United Nations Development Programme

Project Document

Project title: Expanding the Coverage and Strengthening the Management of Wetland Protected Areas in Sichuan Province, China		
Country(ies): People's Republic of China (China)	**Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):** the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province	**Execution Modality:** National Implementation (NIM)
Contributing Outcome: **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) Outcome 3**: People in China and the region benefit from a healthier and more resilient environment. UNDP Country Programme Document for China (2021-2025), Pillar 2 (A healthier planet and resilient environment), Output 2.1: Adaptive policies developed at target level (subnational), financed and applied for nature-based systems to align with multilateral agreements and transboundary platforms. Aligned with **UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025)** Output Signature Solution #4 (Environment); contributing to UNDP SP Result 4.1: Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods; and Result 4.2: Public and private investment mechanisms mobilized for biodiversity, water, oceans, and climate solutions.		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Substantial	**UNDP Gender Marker:** GEN2	
Atlas Award ID: 00141709	**Atlas Project/Output ID:** 00130230	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 6669	**GEF Project ID number:** 9462	
LPAC meeting date: 20 July 2022		
Latest possible date to submit to GEF: N/A[1]		
Latest possible CEO endorsement date: N/A[2]		
Project duration in months: 60		
Planned start date: 1 Feb 2023	**Planned end date:** 1 February 2028	
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: 1 August 2025	**Expected date Terminal evaluation:** 1 November 2027	
Brief project description: The project aims to result in improved management of 767,766 ha of wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province, through strengthened knowledge transfer, information exchange, capacity building, community engagement, and environmental education. Improved management will be facilitated through the establishment of the Sichuan network of wetland protected areas, including 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves. Interventions are planned in two of the wetland protected areas in the network, namely the		

[1] This is a transfer project from Conservation International to UNDP, therefore, it is not a subject to GEF Review and CEO Endorsement as confirmed by the GEF SEC

[2] Ibid.

3,729-ha Qionghai National Wetland Park and the 588-ha Baihetan National Wetland Park. The project strategy includes formulation and implementation of innovative conservation agreements between the protected areas and local communities for sustainable utilization of wetland resources and genuine community involvement in the conservation of wetland biodiversity and ecosystems. Alternative livelihood ventures, including ecotourism, to reduce unsustainable practices and strengthen the well-being and resilience of local communities. A total of 3,000 people, of whom 1,500 are women, are expected to directly benefit from the GEF investment, including training on wetland protected area planning, management, and monitoring; participation in environmental education programs; capacity development on sustainable utilization of wetland resources and engagement in alternative livelihoods; and enhanced knowledge sharing. An estimated 30,800 tCO2e of greenhouse gas emissions avoided are expected as a co-benefit of the improved management practices of the Qionghai Lake and Baihetan national wetland parks.

FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund grant	USD 2,652,294
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	**USD 2,652,294**
(2) Total confirmed co-financing to this project not administered by UNDP	**USD 18,010,000**
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	**USD 20,662,294**

SIGNATURES

Signature: Mr. Zhang Bo Deputy Director General Center for Evaluation of the World Bank loan Projects Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China	**Agreed by Government Development Coordination Authority**	**Date/Month/Year:** 2022.11.30
Signature: Mr. Wang Jinghong Deputy Director General Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau	**Agreed by Implementing Partner**	**Date/Month/Year:** 2022.10.20
Signature: Mr. James George Deputy Resident Representative UNDP China	**Agreed by UNDP**	**Date/Month/Year:** 2022.12.1

I. TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Table of Contents 3
II. Development Challenge 7
III. Strategy 21
IV. Results and Partnerships 31
V. Project Results Framework 50
VI. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan 53
VII. Governance and Management Arrangements 60
VIII. Financial Planning and Management 65
IX. Total Budget and Work Plan 67
X. Legal Context 73
XI. Risk Management 73
XII. Mandatory Annexes 76

Annex 1: GEF Budget template
Annex 2: Project map and geospatial coordinates of pilot wetland parks
Annex 3: Multiyear Workplan
Annex 4: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)
Annex 5: UNDP Risk Register
Annex 6: Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies
Annex 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Annex 8: Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
Annex 9: Gender analysis and gender action plan
Annex 10: Procurement plan76
Annex 11: Climate and disaster screening report
Annex 12: COVID-19 analysis and action framework
Annex 13: Profiles of demonstration sites
Annex 14: METT baseline assessments
Annex 15: Estimation of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated
Annex 16: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet
Annex 17: GEF 7 taxonomy
Annex 18: Additional agreements (cofinancing letters)
Annex 19: Partner capacity assessment tool and HACT assessment
Annex 20: UNDP project quality assurance report
Annex 21: Environmental and social management framework

List of Tables:

Table 1: Project contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals 19
Table 2: Project contributions towards C-PAR program results 27
Table 3: Monitoring plan 55
Table 4: Monitoring and evaluation budget 59

List of Figures:

Figure 1: Map of biodiversity hotspots and wetlands in Sichuan Province 7
Figure 2: Map of wetland protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas, Sichuan Province 8
Figure 3: Map showing location of two demonstration sites 9
Figure 4: Problem tree analysis 12
Figure 5: Project theory of change 24
Figure 6: Project Organization Structure 61

Abbreviations and Acronyms:

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AWP	Annual work plan
BAU	Business as usual
BD	Biodiversity
BPPS-NCE-VF	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Nature, Climate and Energy, Vertical Fund team
CC	Climate change
CEPF	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNY	Chinese yuan
C-PAR	China's Protected Area Reform Program (GEF-6)
CPD	Country programme document (UNDP China)
CR	Critically Endangered (IUCN red list category)
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DD	Due diligence
DOA	Delegation of Authority
EBA	Endemic Bird Area
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EN	Endangered (IUCN red list category)
EX ACT	Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSP	Full Sized Project
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GIS	Geographical Information System
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ha	Hectare
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IBA	Important Bird Area
IP	Implementing Partner
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples (ethnic minorities) Planning Framework
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAP	Knowledge, attitudes and practices
KBA	Key biodiversity area
KfW	*Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau KfW Bankengruppe*
KM	Knowledge management
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MTR	Mid-term review
NBSAP	National biodiversity strategy and action plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFGA	National Forest and Grassland Administration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPD	National Project Director

NTFPs	Non-timber forest products
PA	Protected area
PIMS	Project information management system
PIR	Project Implementation Report (GEF)
PIU	Project implementation unit
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project management unit
POPP	Programme and operations policies and procedures
PPG	Project preparation grant
PRC	People's Republic of China
PTA	Principal Technical Advisor
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SDG	Sustainable development goal
SECU	Social and Environmental Compliance Unit
SES	Social and environmental standards (UNDP)
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SESP	Social and environmental screening procedure (UNDP)
SFGB	Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
SOP	Standard operating procedure
STAP	Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
TBD	To be determined
tCO2e	Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
TE	Terminal evaluation
TOR	Terms of reference
UNCBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP CO	United Nations Development Programme Country Office
UNDP CPD	UNDP Country Programme Document
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (China)
USD	United States dollar
VU	Vulnerable (IUCN red list category)
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

1. Sichuan Province is located in the southwest of China, along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, adjacent to Qinghai, Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Guizhou, Yunnan, and the Tibet Autonomous Region. It covers an area of about 486,052km2, ranking fifth in the country after Xinjiang, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Qinghai. It is located between 97°21'~108°31'E, and 26°03'~34°19'N. With the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau lying to the west, the Qinling Mountains and Daba Mountains to the north and the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau to the south, Sichuan Province has an overall terrain of high elevation in the west and low elevation in the east and can be divided into the western plateau mountain area and the eastern basin area.

2. Sichuan Province is a core part of the "Himalaya - Hengduan Mountains" biodiversity hotspot, one of 34 global hotspots for biodiversity (see **Figure 1**). In addition, Qionghai Mountains and Jiajin Mountains in the western margin of Sichuan Province cover the giant panda habitats in the Chengdu Plain and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and are identified as one of the world's 200 ecological zones by the WWF, as well as a world heritage site. Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries have abundant plant species, are the world's largest and most complete giant panda habitat, and also provide habitat for the red panda, snow leopard, clouded leopard and other endangered species.

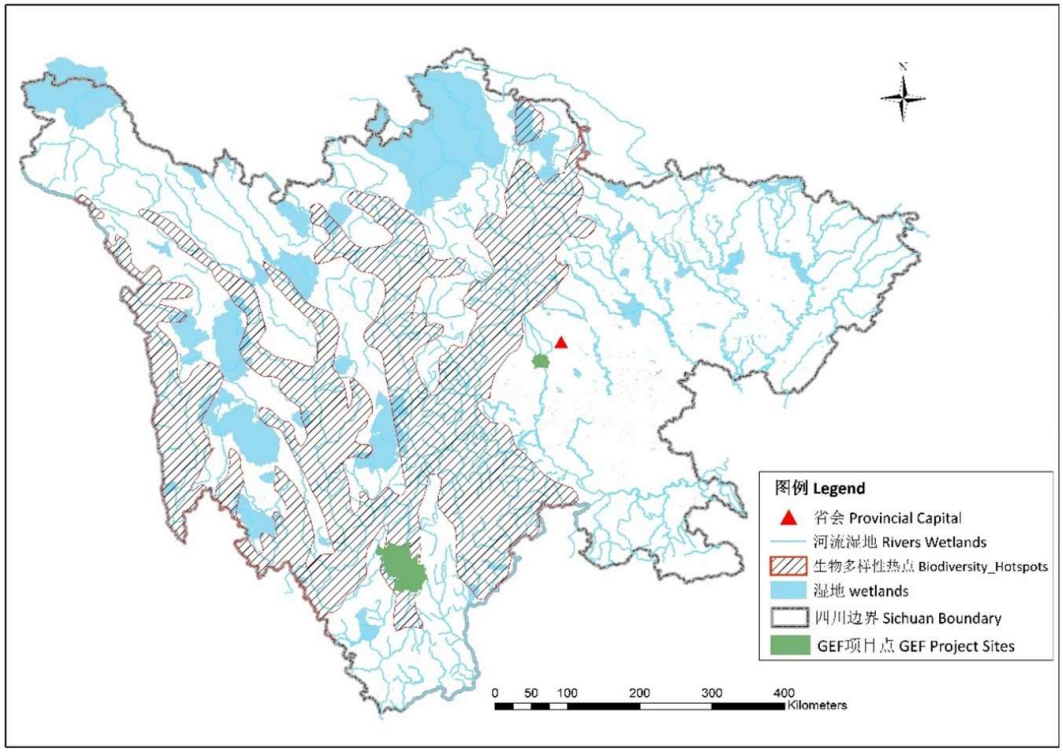


Figure 1: Map of biodiversity hotspots and wetlands in Sichuan Province

3. Sichuan Province is rich in biodiversity and part of the "Mountains of Southwest China Biodiversity Hotspot" falls within its territory. Sichuan is located in the southwest of China, and the significant horizontal and vertical differences have shaped Sichuan's unique topography, geomorphology, climate, hydrology and soil, thus supporting the rich ecosystem diversity. Different ecosystems and habitats have given rise to a large diversity of animal and plant species as well as genetic diversity. The province has a wide range of wild plant resources, with more than 10,000 species of higher plants, accounting for about one-third of the total number nationwide, ranking second only to Yunnan in the country. There are many natural ecosystems in Sichuan such as forests, grasslands and wetlands in addition to the marine and desert ecosystems. As one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, it is an important species pool and gene pool in China, with abundant special and relict species.

