anhui province and the Shengjin Lake. As part of the national level regional development strategy, the State Council approved the “Anhui-Yangtze Urban Industrial Demonstration Zone” in January 2010 to promote the economic development along Yangtze River (416km long within Anhui Province). Among others, the strategy emphasises protection and management of the various wetland PAs in the zone. Anhui Province attaches considerable importance to the conservation and management of the wetlands along Yangtze River and Shengjin Lake in particular which is the target demonstration 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

Anhui Province borders Hubei on the southwest side and in the downstream of area the Yangtze River. It has a total area of 139,000 square kilometres and an estimated population of around 60 million. Han Chinese is the majority ethnic group while Hui and She are the two largest minorities. It has a diverse topography and associated diverse climate by being located in the warm temperate zone and sub-tropical zone. The average temperature varies between 14 to 17 °C, while average annual rainfall is between 700 to 1700 mm. The Province is rich in land resources: arable land (5.97 million hectares) and forests (3.29 million hectares). It also has important water resources, tea gardens, orchards and mulberry gardens. Anhui's primary industry accounts for 15% of GDP, 50% higher than the national average of 10%. Agriculture varies according to the climate zones with wheat and sweet potatoes as major crops in the north while the major crop is rice instead of wheat in the south. In terms of mineral resources, there are more than 50 kinds of mines, the majority of which are producing coal, iron and copper. By virtue of being situated in a transitional zone it harbours many tropical and temperate species in addition to the sub-tropical species including many rare and threatened species. The many lakes in the Province are home to 152 species of wetland vascular plants, 98 species of fish and 100 species of waterbirds. Of the fish species, 12 species are endemic to the Yangtze River System, including Shortjaw Tapertail Anchovy and Shortnose Noodlefish. Of the waterbird species, there are 14 species meeting or surpassing the criteria for internationally important wetlands, including 4 globally threatened species - the Oriental White Stork, Siberian White Crane, Hooded Crane and Swan Goose. There are also species listed under national key protection such as Black Stork, Whistling Swan and White Spoonbill.

The wetland area in Anhui Province is 2.92 million ha, accounting for around 21% of the total territory of the province. There are 16 wetland NRs (3 national, 11 provincial and 2 municipal levels) with protected wetland total area of 302,000 ha, accounting for 49.1% of natural wetlands areas in the province. The wetlands along Yangtze River within the Anhui Province are of global importance – WWF listed these areas as part of WWF Yangtze River and Lake Ecoregion (#149). There are 11 large lakes – Shengjin Lake, Cao Lake, Shijiu Lake, Taiping Lake and Yangtze Alligator Habitats that are listed as Wetland of National Importance.

The project proposes to improve the on-site management effectiveness of the priority WPA namely the Shengjin Lake Nature Reserve. Shengjin Hu Lake NR is an important bird area (IBA) in the lower Yangtze basin. It is located on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, close to Anqing (see Annex 1). In 1965, the construction of Huangpan Gate separated the lake from the Yangtze River, and formed a reservoir. The average annual rainfall is 1600 mm, with most falling from March to August and average annual temperature is 16.1°C, with an average January temperature of 4.0°C. Shengjin Lake supports around 5–10% of the total water bird population within the Yangtze River floodplain. The Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve was established in 1986, joined Biosphere Reserve in 1995, and upgraded to a national status in 1997. It joined the Northeast Asia Crane Network in 2002 and the East Asia - Austria Wader Bird Network in 2005. A number of threatened species are found here. These include the critically endangered Siberian Crane, at least 2 endangered species (Oriental Stork and Swan Goose) and 8 vulnerable species (e.g. Lesser White-fronted Goose, Baikal Teal, Baer's Pochard, Great Spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane and Great Bustard). The nationally protected fish species the Chinese high fin banded shark also occurs in the lake.

**Threats to the wetland ecosystem:** Despite that national and global importance, unfortunately, the wetland system in the Province and Shengjin Lake in particular is facing a number of threats as described in the following section.