4. There are 8,553 species, 1,520 genera and 191 families of spermatophytes in Sichuan, of which, 18 species are Class-I national key protected wild plants and 55 species are Class-II national key protected wild

plants. There are 1,323 species of vertebrate in Sichuan Province, accounting for more than 45% of the total number in China. Among them, there are 241 species and subspecies, 21 families and 9 orders of fish; 111 species (subspecies), 10 families and 2 orders of amphibians; 105 species and subspecies, 12 families and 2 orders of reptiles; 647 species, 78 families and 20 orders of birds; and 219 species of mammal. There are 142 species of Class-I and Class-II national key protected animals, accounting for 39.6% of the total number in the country, which ranks Sichuan first in China. In addition, there are abundant galliformes, with 20 Species of phasianidae birds, accounting for 40% of the total in the country, of which many are rare and endangered, such as the national class-I protected animals *Tetraophasis obscurus, Arborophila rufipectus, and Lophophorus lhuysii.*

5. Wetlands in Sichuan Province harbor more than 1,000 higher wetland plants, including five wild plants included on the list of national key protected plants and five endemic species to China; 495 vertebrates found in wetlands and nearby, and 102 wetland animals under key national and provincial protection. Due to its special geographical location, Sichuan has fostered distinctive and diverse wetland resources. According to The Second Wetland Resources Investigation Report of Sichuan Province in 2014, the total wetland area in Sichuan Province is 1,747,800 hectares, accounting for 3.6% of the total area of the province. The natural wetland is 1,665,600 hectares, concentrated in the northwest and southwest of Sichuan Province, accounting for about 95.3% of the total wetland area in the province. There are 82,200 hectares of constructed wetland (excluding paddy wetland), accounting for 4.7% of the total wetland area in the province, mainly distributed in the Chengdu Plain and hilly and low mountain areas around the Sichuan Basin. The natural wetland includes 452,300 hectares of riverine wetland, accounting for 25.9% of the total wetland in the province, 37,300 hectares of lake wetland, accounting for 2.1% of the total wetland in the province, and 1,175,900 hectares of marsh wetland, accounting for 67.3% of the total wetlands in the province. The wetland area in the nature reserves, wetland parks and other forms of protection areas is 965,600 hectares (767,766 ha of which is protected under forestry sector through wetland nature reserves and wetland parks), accounting for 55% of the total wetland area in the province. The number of wetland parks in Sichuan is 39, two (2) of which are national wetland parks, 18 of which are pilot national wetland parks, and 19 are provincial-level wetland parks. There are 52 wetland nature reserves in the province, 40 of which are managed by the forestry department. Sixteen wetland nature reserves and parks are located in the scope of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (see **Figure 2**).

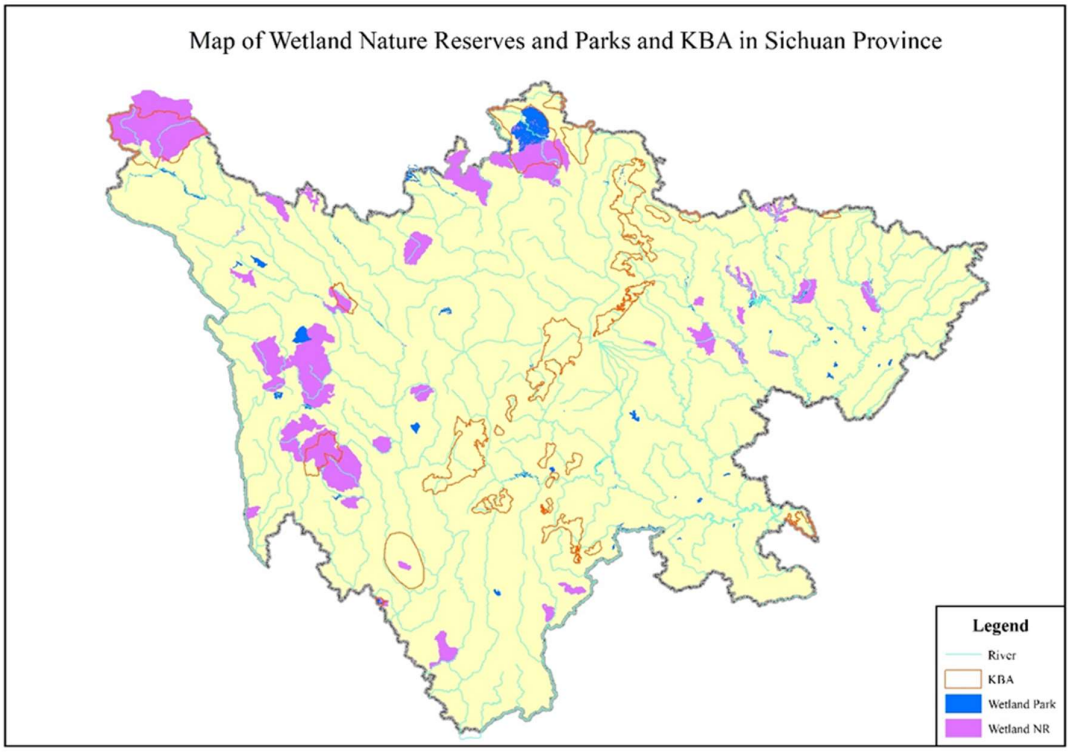


Figure 2: Map of wetland protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas, Sichuan Province

6. Sichuan Province covers a total area of about 486,052 km^2, which accounts for 5.1% of the whole country, making it the 5th largest province. It includes 18 prefecture-level cities, such as Chengdu, Mianyang and Guangyuan, and 3 autonomous prefectures. The permanent resident population of Sichuan Province is about 82.04 million people, of which 39.12 million are urban and 42.92 million are rural. Sichuan is a multi-ethnic province with long-dwelling ethnic groups and has 56 ethnicities including 55 ethnic minorities, such as Yi, Zang, Qiang, Miao, Hui, Mongolia, Lisu, Man, Naxi, Tujia, Bai, Buyi, Dai and Zhuang. The overall population of ethnic minorities has reached 5.17 million, which accounts for 6.4% of the total population (Sichuan Yearbook, 2016).

7. Due to rapid increases in the human population and social economic development in China, natural resources are being utilized to some extent in an unsustainable way. Construction of dams, roads and other development infrastructure are generally undertaken without adequate coordination and consultation with protected area authorities and sometimes without proper environmental impact assessments (EIA), including avoidance or mitigation measures to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. The development of large-scale tourism without appropriate planning also puts huge pressure on fragile wetland ecosystems.

Demonstration sites:

8. The project demonstration sites are at Baihetan National Wetland Park of Chengdu City and Qionghai National Wetland Park of Xichang City, Sichuan Province (see **Figure 3**).

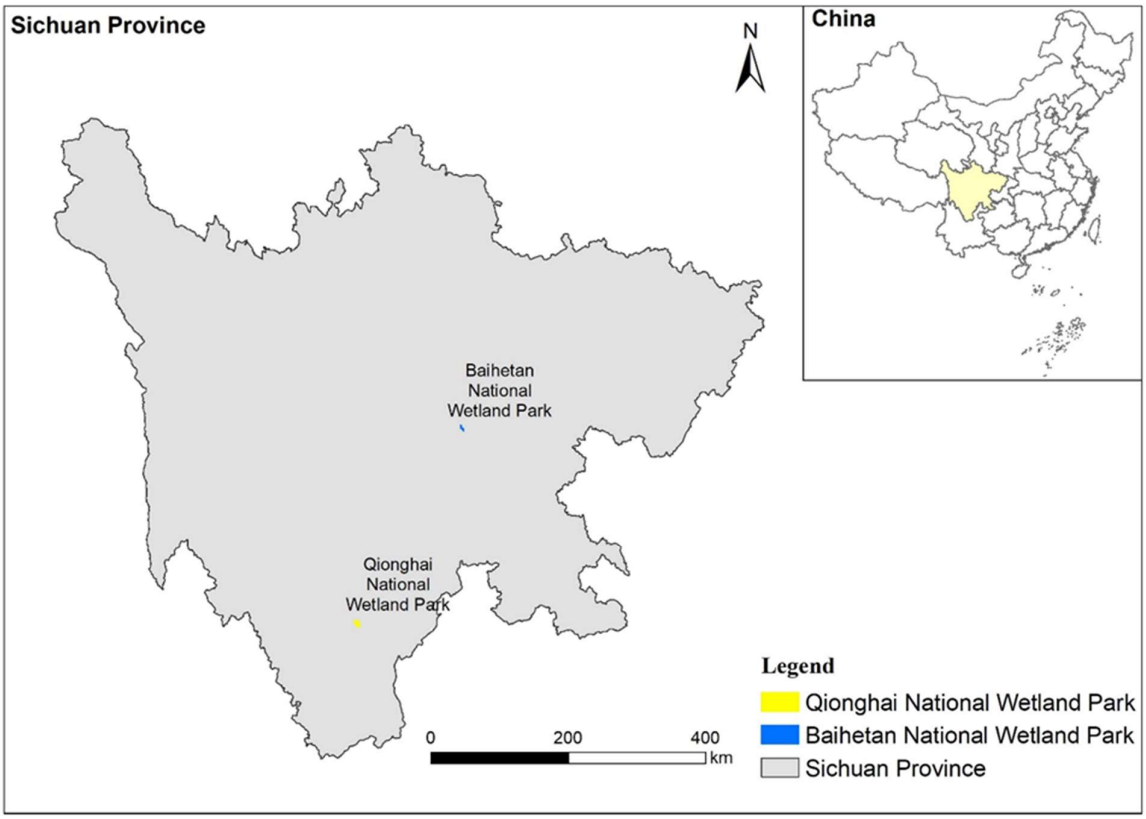


Figure 3: Map showing locations of two pilot wetland parks

9. **Sichuan's Qionghai National Wetland Park** is located on the east margin of the Hengduan Mountains of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, southeast of Xichang City. Geographically, it is situated between 102°15'51.85"-102°21'21.14" east longitude, and 27°46'41.88"-27°52'2.66" north latitude. The total area of Qionghai wetland park is 3,728.70 ha. Qionghai Lake belongs to the Yalong River system of the Yangtze River basin and is a high-plateau freshwater lake at the source of the Haihe River, which is a tributary of the Anning River. It is the second largest freshwater lake in Sichuan Province, with the water storage capacity reaching 289 million m^3, and it is known as the mother lake of Xichang City. Qionghai National Wetland Park is a well-preserved example of a plateau fault lake wetland in China. The surrounding area is known as a long-time habitat of the Yi people. The

demonstration project area mainly includes Qionghai Lake and the in-flow of the Guanba, Ezhang and Xiaoqing Rivers.

10. Qionghai Lake is one of the largest high plateau lakes, the second largest freshwater lake, and an important habitat for endangered species in Sichuan Province, including bird species listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Qionghai Wetland is only 5 km from Xichang City, the capital city of Liangshan Yi Minority Autonomic Prefecture. Qionghai is facing severe threats from unplanned infrastructure construction and inappropriate tourism development. The Xichang Municipal and Liangshan Prefecture government has invested over USD 500 million to improve the infrastructure around Qionghai wetland to restore the wetland, including an "ecological migration" project to recover inhabited wetlands. All the project activities have been completed before 2015. However, there is no management plan in place for their management work.

11. According to the data provided by Xichang University, there are a total of 291 species, 203 genera, 89 families of vascular plants in Sichuan Qionghai National Wetland Park. There are more than 40 species of fish, of which, 20 are indigenous (including subspecies), belonging to 20 genera, 8 families, 5 orders, and 20 are exotics, belonging to 19 genera, 14 families, 5 orders. There are 120 species of wetland birds, belonging to 28 families, 7 orders, mainly laridae and umbrette waterfowl, followed by anseriformes and cranes. Among them, *Grus grus, Plegadis falcinellus, Aix galericula, Falco tinnunculus, Accipiter gentilis, Buteo buteo, Falco peregrinus* are Class-II national key protected birds. In 2013, the Chinese endemic species, Mergus squamatus, was found in Qionghai Lake for the first time and has been listed as a Class-I national protected bird.

12. Sichuan's **Baihetan National Wetland Park** is located between 103°49'51" - 103°51'9" east longitude and 30°22'27" - 30°26'9" north latitude, Xinjin County, Chengdu City of Sichuan Province, mainly covering the area from the Dongheba Dam on the Minjiang River to the confluence of the Jinma and Xihe Rivers, as well as part of the Xihe River itself. The wetland park takes on the shape of a long and narrow corridor from south to north, with its southernmost part reaching Dongheba Dam on the main stream of Minjiang River; and along the main stream of Minjiang River and passing by Baihetan, the northernmost part of it stretches to Yipu Road Bridge on Jinma River and the West Extension Line Bridge of Xihe River, covering a total area of 588 hectares.

13. Baihetan wetland is 30 km from Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province and the largest city in the South West of China, with a population over 20 million. Riverine ecosystems and biodiversity are being degraded and destroyed due to the increased pollution brought by rapid industrial development and population growth. The two wetlands selected are typical sites for demonstrating the importance of establishing effectively managed wetland parks for protecting biodiversity.

14. There are a great variety of birds in Baihetan National Wetland Park of Sichuan Province. According to a survey, there are 38 species of resident birds, with a proportion of 43% of the total bird species in Xinjin County; 22 species of winter migrants, with a proportion of 25%; 15 species of summer migrants, with a proportion of 17%; 12 species of passing migrant birds, with a proportion of 14%. Some species have various residence types, e.g., there are both winter migratory birds and resident birds among Sturnus cineraceus. Breeding birds constitute the majority of birds in Baihetan wetland park, indicating that the rich habitat types are suitable breeding habitats for many birds. According to field surveys and related references, Baihetan Wetland Park has a total of 87 species, 38 families of birds, including 6 species of Class-II national key protected birds, i.e., *Milvus migrans, Accipiter nisus, Buteo buteo, Falco subbuteo, Spizaetus cirrhatus, Charadrius placidus*; 4 species of provincial protected birds, i.e., G*allinula chloropus, Tachybaptus ruficollis, Ixobrychus cinnamomeus, Botaurus stellaris*.

More information is described in the *Profiles of two project demonstration sites* in **Annex 13** to the Project Document.

Global environmental problems, threats and root causes:

15. The globally important ecological system in Sichuan Province is extremely fragile, and its fauna and flora are facing increasing threats. With the rapid increase of population and the development of society and the economy, as well as the influence of global climate change, the sustainable utilization of natural resources is threatened. Industrial, agricultural and urban household sewage have resulted in environmental pollution; road

construction, water utilization facilities and other infrastructure leads to the deterioration and loss of habitats; overgrazing results in the degradation of wetlands, and chaotic wetland tourism development has a tremendous negative impact on biodiversity. In many cases, no effective measures are taken to avoid and mitigate the negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.

16. As illustrated in the generalized problem tree illustrated in **Figure 4**, the main threats and root causes contributing to the environmental problems that will be addressed by the project are described below:

17. **Sewage from industrial, urban and agriculture to rivers brought about great threats to biodiversity**: There are many lakes and dense river networks in Sichuan Province. The rapid regional social and economic development and the discharge of industrial, agricultural and urban household sewage have resulted in severe wetland environmental pollution and water eutrophication. Some natural wetlands have become the main drainage area for industrial, agricultural and domestic wastewater. The pollution of wetland water causes the disappearance of some important naturally developed spawning grounds, fattening grounds or overwintering grounds for birds, commercial fish, shrimps, crabs, shellfish and algae. According to the Second Wetland Resources Survey, since 2000, the area of polluted wetlands among key wetlands in the province has reached 5,719 ha which accounts for 3.3% of the total wetlands in Sichuan.

18. **Infrastructure construction results in Habitat change and loss, decrease of biodiversity**: Biodiversity has not received sufficient attention during the construction of highways and railways, water conservation, hydropower, mining, tourism and other infrastructure construction. Major rivers in the province have suffered changing hydrological conditions, resulting in the loss, degradation and fragmentation of some wildlife habitats.

19. **Excessive utilization of natural resources leads to the decline of wetland biodiversity**: Wetland resources suffer from unsustainable fishing, poaching, logging and digging which are traditional and popular activities. Because of the focus on fishing, ignoring cultivation, the number of endemic and rare fish in many lakes has reduced. Due to the decrease in fish resources, an ever-greater density of fishing nets is used to maintain harvests. According to data from catches, the diversity of fish species has reduced, and the average age of the fish population has become younger and physically smaller.

20. **The invasion of alien species poses great threats and destroys the original wetland ecosystem**: In Sichuan's wetland ecosystems, harmful invasive plant species such as *Eichhornia crassipes* and *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, which cover a large area of shallow water, have resulted in river blockages, hindering river channel irrigation and drainage, and destroying the original wetland ecosystem. Wetland invasive animals include bullfrogs, and *Pomacea canaliculata*, which change the native aquatic community structure, affect the habitat and foraging environment of waterfowl and pose a severe threat to wetland biodiversity and stability.

21. **Overgrazing leads to degradation of the wetland ecosystem**: The wetland ecosystem in Sichuan, especially marsh wetland, is severely degraded. Many typical marshlands are being converted to swamp meadow and the water level of alpine lakes has decreased, shrinking their overall area. The alpine grassland in Sichuan Province has degraded severely, and the gramineous forage grass, palatable to livestock, has decreased from 30% to 16%, with productivity reduced. In recent years, excessive development of livestock husbandry has resulted in overgrazing. Many wetland plants cannot complete their life cycle. Thus, the loss of wetland plant diversity affects the virtuous circle of the wetland ecosystem, resulting in the decline or loss of wetland ecological functions, degradation and even desertification of wetlands.

Barriers:

Barrier 1: Wetland resources planning, and management is not well connected with provincial development planning processes		
Lack of inter-departmental cooperation and coordination mechanisms		

Barrier 2: The management system and institutional and staff capacities of wetland protected areas remain weak		
Insufficient funding for park management	Insufficient institutional capacity	Limited staff capacity

Barrier 3: Weak legal and policy frameworks for wetland protected areas		
Weak legal basis	Lack of relevant standards	Lack of an effective monitoring mechanism

Barrier 4: Limited participation and capacity of local communities in the management of wetland parks and reserves	
Lack of community-based conservation management or co-management guidelines	Insufficient institutional and individual capacities of wetland protected areas for community co-management

Barrier 5: Inadequate public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources	
Lack of understanding of the importance of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity	Low awareness on wetland conservation

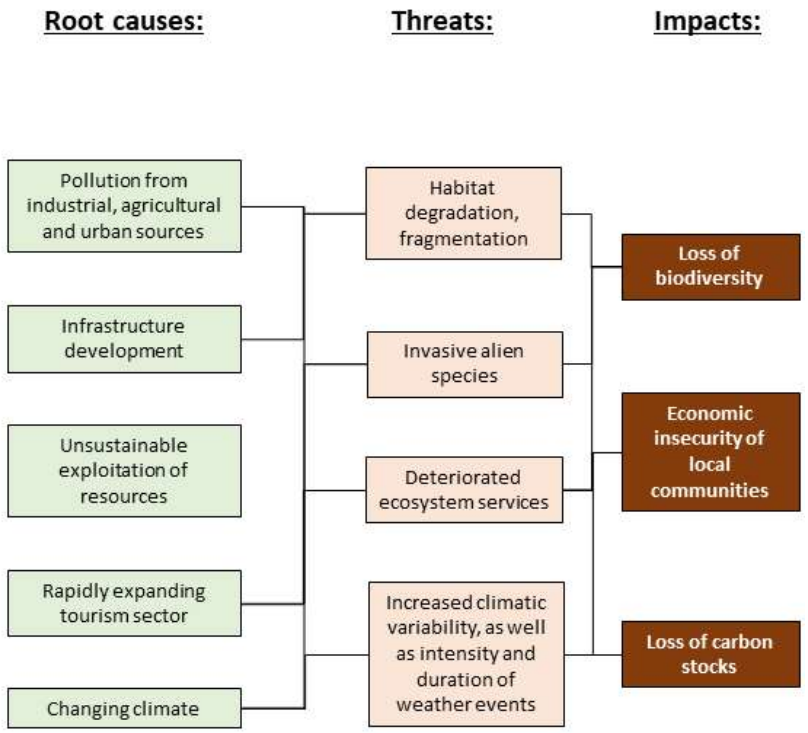


Figure 4: Problem tree analysis

Baseline Scenario:

22. According to the latest statistical data from the Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (2017), the existing wetland area of Sichuan Province is 1.747 million hectares. There are 39 wetland parks, including 6 approved national wetland parks and 33 provincial wetland parks.