- a) *Over use of wetland biological resources:* The Shengjin Lake wetlands and other wetlands in the Province provide many natural products, including salt, vegetation for grazing, reeds and fish. There are evidence of over-harvesting in particular over-fishing and over grazing in most wetlands directly leading to wetland degradation. The underlying cause is the increasingly growing population around the wetlands. For instance at Shengjin Lake, the population of surrounding communities is 99,200 that include 37 villages of 6 townships with 3000 professional fishermen living in the lakeside. Community appropriation of wetland resources (e.g. fish) is compounded by commercial activities such as commercial fishery companies. Some 900 cattle roam and graze on the wetland. Cultivating and grazing excessively results in the decrease of aquatic plants, directly impacting in terms of decrease of habitats of hooded cranes. Other livestock (including duck and geese) compete for food with wintering birds in the water and surrounding wetlands.
- b) *Water flow control and siltation:* The hydrological regime (of fluctuation of water level according to season) is the most important ecological feature of wetland ecosystem. Due to the construction of sluice gates along the Yangtze River, the natural connection of the lakes (wetlands) with the Yangtze River has been interfered with while water flow was manipulated to benefit economic activities such as fishery production in the lake and crop production in the surrounding polders. Thus wetland is not inundated or has limited exposure seasonally as it occurs naturally. This has led to significant physical and biological changes of the wetlands – resulting in loss of habitats and feeding grounds. There is also high rates of soil erosion in upper reaches of the watershed with both natural causes (steep slopes and high erodability geological formation) and anthropogenic causes (herds of sheep and goats in the upper reaches of the basin removing vegetative cover, deforestation and non-sustainable agricultural practices). Together with the decreased silt discharge of the sluice gates, it leads to siltation of the lake. For example, in the case of Shengjin Lake, the Huangpan Sluice Gate was built in 1965 and the water level of Shengjin Lake have been controlled since. The annual siltation of Shengjin Lake has increased the lake bed by 10 cm each year.

- c) *Upstream pollution*: With the rapid developments in the up-stream of the wetlands, considerable amount of pollution are generated such as from agriculture sector (from fertilizers and pesticide), industrial and mining sector (chemicals, heavy metal etc.) and from the resident sector (waste water). This means all these pollutants flow down the rivers into the critical wetland sites and the lake. In addition, pollution from surrounding fields also flows directly into the lake and critical sites. Given that most lakes are closed drainage basin, majority of the pollutants ultimately accumulate in the Lake and on the lake floor. This not only affects present lake-users but also in the future, should the lake become dry, the high concentration of pollutants on the lake floor will be dispersed by the wind and possibly become a major health hazard in the area.
- d) *Weaknesses with existing WPA*: Many important wetlands along the Yangtze River in Anhui 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 a need to establish new nature reserves both to enhance representatives and also to halt 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 Wetland Nature Reserves along the Yangtze River in Anhui Province

No.	Name of Nature Reserve	NR Area (ha)	Key habitat / Species Protected	Year	Supervision agencies	Annual operating budget (1000USD)	Staff number
1	Shengjin Lake NNR	33 400	Wetland, hooded cranes	1986	Chizhou Forest Bureau	30	14
2	Tongling Dolpin NNR	31 518	Yangtze Dolpin	2000	Anhui Environment Bureau	na	na
3	Yangtze Aligator NNR	18 565	Yangtze Aligator	1982	Anhui Forest Department	90	52
4	Anqing Yanjiang Waterfowl PNR	120 000	Wetland, water birds	1995	Anqing Forest Bureau	40	24
5	Guichi Shibasuo NNR	3, 652	Wetland, cranes	1998	Guici Forest Bureau	4	2
6	Dangtu Shijiu Lake PNR	10 667	Wetland , water birds	2001	Dongtu Agriculture Committee	6	5

**Baseline projects:** The baseline project is estimated to cost US\$ 45.1 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 Anhui Provincial Forestry Department that is responsible for these activities estimates expenditures in the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) of 4.5 billion RMB *yuan* (US\$ 725 million) or around US\$ 145 million annually, a large part of which is targeted towards ecological conservation including wetlands restoration. A very conservative estimate of 5 percent of the total investment is calculated to directly relate to wetland protected areas amounting to around US\$36 million over the next five years. Of this around 35 percent will go towards supporting Provincial system activities such as such as preventive activities to eliminate invasive alien species, improving monitoring of wetland biodiversity, wetland resource surveys and espousing rules for management and utilization of wetland resources. In addition, numerous activities such as agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation will be supported to increase forest cover at the Province level. Majority of the resources will support PA level activities (around 60 percent) such as wetland ecological resotoration activites. A very limited proportion (around 5 percent) will support basin level activities such as integrated watershed management and inter-county coordination of management of wetlands.