23. In Sichuan, the concentrated urban population will certainly lead to further river pollution, affecting the two project demonstration sites. Qionghai Lake wetland is only 5 km from Xichang City, the capital of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, while Baihetan wetland is 30 km from Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province, with a total population of 20 million. With the rapid development of industrialization and the rapid growth of the urban population, the river ecosystem and biodiversity are severely threatened.

24. **Wetland area and biodiversity conservation decreased**. As an ecological shelter in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, Sichuan Province plays an extremely important role in biodiversity conservation. The state and provincial governments invest more than USD 6.7 million annually in wetland conservation, and some local governments have invested heavily in wetland restoration, working with the transportation and tourism sectors.

25. Currently, there are no policies and regulations for wetland protection at the provincial level. Sichuan Province has not yet formulated standards for practical wetland park management, which hinders the protection of wetlands and the sustainable use of wetland resources. The network for wetland protection remains weak, which makes it difficult to provide effective protection for wetlands of global and national importance and key biodiversity area.

26. **The ecological functions of wetland ecosystems are limited**. Some natural wetlands have become the main drainage area for industrial, agricultural and domestic wastewater. The pollution of wetland water causes the disappearance of some important natural spawning grounds, fattening grounds for commercial fish, shrimps, crabs, and shellfish and overwintering grounds for birds. If pollution control is not strengthened, Sichuan will not serve as an important supply of clean freshwater but instead will become a major pollution source for the Yangtze River.

27. **Wetland resources utilization and sustainable development constrained**. Many wetland plants can provide people with industrial raw materials, food, ornamental flowers, medicinal materials etc., and are of high economic value. For example, reed is an important raw material for papermaking, while lotus, water chestnut and arrowhead are common aquatic vegetables. However, invasive species and damage to the wetland ecosystem in Sichuan Province are increasing. After some wetland parks have been demarcated, the traditional rights of adjacent fishermen or herdsmen in utilizing wetland resources are forbidden. Due to the lack of local residents' intervention, wetlands are rapidly occupied by invasive alien species.

Associated baseline government projects and initiatives:

28. Sichuan is an important ecological shelter and an important water conservation area in the upper reaches of the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers. The protection and effective management of wetlands are of great importance to Sichuan Province. Apart the financial support of the GEF, Sichuan Province and the two demonstration sites of the project have their own plans for wetland conservation and management. According to the 14th Five-year Plan for Forestry ad Grassland Sector in Sichuan Province, it is required that restored wetland are effectively consolidated and improved by 2025. Among the main indicators, the area of wetland restoration is required to exceed 16,667 ha by 2025. .

29. According to the 13th Five-year Implementation Plan for Wetland Protection in Sichuan Province (2016-2020), a total of USD 96 million was invested in wetland protection during the plan period. Specifically, some of the investment covers wetland protection and restoration and compensation for wetland ecological services. Some of the investment in capacity building includes wetland investigation and monitoring, education and publicity, and sci-tech support. Some of the investment in demonstration projects of sustainable utilization includes the development of a *Brasenia schreberi*[3] protected area. The investment came from the forestry

[3] *Brasenia schreberi* belongs to the Nymphaeaceae family, the leaves are a precious aquatic vegetable.

reform and development funds, central infrastructure investment, provincial investment, local investment, social capital and other sources.

30. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, there was USD9 8,718,750 budgeted for provincial wetland conservation and restoration. The programme included national key projects, infrastructure construction, equipment purchases and maintenance for wetland protection, wetland ecological restoration, demonstration of sustainable utilization and capacity building.

31. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, Sichuan Ruo'ergai wetland, a national-level nature reserve and internationally important wetland, Changsha Gongma National Nature Reserve, Haizishan National Nature Reserve, and Qionghai National Wetland Park joined the candidate list of national projects.

32. **Wetland survey and monitoring system**. The third provincial wetland resources survey was carried out in accordance with the unified arrangement of the State Forestry Administration (it was named SFA prior to 10 April 2018. Afterwards, it was changed to National Forestry and Grassland Administration-NFGA), and the provincial wetland resources survey is incorporated into the normalized periodic investigation and monitoring system for wetland protection and management. Special surveys on peatland, plateau wetlands, migratory bird wetlands, etc. are carried out.

33. **Publicity, education and training systems**. Wetland publicity, education and training: relying on universities and research institutes in and around the province, training is carried out on wetland protection, science popularization and other education. Especially for community-level on-the-job managerial staff engaged in wetland protection, a target of 20 people is to be trained each year on basic wetland knowledge, wetland protection and management, protection of wetland animals and plants, laws and regulations and information systems. At the same time, international exchanges and cooperation are strengthened

34. **Technology support**. Strengthen wetland research capacity at the provincial level: the project enhances capacity building of wetland research institutions. The Sichuan Research Center for Wetland Conservation and Restoration in Sichuan Academy of Forestry Sciences was established in order to improve the level of research, and carry out research on wetland protection and restoration technology, wetland degradation mechanisms, wetland ecological early-warning mechanisms, peat bog carbon pool and wetland ecosystem evaluation, etc. Relying on Sichuan Forestry Ecological Environment Monitoring Center and making full use of existing ecological monitoring sites and field bases, a unified wetland survey, monitoring, assessment and early warning platform is built.

35. In addition, according to the Master Plan for Baihetan National Wetland Park (2014-2019), USD 2.8 million was invested in the period 2017-2019. The demonstration site at Baihetan National Wetland Park has relevant planning on wetland protection, wetland restoration, popular science education, research monitoring, rational utilization and community co-management. Through water purification, wetland habitat development, aquatic plant planting, multi-pond system and other projects, wetland animal and plant habitats are expanded and restored, and the structure and function of the wetland ecosystem is gradually improved, restoring the biological community, increasing species composition and biodiversity, and improving the productivity and self-sustainability of the ecosystem. In community co-management, residents of surrounding communities are encouraged to work in wetland parks through protection-based economic development projects and joint participatory protection community co-management projects. Thus, they can benefit from the development of wetland ecotourism, and then involve surrounding residents in wetland protection, so that the benefit of ecotourism in wetland parks can be maximized.

36. Since 2009, the Party Committees and governments of Liangshan Prefecture and Xichang City have attached great importance to the protection and restoration of Qionghai wetland and put forward a strategic vision to build Qionghai National Wetland Park. By the end of 2016, the People's Government of Xichang City had invested more than USD 758 million in the Qionghai wetland protection and restoration project and implemented phases one to six of the wetland restoration project, with 1,333 hectares of wetlands restored. At present, the ecological environment of Qionghai wetland is greatly improved, with the water and wetland area growing from less than 27 km^2 to 34 km^2. Following on the Regulation on Protection of Qionghai Lake in Liangshan Prefecture, it is planned to expand the protected area of Qionghai wetland to 307.7 km^2 in the catchment area of Qionghai Lake watershed, so as to recover the ecological environment of Qionghai Lake

watershed. In addition, the People's Government of Xichang City has agreed to set up an Expert Advisory Board for Qionghai National Wetland Park, inviting seven experts from the national, provincial and local levels to conduct an annual investigation in Qionghai National Wetland Park, to develop an advisory report about Qionghai wetland protection, and to make scientific decisions on major issues in Qionghai wetland protection and reasonable utilization and the planning for major projects that threaten the ecological environment of Qionghai Lake. Through strengthening scientific cooperation with WWF, GEF, National Plateau Wetlands Research Center and Sichuan Bureau of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information, research on wetland resources, dynamic monitoring and assessment of wetlands, etc. will be carried out to further enhance management capacity of the Qionghai National Wetland Park.

37. The baseline scenario of this project is analyzed under the "business as usual" scenario in which the intervention plan for this project is not implemented within the next five years. Under the baseline conditions, a series of activities related to wetland conservation and management and expansion should be carried out to mitigate threats of climate change and social development to wetlands in the province, which will generate positive impacts on the local ecosystem and its flora and fauna. However, this baseline scenario still focuses more on hard measures, such as construction projects and infrastructure, and the already planned work will not significantly eliminate the main barriers identified in departmental planning and coordination, policy development, development of a supervising and law enforcement system, capacity building and local community participation.

Complementary GEF projects:

38. The **C-PAR Program** (GEF Program ID 9403; UNDP Program ID 5695) ***China's Protected Area System Reform***. The C-PAR program covers a total of six child projects, including the subject project. The C-PAR program was designed to support the Chinese authorities in ensuring protection of globally significant biodiversity is expanded under the new NP system. Establishment of the NP system is the cornerstone of the major PA reform in China, including development of a National Park Law that would consolidate, and essentially supersede, the current fragmented set of laws and regulations associated with protected areas, and establishing a new PA management agency, integrating the relevant management functions of protected areas so that a unified management responsibility can be exercised on NP system.

39. Technical assistance through the GEF funding is feeding into the PA reform processes, integrating international best practice into legislative and institutional frameworks, introduction of advanced policies and guidelines for increasing the representativeness of the NP system and enhancing management effectiveness, building institutional capacities, and improving financial sustainability, with an increase of at least 30% in available PA finances through diversification of funding sources, improved efficiency in access and utilisation of available funds, broadened participation through concession arrangements and value-based eco-compensation appropriations. One of the pilot sites under the C-PAR national project is located in Sichuan Province, namely the Giant Panda National Park.

40. UNDP-GEF ***Transformational wildlife conservation management in China*** project (GEF ID 10701; UNDP PIMS 6607). The project aims to strengthen conservation and management of threatened wildlife species in China through improved multi-sectoral coordination, biodiversity mainstreaming across key production sectors, enhanced engagement of local communities, and demonstration of innovative frontier technologies. One of the two demonstration areas is located in Sichuan Province. In cooperation with the Giant Panda National Park, conservation and management of the iconic giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) species will be enhanced through establishment of ecological corridors linking fragmented populations and restoration of degraded habitats, and deployment of innovative frontier technologies.

41. UNDP-GEF project (GEF ID: 10073; UNDP PIMS 6110) ***Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China***. The EAAF project responds to the development challenge by systematically addressing the barriers associated with: 1) the absence of a strategic approach towards migratory waterbird conservation including inadequate representation of critical breeding, staging and wintering sites in the PA system, and insufficient financing and sustainable financing for effective PA management; 2) limited integration of flyway wetland conservation and needs into the policies, plans and operations of other sectors, and a lack of technical mechanisms and skills to support wetland-compatible co-management at landscape and site levels; and 3) lack of awareness of the value of

wetland ecosystem services and management needs, and limited knowledge and information exchange on waterbird population status and best practice management techniques for key flyway sites.

42. The **UNDP-GEF-CBPF Main Streams of Life (MSL) – Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation** (GEF Program ID 4646; UNDP Program ID 4847). The GEF-5 MSL program included seven child projects, with the program goal to strengthen the sub-system of wetland protected areas to respond to existing and emerging threats to their globally significant biodiversity. During the implementation timeframe, the national wetland PA sub-system was expanded by 2.96 million ha. The lessons learned from the MSL program were taken into account in the design of this project. For example, the need to have more substantive management plans for wetland protected areas, policy advances were more successful at the subnational level than at the national level, and the importance of integrating gender mainstreaming objectives into the project strategy.

Long-term Vision:

43. The long-term vision is achieve a network of wetland protected areas that helps facilitate improved management, strengthened engagement of local communities in sustainable utilization of wetland resources and participatory conservation arrangements, increased awareness on the importance of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity, and enhanced resilience to climate and disaster hazards.

Barriers towards Achieving the Long-term Vision:

44. Sichuan Province has already made efforts in response to the threats described above. However, there remain some obstacles to the establishment of a system for effective management and sustainable protection of wetland resources.

Barrier 1: Wetland resources planning, and management is not well connected with provincial development planning processes.

45. An effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination mechanism is absent. The coordination and cooperation between government departments is poor and no effective vertical or horizontal integrated coordination mechanisms have been established.

Barrier 2: The management system and institutional and staff capacities of wetland protected areas remain weak.

46. **Insufficient funding for park management:** Although the overall investment in wetland parks and reserves by the state and the People's Government of Sichuan Province is substantial, most of it has been dedicated to construction projects (such as roads, buildings and other infrastructure), while little is spent on wetland conservation. Those limited resources dedicated to conservation are often spent without proper planning.

47. **Insufficient institutional capacity:** Among 52 (40 of which are managed by the Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau) wetland nature reserves and 39 wetland parks in the province, 22 of them have no site level personnel.

48. **Limited staff capacity:** There is insufficient wetland protection managerial personnel in Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau. Below the provincial level, the field management of wetland protected areas is mainly undertaken by local staff assigned by local governments (prefecture, city and county levels), and the staff do not receive any wetland conservation and management training. Moreover, their recruitment and appointment are not in accordance with any professional competence.

49. **Barrier 3: Weak legal and policy frameworks for wetland protected areas**

50. **Weak legal basis:** Although there are many laws and regulations on wildlife conservation, forest, grassland and other ecosystem management, there is no comprehensive legislation for wetland protected areas. Neither is national wetland law approved in China(National Wetland Law is under the second review of Standing

Committee of the National People's Congress), nor major policies and quotas to control the area of wetlands reduced and wetland function decline.

51. **Lack of relevant standards:** One of the reasons for the ineffective supervision of wetland parks, reserves and conservation zones in Sichuan is the lack of relevant standards. Local policy fails to keep up with national policies and guidelines and this has hindered wetland protection and the sustainable utilization of wetland resources.

52. **Lack of an effective monitoring mechanism:** There are 39 wetland parks and 52 wetland nature reserves in Sichuan Province (41 of which are managed by the Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau). Some of them have recently received approval and construction has not yet started. There is no regular monitoring mechanism to supervise the effective management of wetlands and monitor changes in wetland size.

Barrier 4: Limited participation and capacity of local communities in the management of wetland parks and reserves

53. In China, many community co-management models have been piloted in different regions, including Sichuan Province. However, there are no community-based conservation management or co-management guidelines to clearly define the use rights and responsibilities of the communities. In the meantime, the institutional and personnel capacity of the wetland park and reserve management departments fall short of the rapid expansion of this cooperative management model.

Barrier 5: Inadequate public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources

54. Due to a lack of understanding the importance of wetlands, communication and education on wetland conservation is still at an early stage in Sichuan Province, and public awareness campaigns are insufficient and incomprehensive. As a result, the public have a relatively low awareness about wetland conservation.

National Policy Alignment:

55. The project will assist the strategies of Chinese Government in biodiversity conservation, ecological protection and adaptation of climate change. Specifically, the project objectives are consistent with objectives and strategies of China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030), China's National Climate Change Programme, China National Wetland Conservation Action Plan, the 14th Five-Year Plan Outline for Ecological Protection in China and China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF). Please see details in the table below.

National Plan/Strategy	Project Consistency
China's vision for "Ecological Civilization"	The concept of ecological civilization was written into the Chinese constitution in 2018 as the basis for articulating its vision of sustainable development across three dimensions – environmental, economic and social, as well as with specific features of Chinese political civilization, aspects of Chinese governance, and core elements of the Chinese sustainable economic development agenda. The concept has been adopted by the highest levels of political leadership and has gradually gained traction. It is regarded as the major ideological reference framework for Chinese environmental and actions at different levels of government. The position paper "Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth: China in Action" is the long term blueprint and the themes of adopting strong policy measures, accelerated mainstreaming, improving policy and legal frameworks, improving livelihoods through co-management and ecological restoration with emphasis on the protection of rare and endangered species. Wetland conservation is an important aspect of the ecological civilization vision. COP15 and China's incoming Presidency of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is also an important entry point and unique opportunity for China on the international stage to show that it is taking the lead on the prioritization of unprecedented biodiversity loss.

National Plan/Strategy	Project Consistency
China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030)	1. Improve policies, laws and regulations related to biodiversity protection. 2. Promote the integration of biodiversity conservation into relevant plans for sustainable utilization. 3. Strengthen in-situ conservation of biodiversity and rationally carry out ex-situ conservation. 4. Improve public participation, awareness and strengthen international cooperation and exchange. 5. Carry out demonstration of protection, restoration and sustainable use of different types of wetlands in some important areas, and explore modes of wetland conservation, restoration and sustainability. 6. The government, enterprises and related stakeholders are encouraged to participate in implementation of the plan, and to mitigate threats faced by China's biodiversity and ecosystem by strengthening sustainable systematic financing for and efficient management of protected areas.
China's National Climate Change Programme	1. It is proposed to strengthen unified management of water resources, and take active measures to restore and protect rivers with serious ecological deterioration and manage rivers based on watershed. This is highly consistent with this project, both starting from a systemic perspective to conduct integrated management rather than separate micro-region management. 2. Play the role of government in promotion, strengthen outreach to the public, encourage public participation and adopt incentive mechanisms. 3. Strengthen international cooperation and exchange.
China National Wetland Conservation Action Plan	1. The plan puts biodiversity conservation in an important position and sets up protected area or breeding centers for endangered wild animals, which is consistent with the concept of this project. 2. It actively carries out wetland ecological governance through banning the felling of natural forests, closing hillsides to facilitate afforestation, returning farmland to forest and intensifying comprehensive landscape management, etc. Meanwhile, it strictly controls emissions of the three wastes (waste gas, waste water and industrial residue) by industrial enterprises. This is consistent with the expected comprehensive governance of the project, rather than vigorous infrastructure and engineering projects. 3. It considers to actively integrate wetland protection into policies and the legal system and to assess existing wetland conditions, which is in line with legislative protection through the establishment of a wetland monitoring system proposed by the project. 4. It proposes and encourages local legislative bodies to establish and improve local laws and regulations in accordance with laws and regulations designated by the state. It also requires comprehensive use of traditional conservation customs, local rules and the agreement of all sectors of society and the local communities. This is consistent with the project plan to involve local communities in wetland conservation. 5. The plan proposes that some representative wetlands in different regions should be selected to carry out the development of demonstration areas for the restoration and reconstruction of degraded wetlands, which is consistent with this project.
The 14th Five-Year Plan Outline for Ecological Protection in China	1. It proposes to further improve the decision-making and promotion mechanism for biodiversity conservation, which is consistent with the core concept of this project. 2. It points out that, at present, China has not established a unified monitoring network for the ecological status of important ecological regions, and the basic supervision and management capacity is weak. The

National Plan/Strategy	Project Consistency
	participation of international NGOs has been included in the project, which provides new ideas for supervision and management. 3. The overall conservation of the ecosystem is a central idea in the planning outline, and it is required to take the protection of biodiversity as the main priority, which coincides with the starting point of the project.
China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF)	1. CBPF is about how to effectively invest and manage to reduce biodiversity loss in protected areas. The experience gained in the project can provide effective guidance and demonstration to tackle this issue. 2. CBPF proposes to increase funding for biodiversity conservation against the existing baseline, which is consistent with this project. 3. The trial implementation of the financing mechanism of this project can provide a reference for CBPF, with a view to maintaining stable funding budgets for national and provincial nature reserves. 4. The two projects share the same expectations in terms of improving effective laws, regulations and policies for relevant systems.

Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

56. The project is relevant to a number of SDGs, most notably SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as outlined below in **Table 1.**

Table 1: Project contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Project Contribution:
	3,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating and benefitting in interventions on sustainable utilization of wetland resources through public-private partnership conservation agreements signed between protected area administrations and local communities near the two pilot wetland protected areas (aligned with SDG 1.4 and SDG 1.b).
	50% of the envisaged direct beneficiaries are estimated to be women (1,500 individuals). Gender equality and women's empowerment is expected to be strengthened through introduction and strengthening of alternative livelihood ventures, and increased leadership through active participation in women's groups (aligned with SDG 5.a).
	The project will facilitate strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (aligned with SDG 13.1). Climate change considerations will be incorporated into the management plans of the pilot wetland protected areas and the conservation agreements with local communities (aligned with SDG 13.2). Local communities will have increased awareness of climate change through participation in environmental education programs (aligned with SDG 13.3).
	The project aims to improve protected area management effectiveness (aligned with SDG 15.1). Wetland ecosystem and biodiversity values will be integrated into the protected area management plans and master plans, as well as the wetland protected area consolidation and expansion plan (aligned with 15.9).
	Enhancing South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to best management approaches, specifically sustainable utilization of wetland resources and participatory conservation of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity (aligned with SDG 17.6).

57. The project will also contribute to achievement of the targets outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [4], which was under development at the time of developing the Project Document. The project is aligned with the following draft 2030 Action Targets of the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

[4] CBD, 17 August 2020. Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1. The term "post-2020 global biodiversity framework" is used as a placeholder pending decision on the final name at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- **Target 2.** By 2030, protect and conserve through well connected and effective system of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at least 30 per cent of the planet with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.
- **Target 7.** By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaption and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity.
- **Target 13.** By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts.
- **Target 20.** By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances.

III. STRATEGY

Alternatives considered

58. (a) Expand the wetland protected area in Sichuan Province, strengthen the management capacity in wetland protection, and promote biodiversity conservation in wetland protected areas. This approach has two components: (1) Improving the institutional management capability of Sichuan Province at the provincial level, especially in the system planning, and mainstreaming wetland biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of wetland resources; and (2) improving the protection and management capacity and effectiveness of wetland parks, especially the staff.

59. (b) Turning wetland into wetland PAs. Currently, wetlands in wetland parks in Sichuan Province take many forms, including marshes, rivers, and lakes. Pastures and water for aquaculture account for a large proportion of the wetland parks and are collectively owned. Turning wetland into wetland PAs will mean more stringent protection and more effective management. Herdsmen and fishermen may lose rights to use wetland resource and the conflict between protection and development will become stronger, which is incompatible with the concept of inclusive development, and less conducive to encouraging local people to participate in conservation. This alternative solution lacks operability and will not be approved by stakeholders.

60. (c) Turning wetland parks into tourist attractions. If wetland parks are turned into tourist attractions, it is expected to generate more revenue for wetland parks which may address the issue of insufficient funds for wetland conservation. However, due to lack of effective policies and guidelines, tourism in wetlands usually does not benefit the biodiversity of the wetland. In fact, some wetland parks are experiencing inappropriate or excessive tourism development which has become a major cause of wetland degradation and pollution. Pursuing tourism development while ignoring the ecological functions of wetland parks will cause further degradation of wetland ecosystems, which is contrary to the purpose of wetland conservation.

61. (d) Systematic management of wetland parks and wetland nature reserves by forestry authorities. After institutional reform, although wetland parks and wetland nature reserves in Sichuan Province are managed by the Wetland Center of Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (this was called Sichuan Forestry Department prior to Nov. 12, 2018), Boundary of responsibility of different provincial departments in wetland conservation and resource utilization is still unclear such as river chief and lake chief system. Due to inadequate coordination among different departments, there is a conflict between wetland protection and utilization policies. Assigning wetland management to one single department will help to solve the conflicts and fix the “too many cooks in the kitchen” problem. Furthermore, other problems that plague the provincial wetland management system, including the ineffectiveness of wetlands management standards and management capacity issues, would not be solved by institutional change alone.

GEF alternative

62. In comparing the above alternative scenarios, Option (a) seems to be the best way to solve existing obstacles in wetland protection in Sichuan Province.

63. Without this project, threats from agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and other sectors will continue to increase with no mechanism for coordination among the different sectors. The respective sectors will promote development without enough regard to the impacts of their activities on the fragile wetland ecosystem.

64. The objective of the project is to expand and strengthen wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province, and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources. The project will address the above problems and threats through the implementation of key activities under two components.

65. **Component 1: Strengthening Sichuan Province’s institutional capacity for systematic planning and mainstreaming to conserve and sustainably use wetlands resources.** The project will facilitate Sichuan in formulating standards for infrastructure construction and ecological restoration in wetland parks and management measures of wetland parks based on the two demonstration parks, by including biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources into local policies and government development

plans. The project will also implement provincial-wide environmental education programs to raise public awareness on issues related to wetland conservation and sustainable use in Sichuan.

66. This project also supports the formation of a cross-departmental coordination mechanism (involving the agriculture, land utilization and tourism sectors etc.) for coordinated development and conservation, to ensure wetland conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources. This project supports capacity building for continuous, significant improvement in the conservation and management capacity of wetland parks. The management effectiveness of two wetland parks will be substantially improved. A monitoring and evaluation system will be established to assess management effectiveness and to ensure results are being used to improve provincial policies and plans.

67. **Component 2: Strengthening site level management including developing standards for wetland park operation**. The focus of this component is to strengthen management in the two wetland parks and their watersheds, manage 767,766 hectares of wetland protected area within a newly created Sichuan network of wetland protected areas, and design and implement community based livelihoods. Based on the development of the two demonstration wetland parks, the project will refine the master plans for medium and long-term development and formulate biodiversity conservation plans to improve protection and management. At the same time, through capacity building, a monitoring and evaluation system and better law enforcement, wetland conservation and management will be strengthened to better address threats and reduce damage to the wetland ecosystem and biodiversity.

68. The project will develop and improve the planning, supervision and law enforcement mechanisms for the management of wetland parks and tailor them to the construction, operation and management of different types of wetland parks. The project will develop a participatory management framework and sign conservation agreements with the local communities for Qionghai Wetland Park. The project will develop a sustainable wetland business, identify wetland products and encourage eco-friendly utilization of wetland resources.

69. By implementing the above-mentioned components, the project is expected to generate multiple benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems with global significance. The project plans to reduce the pressure on biodiversity by improving the conservation and management of wetlands and the sustainability of wetland protected areas Sichuan.

Theory of change:

70. The project theory of change, as graphically depicted in **Figure 5** is explained below. As shown in this diagram, the theory of change for the project is broken down into the following two causal pathways: (1) strengthening the enabling environment and (2) building sustainability. The project results are expected to be sustained after GEF funding ceases, leading the following long-term outcomes:

- Strengthened enabling environment facilitates mainstreaming of wetland conservation among production sectors
- Sichuan network of wetland protected areas managed effectively to achieve conservation goals
- Enhanced well-being and resilience of local communities, inclusive of women and other marginalized groups
- Adaptive management facilitated through effective knowledge sharing

Causal Pathway 1: Strengthening the enabling environment

71. It is recognized through the project's theory of change that achieving long-term conservation objectives requires multi-stakeholder collaboration. Important impact drivers in this causal pathway is that the government remains committed, and the cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanisms are effectively established. Assumptions associated with the process of strengthening the enabling environment include the following:

- Institutional commitment and flexibility to mainstreaming and financing
- Institutional and individual capacities remain in place

Causal Pathway 2: Building sustainability

72. Achieving durable impacts at scale will partly depend on the effective establishment and operationalization of the envisaged Sichuan network of wetland protected areas. The network will provide an important mechanism for upscaling the innovative approaches demonstrated on the project, including conservation agreements with local communities and alternative livelihood ventures, as well as sharing knowledge on state-of-the art practices and lessons learned across the network, as well as elsewhere in China and beyond. Some of the key assumptions under this causal pathway include the following:

- Sustainable options are attractive to local communities
- Equitable distribution of benefits, including among women and marginalized groups

73. The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management plan, which will be regularly updated based on feedback obtained from monitoring and evaluation and implementation of safeguard management plans. One of the key impact drives in this causal pathway is that conservation practices are adapted according to effective flow of knowledge. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important assumption in this regard.