(b) *Operational support for protected areas*: The Provincial government provides an outlay of around USD 1.5 million per annum 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 National, provincial and local government has provided financial support of US\$ 8.6 million since 2011 in the form of grants for a number of specific projects such as lake conservation, vegetation and habitat restoration and development of alternative livelihoods for local communities. In the case of Shengjin Lake NR, the national government is also investing US\$ 4 million for the construction of the Wetland Science Center which will serve to improve the research and science facility at the NR and also the Wetland Protection Subsidy Project. These are exclusive of large sums of in-kind investment from the Provincial Government. In addition private enterprises also invest around US\$ 2.06 million for natural ecological restoration project in upper lake of Shengjin Lake. 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 and in doing so will also increase the coverage area under WPA. Economic sectors such as aquaculture, agriculture and tourism 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 capacities for integrating wetlands issues into Provincial and Sectoral policies and plans:** Despite the importance of the wetlands, there is currently poor integration of wetland biodiversity conservation values into sectoral, legal and policy frameworks. This is made worse by the fact that coordination of planning and implementation of sectoral projects and plans at the Province level occur very much independent of each other and with little recognition of the impacts they are having on wetlands biodiversity. There is little awareness of wetland values and functions and hence these tend to be ignored in development plans leading directly to the loss of wetlands and the biodiversity they sustain. When developments are planned, economic trade-offs balanced, or project profitability assessed there is perceived to be little economic benefit to wetland conservation, and few economic costs to their degradation and loss.

Because markets and prices remain distorted against wetland conservation there are few financial or economic disincentives for wetlands-degrading sectors to modify their activities. Investment in wetland management continues to be seen as an uneconomic use of land, funds and other resources. Until very recently, wetlands did not even receive any attention in developmental planning. This insufficient understanding of the economic value of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services needs to be changed by supplying planners and decision makers information from detailed economic and costs benefit analyses of wetlands biodiversity and ecosystem services. It becomes interesting to planners when demonstrated how the loss of these will economically affect various economic sectors (e.g. tourism, agriculture) and peoples' livelihoods. Similarly opportunities for developing the eco-compensation schemes in direct support of wetland PA management need to be explored. To address the overlapping mandates – e.g. multiple tenurial claims – and the problems associated such as uncoordinated harmful developments as described above, an appropriate coordination mechanism that brings together different sectors including the local communities is important. The absence of a specific wetland conservation regulation that is backed by a well thought out strategy and action plan remains a critical constraint. This needs to be supported by development of standards and guidelines that specific sectors can use to identify and mitigate the impacts that their activities are having on the wetlands.

**Barrier 2: Limited knowledge and experience with integrated basin management of wetlands:** Threats to wetlands originate from a number of inter-sectoral demands for water and associated impacts that are usually found at a larger basin level such as agricultural and other land uses in the upper reaches of the basin that will impact through soil erosion and pollution. Though all ecosystems are impacted from surrounding land use and economic activities, wetlands are particularly susceptible to impacts from immediate surrounding land use and from economic activities far upstream and downstream. Upstream pollution, for example, can have significant impacts on wetland protected areas downstream, as well as water extraction upstream and demands downstream can also have significant impacts. So it follows that on-site management of specific threats (e.g. over-harvesting of wetland products) need to be completed by solutions at the basin level to ensure long term sustainability of WPAs. However current arrangements and government and local authorities apparatus does not enable this. There is a need for an appropriate coordination mechanism that provides the platform for all water and wetland users and stakeholders to come together and begin having conversations on how actions by different sectors impact on the integrity and sustainability of wetlands. Economic and other production sectors, in particular, agriculture, livestock, water management (e.g. dam operation) and industrial operations are not made made aware of the consequent impacts on the wetlands as a result of their activities. In tandem with this they need to be also supported to identify means and measures to

reduce impacts. Decision-making on land uses in the basin would do well to be informed by up to date information on wetland ecosystem information generated through regular monitoring. In addition it is also necessary to also protect certain specific sites within the basin by elevating their protection status (for WPAs). 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:** There is currently limited models / plans of wetland PA management that provides for an effective coordinated system of conservation actions backed by 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. In addition, there is limited technical capacity and information base, and awareness for wetland biodiversity conservation, planning and management decisions. Human and institutional resources are limited especially for wetland PA administration. PAs like Shengjin Lake NR have limited capacities to undertake effective systems planning or biodiversity monitoring particularly when it comes to wetland biodiversity. 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 1000 fishermen living within the Shengjin Lake NR area and another 99,200 people living in the surrounding area of the lake. The wetland PAs provide an important resource for more than hundreds of thousands 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. 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 3 provincial WPAs to national level thereby according higher protection status and increased funding for these WPAs. The project will also 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 217,800 ha important wetland NRs in Anhui Province, containing globally significant species such as, Yangtze Dolpin and Yangtze Aligator and habitats for a number of migratory water birds including hooded crane, oriental white stork . Moreover it will also ensure sound management of wetland basin in the Province covering around 302,000 ha increasing sustainability of wetland PAs.

**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 such as upstream pollution, controlling water flow and siltation etc. at such an appropriate 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; monitoring and controlling sluice gate operations; mitigating pollution; 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 Anhui provinces 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 Anhui 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 Shengjin Lake 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 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 integrating wetland conservation into national, provincial and local governments' budgeting frameworks.

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. 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 Shengjin 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 Anhui from other wetlands.

**Component 2: Strengthened basin-level coordination for sustainability of the WPA system:** The project's component 1 provides tools for addressing the paramount threats arising, and/or requiring solution at a basin level. Most of the threats

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

outlined in the barriers such as soil erosion, pollution etc. emanating in the upper reaches of the watershed have impacts on the lake and surrounding wetlands. In many cases, (e.g., water use within the Lake basin and subsequent impact on lake water levels; infrastructural and economic developments upstream that can completely change the character of the basin) these threats originating away from the immediate boundary of the lake poses the most serious threats to globally significant and other biodiversity at the WPA sites. The key to addressing these threats lie in the establishment of an appropriate ‘coordination mechanism’ that is vetted and supported by all relevant stakeholders and with powers to identify and enforce basin level actions such as water allocation, dam operation, pollution control, land use planning etc. It is clear remedies must involve working closely with economic actors and officials across sectors. This coordination entity should (when approved by the Chizhou Municipal Government, Anhui Province) have powers to decide on and enforce key water and land use issues within the Shengjin Lake Basin. The project will develop detailed TOR and operating guidelines for the Coordination Entity and established with adequate facilities, staffing levels and operating budget. This entity should be tasked to supervise and review studies and proposals including proposals for dam operation, pollution and erosion control. It will have the responsibility to ensure that the combination of projects and investments allowed to move forward within the basin represent a sustainable mix.

The project will also support preparation of a basin management plan for enhancing wetlands ecosystem sustainability. Among others this plan will provide for means of generating critical biodiversity information through monitoring and surveys (e.g. data from bird survey, biological and hydrological monitoring). These will be used to help gauge the health of the wetland ecosystems in the basin. It will also identify and set targets and standards as determined by key indicators (e.g. biodiversity status; vegetation cover; water discharge levels etc.). A key contribution of this plan will be to prescribe and enforce sustainable land uses and practices for different sectors within the basin especially in the upper reaches (e.g. grazing; use of fertilizer and pesticides; construction of infrastructure etc.). The component will also help evolve a locally acceptable system for monitoring and allocation of water for different uses. This management plan will receive and 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. Finally at a basin level, key WPA sites will be identified and accorded higher protection by up-grading their protection status. This will directly contribute to and be linked to efforts to enhance capacities at the Province for WPA system management. Lessons learnt will be documented and shared actively with sister projects through the MSL programme especially as part of the knowledge management component of national level project.