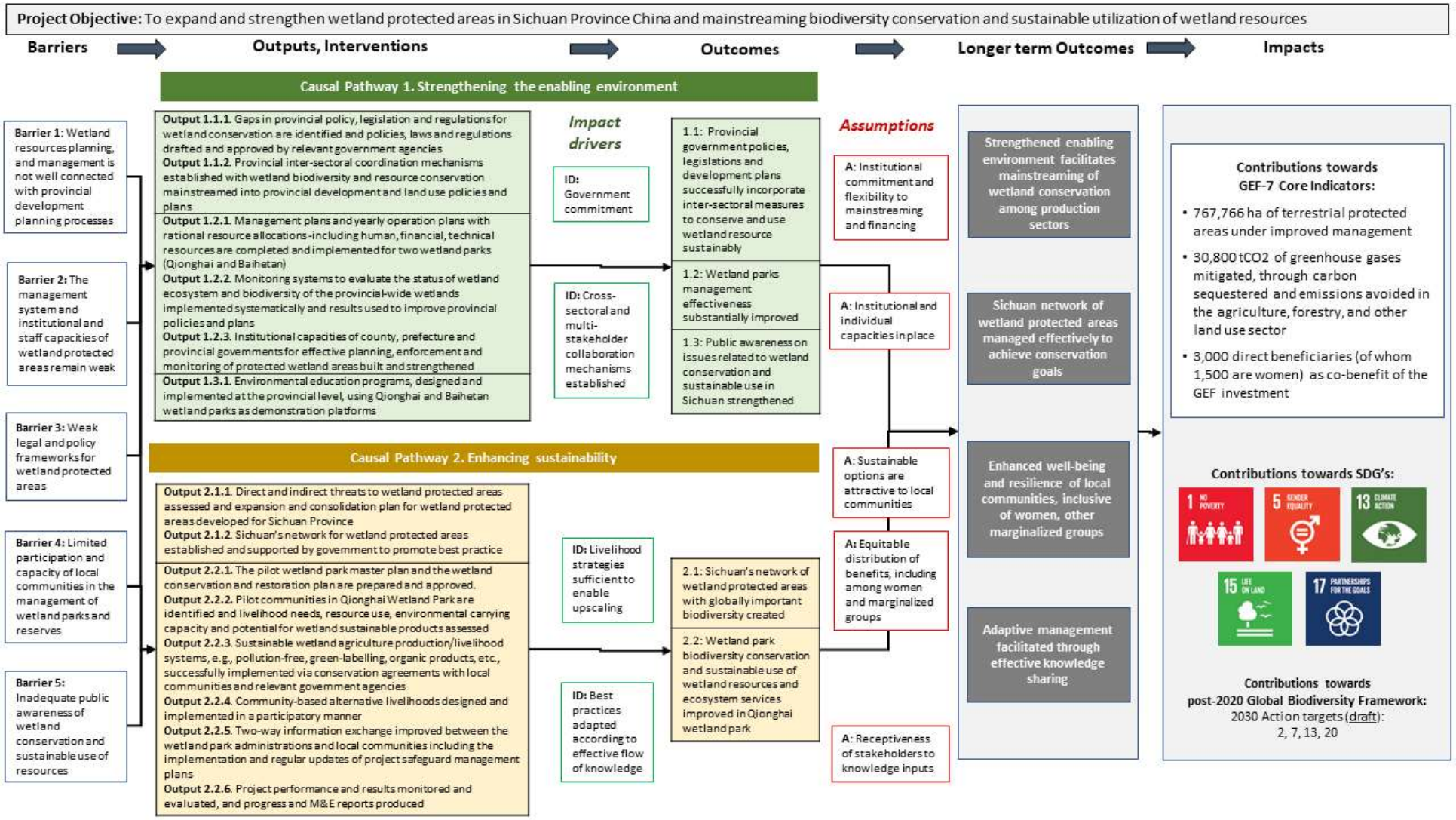


Figure 5: Project theory of change

Alignment with GEF focal area

74. The project is consistent with and aligns with the following GEF focal area strategic programming:

- **BD-1 Program 1. Outcome 1.1**: Increased revenue for protected area systems and globally significant protected areas to meet total expenditures required for management
- **BD-1 Program 1. Outcome 1.2**: Improved management effectiveness of protected areas
- **BD-1 Program 2. Outcome 2.1**: Increase in area of terrestrial and marine ecosystems of global significance in new protected areas and increase in threatened species of global significance protected in new protected areas

75. The goal of the biodiversity strategy in the focal area of the sixth cycle of GEF is to maintain global biodiversity, ecosystem services and products for society. Four strategies around the goal are: 1) improving the sustainability of protected area systems; 2) reducing threats to biodiversity; 3) making sustainable use of biodiversity; and 4) applying conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in productive landscape and industry. Expected outcomes include increasing income for the protected area systems and globally important protected areas; improving the effectiveness of protected area management; increasing the overall area of protected areas and preventing and managing alien invasive species; and improving the effectiveness of management of new protected areas.

76. The objectives of this project are to expand the wetland protected area in Sichuan Province, strengthen the management capacity in wetland protection, and promote mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources. These objectives are consistent with the main goals and strategies of GEF in the field of biodiversity. In helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change, this project aims to restore wetland ecosystems through optimizing the management model, formulating relevant laws and regulations, changing the mode of production and operation of demonstration zones, and achieving energy savings and emission reductions by vigorously promoting green and ecological industries. This is consistent with the plan of GEF to promote the protection and enhancement of land carbon sequestration, support climate-intelligent agriculture and accelerate the adoption of innovative technology and management practices.

Incremental/additional cost reasoning

77. In November 2016, the General Office of the State Council released Notice on Issuance of Plans for Wetland Protection and Restoration, which requires a series of plans on wetland protection and restoration to be established and improved. Although China has injected significant investment and effort in wetland conservation and management without a baseline scenario of GEF investment, Sichuan Province lacks overall strategic planning and policies and regulations for the development and management of wetland parks. Wetland protection and financing remain at a basic level and have not received extensive support from multiple stakeholders, including government departments, local communities and the private sector.

78. Wetland reserves and wetland parks have insufficient resources for operation, staff and capacity, which will continue to hinder the process of strengthening wetland protection and management. Although it is recognized that it is necessary to strengthen financial and human resources for wetland protection and management, the People's Government of Sichuan Province has not yet planned any major institutional or policy reforms to strengthen conservation and management of wetlands. Without the technical support of the project, any follow-up measures will be limited, and the best and most useful knowledge and practice from China and around the world will not be known or used. Some issues related to sustainable financing may be resolved at some sites but, without the support of this project, necessary comprehensive and systematic financing is unlikely to emerge. In the mind of the vast majority of protected area planners and provincial decision-makers, the financing for infrastructure construction still occupies a main position. The capacity building of the staff in reserves will be insufficient and there will be no remarkable change in the overall capacity of nature reserve managerial staff. According to the baseline data, local people's participation in the management of protected areas and support for activities in protected areas remain low. Without the support of this project, it is impossible to establish any formal and sustainable co-management framework.

79. Based on existing conservation projects in the region, significant gains will be generated with the support of the GEF. GEF's investment will help Sichuan Province with policies, regulations and guidelines on wetland protection, management and utilization. GEF investment will also support the exploration and establishment of an effective and sustainable management model that combines sustainable utilization of wetland natural resources with effective protection, so as to minimize threats to the wetland ecosystem. In view of the current large deficiencies in financial support for wetland protection, especially the lack of financial support for monitoring, research, training and capacity-building of local protected area staff and law enforcement, etc., GEF's investment will help Sichuan Province to establish effective systematic institution and personnel capacity for wetland protection, raise public awareness of wetland conservation, and explore models for local communities to actively participate in wetland management to improve its effectiveness. Through the project, the wetland protection and management system in Sichuan Province will be significantly strengthened and thus better able to achieve its protection goals. With GEF's investment, the effectiveness of wetland conservation and management will be greatly enhanced, the biodiversity of wetlands will be more effectively protected, and the ecological service functions will be fully acknowledged and respected.

Global environmental benefits

80. Qionghai is one of the largest high plateau lakes, the second largest freshwater lake, and an important habitat for endangered species in Sichuan Province, including bird species listed on the IUCN Red List. Sixteen wetland nature reserves and parks that will be included in the Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas fall within KBAs. The network will also enhance effective management of wetland nature reserves and wetland parks covering 767,766 hectares and province-wide wetland monitoring and evaluation system by reducing threats to, and pressure on, the biodiversity and ecosystems of important wetlands, thus benefiting biodiversity and ecosystems of global importance. Global environmental benefits include maintaining biodiversity, mitigating climate change, slowing and reversing land degradation and achieving sustainable wetland management.

81. **Mainstreaming biodiversity**. Sichuan Province is extremely rich in biodiversity and, as well as being a biodiversity hotspot in southwest China, is a core component of the "Himalaya - Hengduan Mountains", one of the 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world. The biodiversity of two demonstration wetland parks (Qionghai and Baihetan) in the project is very high and both have threatened species. The project will greatly benefit the protection of these threatened species.

82. **Addressing climate change**. Wetlands are an important carbon sink, playing a key role in the global carbon cycle. At the same time, wetland soil is often water-logged and the heat capacity is large, consuming a great amount of solar energy and making the ground surface temperature increase at a slower rate. Thus, the project will help to alleviate global climate change.

83. **Curbing land degradation**. There are abundant types of wetlands in Sichuan Province. However, in recent years, due to improperly planned development and utilization, many wetlands have been destroyed (e.g. from overgrazing, reclaiming land from lakes, artificial drainage), resulting in degradation of the wetland ecosystem, loss of ecological function, and even land deterioration and desertification. Under the project, measures such as returning farmland to wetland, returning grazing land to wetland, and strengthening effective management of wetlands will help to reduce land degradation.

84. **Sustainable wetland management**. By reducing wetland degradation, exploring wetland sustainable utilization, addressing the livelihoods of local residents, strengthening the effectiveness of protected area management, establishing standards for development and management, establishing a sustainable utilization model of wetland resources, and promoting the participation of local communities in the co-management of wetland protected areas, the project will improve sustainable management of wetland protected areas and the surrounding communities.

85. In addition to global environmental benefits, the project will bring considerable national and local environmental benefits, such as water conservation, water purification, improved air quality and provision of wildlife habitats. Although the project has only two demonstration sites, it will carry out a great deal of work at the provincial level, so the environmental benefits can be replicated in other areas.

Contributions towards achievement of the C-PAR program objectives

86. The project is one of the six child projects under the Government's GEF-6 China's Protected Area Reform (C-PAR) Program, which aims to transform China's national protected area system through systematic legal and institutional reform and innovation for conservation of globally significant biodiversity. The C-PAR Program addresses a number of systematic barriers to effective PA management including: a) weak framework for coordinated PA system; b) lack of systematic planning/mainstreaming; c) weak management capacity and inadequate resources; d) poor knowledge sharing and coordination. With coordination through the national C-PAR Program Steering Committee, the project components will contribute substantively towards the C-PAR program outcomes and program indicators (further developed during the PPG phase into a coordinated C-PAR Program Results Framework). These contributions and alignment of project and program indicators is shown in the Table below. As the only project focusing on wetland ecosystems, this project offers good opportunities for replication and learning across freshwater environment, linking freshwater and watershed management approaches.

87. Formulation of the child project benefitted greatly from the C-PAR programmatic approach, for example through sharing of information during PPG, coordinated project design and coordination on result framework with C-PAR programme on indicators and targets. During the implementation phase, this synergy and coordination will continue through the program-level steering committee, through coordination on common outputs and activities between child projects. This will enable the project to contribute emerging approaches and lessons from this project and to learn from the PA reform process as a whole.