**Component 3: On-site threats to biodiversity at the Shengjin Lake NR reduced:** The project will support the revision of the Shengjin Lake Nature Reserve management plan. 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. 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 Shengjin 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 training 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 design of community level NRM and income generating activities will focus on community resource use and diversifying local incomes (e.g. from nature based and cultural tourism; value addition to fishery-based products) and will be drawn on direct discussions with community groups in the project area, as well as the significant research/ work undertaken by the country and elsewhere on community-based approaches and practices. In addition to ensure that local communities are able to participate and benefit from these activities, targeted capacity development will be designed and implemented (e.g. agreeing on community governance mechanisms, participatory resource inventories, assigning, monitoring and enforcement of sustainable use thresholds) to strengthen capacities for community-based sustainable management of lake NR. All these capacity development and income generating activities will be further elaborated during project development following extensive consultations with local communities to assess capacity needs and feasibility and viability of income generating options. 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. For example, it is estimated that the Shengjin Lake NR have the economic value of US\$ 300 million per year through material production, water purification, air components control, soil keeping, tourism and biodiversity maintenance. 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, 99 200 residents that live in and around the Shengjin 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. Hui and She are the two largest minorities living in the Province. The project will ensure that they are adequately represented and involved in all community level consultations. Project interventions will be assessed in terms of impact on the ethnic minority groups and measures to reduce negative impacts and optimize positive impacts where identified will be given attention.

**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 urban and industrial development, land conversion or other development programmes.	Low to medium	The project will be executed by the provincial government thus ensuring the necessary high-level commitments to the project objectives. 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. Ecological compensation promoted by the Government is expected to provide additional incentives.
Water quality seriously deteriorates beyond the ecological threshold due to upstream activities including the urban and rural development and dam operation.	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).

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.
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.

**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
Ministry of Finance	Operational Focal Point (OFF). Coordination and implementation of GEF projects
State Forestry Administration (including National Wetland Conservation Center)	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.
Anhui 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.
Forestry Department at provincial and local governments (including 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.
Natural Conservation and Management Station of Anhui Province (including Anhui Wetland Conservation Center)	Responsible for the conservation and stewardship of wild and/or rare fauna and flora in the province, and it would be a key executing agency under the Anhui Forestry Department to implement the project.
Standing Committee of People's Congress of Anhui Province	Responsible for coordination of legislation and regulation functions in Anhui, 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.
Environment protection department of provincial and local governments	Coordination of environmental issues, pollution control, execution of CBPF. Processing and coordination of drafting new legislation. Must be involved in any proposed regulatory revisions.
Yangtze River Fishery Resources Management Committee	Responsible for sustainable utilization of fishery resource and protection rare freshwater animals and their habitats in the Yangtze River and its tributaries and lakes.
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.
Shengjin Lake NNR management Bureau	Responsible for the planning and management of the Shengjinhu NNR. The main implementer of the site level component.
Fishery Management of Chizhou City	Responsible for the sustainable use of fishery resources, protection of freshwater wildlife and its habitats, compliance enforcement, and supervise of fishery practices. And holds the tenure of Lake and will be a key partner during project implementation.
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. Available for technical support, consultancies, training and monitoring. High capacity for grass roots action with local communities.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
Chinese Academy of Sciences, several specialized and regional academic and research institutes and universities	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 Shengjin Lake is a component. A programme level steering committee will be established chaired by the SFA, to ensure complementarity, synergetic outcome and lessons and experience sharing. This project will be executed by and coordinated at provincial level by the Provincial Forest Department of Anhui Province with technical and logistic support of Natural Conservation and Management Station of Anhui Province and Shengjin Lake NNR. 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 (2011-2013), 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.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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):**

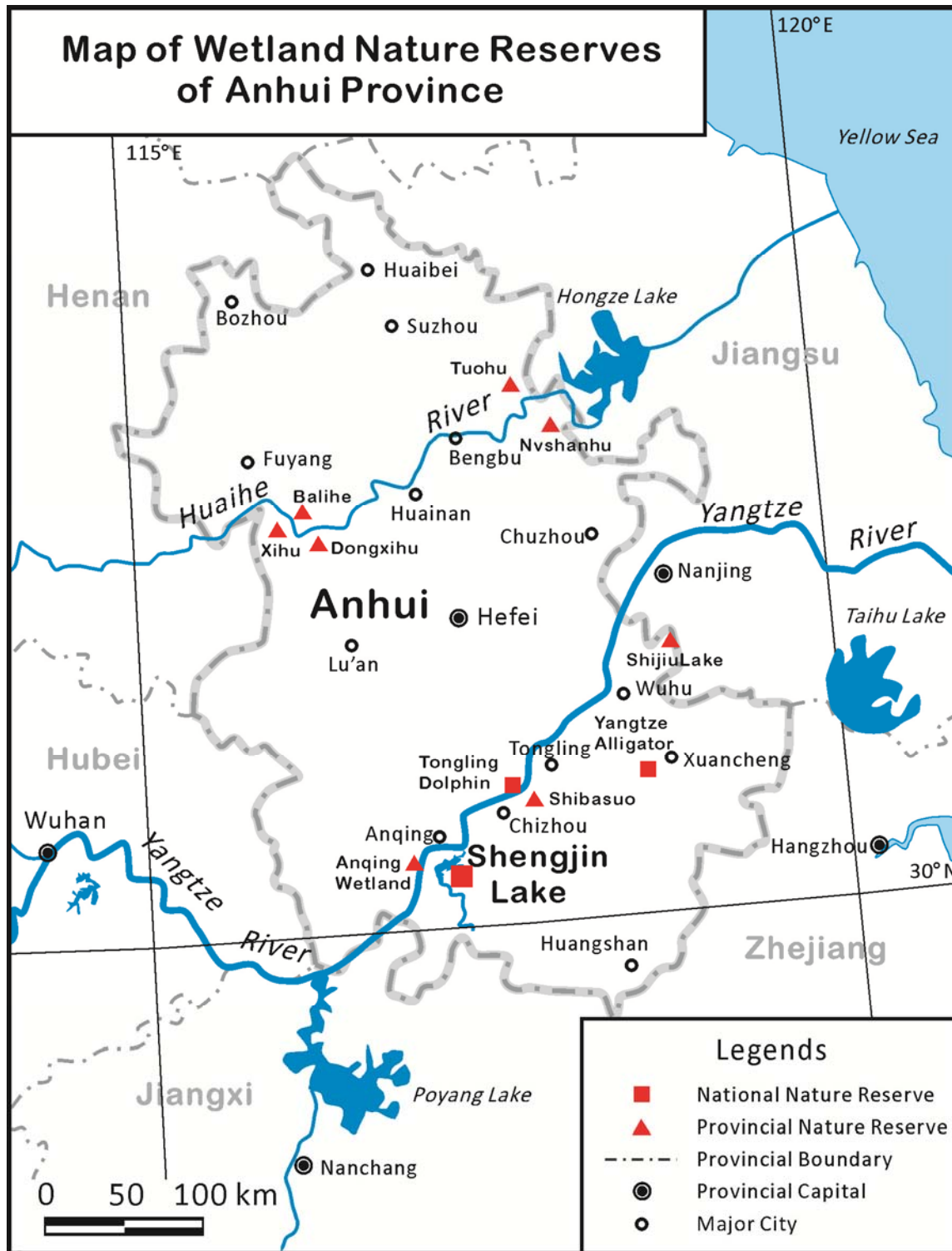
<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>
Jiandi Ye GEF Operational Focal Point	Director: International Financial institution Division III, International Department	Ministry of Finance	03/12/2012

**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.

<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Yannick Glemarec, GEF Executive Coordinator, UNDP		April 9, 2012	Doley Tshering, Regional Technical Adviser – EBD, UNDP	+66-2-304- 9100 Ext 2600	doley.tshering@ undp.org

Annex 1. Protected Area System map in Anhui Provinces concentrating on WPAs



Annex 2. Map of Shengjin Lake NR