88. The project components will contribute towards the C-PAR programmatic outcomes as shown below in **Table 2**.

Table 2: *Project contributions towards C-PAR program results*

C-PAR Program Objective / Component	Program Outcomes	C-PAR Program Indicators	Project contributions to C-PAR program level results
Objective: Transform China's national protected area system through systematic legal and institutional reform and innovation for conservation of globally significant biodiversity			
Component 1: Improved legal and institutional framework at national and provincial level	1.1 Effective governance and legal framework for the national protected area system – indicated by approved national systems plan and technical regulations allowing for establishment of new PA categories suited for biodiversity protection 1.2 Harmonized and effective national system for selecting, designing, managing and monitoring various types of protected areas – indicated by transparent selection, planning and monitoring procedures 1.3 Increased government financing for PA management – indicated by an increase of annual investment in PA system operation by >30% over baseline amount to be established during the PPG	Indicator 1: Extent to which legal, policy and institutional frameworks reflect current national policy for biodiversity conservation	At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation approved by key provincial departments. (Indicator 4) One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands approved by Sichuan provincial government. (Indicator 5)
		Indicator 2**:** **Sustainability of PA financing** a. 30% increase in scores in the GEF-6 BD Financial Sustainability Scorecard b. 30% increase in cumulative annual national PA financing (direct), justified by economic valuations, narrowing the gap for basic PA management scenario c. C-PAR4: Establish ecological compensation mechanism	767,766 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management. End of project METT: 60% (system-level, reflecting the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves) (Indicator 1)
		Indicator 3: **Improved PA governance**, as indicated by new or strengthened collaborative governance mechanisms	Sustainable wetland agriculture production/livelihood systems, e.g., pollution-free, green-labelling, organic products, etc., successfully implemented via conservation agreements with local communities and relevant government agencies. (Output 2.2.3)
Component 2: Systematic PA planning and mainstreaming at national, provincial,	2.1 National protected area system expanded by 2.483 million ha	Indicator 4: **New areas of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the national PA system**, indicated by coverage of ecologically	N/A

C-PAR Program Objective / Component	Program Outcomes	C-PAR Program Indicators	Project contributions to C-PAR program level results
county spatial planning and sectors	2.2 Threats to PAs reduced, indicated by increased ESAs and evidence of enforcement, integration of biodiversity concern in development and sector planning and operations, and increased capacity for community engagement	sensitive areas (ESAs) and/or key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in protected area systems.	
		Indicator 5: **Subnational institutional capacities of for protected area planning and management**, as indicated by the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard, tallied across the following five thematic areas: Area 1: Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programs Area 2: Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programs Area 3: Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders Area 4: Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge Area 5: Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation approved by key provincial departments. (Indicator 4)
		Indicator 6: **Threats to globally significant biodiversity at project demonstration sites reduced**.	100% of people participating in environmental education programs significantly increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use. (Indicator 7)
Component 3: Site level management and supervision standards raised for different PA types	3.1 Increased management effectiveness of demonstration PAs with globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems - 30% increase indicated by METT plus 20% improvement of EHI over baselines 3.2 Stable or improved status of rare species population – e.g. snow leopard, Przewalski's gazelle, migratory birds	Indicator 7: **Protected area management effectiveness**, as indicated by scores recorded in the GEF-6 version of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)	767,766 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management. End of project METT: 60% (system-level, reflecting the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves) (Indicator 1)
		Indicator 8: **Estimated populations of threatened species,** as indicated by biodiversity assessments	N/A
		Indicator 9: **# direct project beneficiaries**, a. Communities within/around target sites. b. People receiving training.	3,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 1,500 are women. (Indicator 3)
		Indicator 10: **Level of inclusiveness in management of the NP system, as indicated through:** a. Gender inclusion b. Ethnic minorities inclusion c. Community engagement d. Civil society participation	a. 50% of direct beneficiaries are women. (included within Indicator 1)
Component 4: Program Coordination, Knowledge Management, and M&E	4.1 Improved knowledge sharing between PAs and uptake of best practices 4.2 Improved understanding among decision makers and the public on value of PA system, indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices surveys to be conducted at start and end of projects	*Indicator 11*: **Effectiveness of program coordination, as indicated by:** a. Program governance b. Program level reporting	N/A
		Indicator 12: **Extent of knowledge management of C-PAR program, as indicated through** a. Functional biodiversity knowledge platform b. Lessons learned distilled and disseminated	Local residents' awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems reaches 80%. (Indicator 12)

C-PAR Program Objective / Component	Program Outcomes	C-PAR Program Indicators	Project contributions to C-PAR program level results
		c. Knowledge exchange through workshops, seminars, conferences	
		Indicator 13: **Level of understanding among decision makers and public on value of PA systems**, based on results of knowledge, practices, and attitudes (KAP) survey	Improvement in knowledge, practices and attitudes (target to be set after baseline KAP survey at project inception) (Indicator 11)
		Indicator 14: **Mandatory basic reporting standard for Chinese nature reserve system**, as a necessary evaluation part of supervision	N/A

Socioeconomic Benefits:

89. The project will achieve a series of social and economic benefits, including regulating the local climate, ensuring water and food safety, water storage and flood control, realizing sustainable livelihoods of local residents, wetland eco-industries (sustainable tourism, agriculture, etc.), supporting a positive image of the Chinese government in fulfilling commitments under relevant international environmental conventions, promoting the upgrading and dissemination of wetland culture, and achieving research, popular science education and regional economic restructuring.

90. **Water storage and flood control to alleviate downstream flood risks**. Wetlands play an important role in managing water resources, including regulating river runoff, supplying groundwater and maintaining a regional water balance. Wetlands are natural "sponges" for flood control allowing uneven precipitation to be redistributed, and through the wetland's regulation, the risks of floods and droughts can be reduced, easing the flood control pressure downstream.

91. **Develop wetland eco-industry to sustain the livelihoods of community residents**. The project will establish sustainable utilization of wetland resources, develop wetland products, industries and markets, and promote wildlife conservation. Under the guiding principle of protecting wetland resources in Sichuan Province, the project will explore the rational use model of wetland resources through science-based eco-tourism, eco-agriculture and eco-cultural industries. With the increasingly far-reaching impacts of wetland park culture, wetland development will usher in more opportunities for promotion and public visits. Direct tourism income will bring some economic benefits; at the same time, the development of wetland parks provides employment opportunities for local people, increases the income of local residents, and improves their living standards. Sustainable ecotourism is a wealth-enriching industry that stimulates people flow and logistics, promotes consumption and invigorates the economy, and is also a people-oriented industry.

92. **Establish a good image of China in fulfilling relevant international conventions**. China has successively acceded to international conventions such as the Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). By providing a good platform for related research, the project will support the Chinese government in implementing the Convention on Wetlands, thus helping establish a positive image of China in fulfilling relevant international conventions.

93. **Enhance public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources**. The new wetland conserved area is used as a platform for environmental education and projects to engage the public will be designed and implemented. Through the conservation agreements, local communities are actively involved in the protection and management of wetland ecosystems. The project will greatly enhance the public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable utilization of resources in Sichuan, a key part of the successful implementation of the project and subsequent sustainable management.

Lessons learned during PPG phase and from other relevant GEF projects:

94. **Taking full account of community residents in the project area**. Local communities living in buffer zones of globally important biological diversity areas should be offered experimental projects to promote

alternative livelihoods, rather than a simple and one-time relocation without any remedial measures. Plans should be tailored to local customs and in full consultation with local communities. Local communities should be made aware of the importance of conservation and should benefit from the plans so as to address natural and human-related issues simultaneously. In addition, it should be ensured that local communities are involved in the management of natural resources from the beginning. Otherwise, lack of community buy-in is not conducive to the communications and sustainable development of the project.

95. **The working mechanism of the Project Board**. The Project Board is set up as the highest coordination mechanism and decision-making body under the multi-cooperation method. And the national project director is designated as the convener of the Project Board to guide the project management team. Under this system, the project manager takes a full responsibility under the Project Board's leadership. Under the coordination of the national project director, the Project Board shall convene periodically to approve the annual work plan, review the annual report and evaluate the project on a regular basis, so as to timely modify the strategy, adjust the work plan, and solve issues encountered in the project promotion and implementation.

96. **Replicability**. The potential to replicate and scale up successful outcomes is a key target for the PPG phase. During the implementation of the project, successful and replicable models should be summarized for application in other areas. Taking the conservation of mountainous ecosystems and biodiversity as an example, although some factors that lead to the loss of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity vary from place to place, many measures to mitigate threats can be applied in other areas, especially good watershed management models, in coordination with human needs and biodiversity conservation. The replicability of expected achievements should be fully considered.

IV. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results*:*

97. The **objective of the project** is to expand and strengthen wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province, China and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources. This is consistent with objective 1 of the GEF biodiversity focal area: improve sustainability of protected area systems. The project will continuously improve the spatial planning and management effectiveness of wetland protected areas and will encourage the consolidation of laws, plans as well as institutional frameworks through mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands into provincial departmental plans. It will also strengthen the wetland conservation capacity (strategies, means, mechanisms, knowledge, skills, resources, etc.), and provide support for management and supervision of the provincial wetland protection system network. Meanwhile, through the management demonstration of two typically representative national wetland parks, the project will explore the sustainable use of wetland resources and alleviate the contradictions between wetland conservation and the needs of local people. Thus, Sichuan Province can achieve effective wetland management through the elimination of barriers and protection of important biodiversity.

Component 1: Strengthening Sichuan Province's institutional capacity on systematic planning and mainstreaming at the provincial level to conserve and sustainably use wetlands resources

Total Cost: USD 8,008,360; GEF project grant requested: USD 1,028,330; Cofinancing: USD 6,980,000

98. A cross-sectoral comprehensive coordination mechanism will be established to ensure that sustainable conservation and utilization of wetland resources can be incorporated into the provincial government policies, regulations and development plans. The public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources in Sichuan Province will be enhanced through improving the capacity of the system, institutions and personnel, so as to improve the effectiveness of wetland park management and public communication.

Outcome 1.1: Provincial government policies, legislation and development plans successfully incorporate inter-sectoral measures to conserve and use wetland resources sustainably

99. This outcome focuses on addressing Barrier 1: wetland resources planning and management is not well connected with provincial development planning processes, and barrier 3: the laws and regulations on wetland parks and reserves are weak, and the implementation and supervision are ineffective. The establishment of a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism can incorporate the objectives and planning of wetland conservation into the development planning of government departments. It is also necessary to develop relevant policies and regulations at the provincial government level. These policies can ensure that all relevant departments develop and implement plans in a wetland-friendly way and ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of wetland resources. The corresponding monitoring and evaluation system will be established and implemented to evaluate management effectiveness, and the results will be used to improve provincial-level policies and planning. Institutional capacity of provincial, prefecture (city) and county governments will be improved to promote effective management of wetland protected areas and to enhance the capabilities of monitoring, evaluation and law enforcement.

100. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 1.1 include:

- At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation
- One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands

101. The results expected under Outcome 1.1 will be achieved through the implementation of the following two outputs.

Output 1.1.1. Gaps in provincial policy, legislation and regulations for wetland conservation are identified and policies, laws and regulations drafted and approved by relevant government agencies

Key deliverables:

- Gap analysis of existing policies and regulations on wetland conservation and management.
- Proposed new and/or modified or amended policies and regulations on wetland conservation and management.
- Guidance documents on wetland conservation, planning, socioeconomic analyses, and sustainable use of wetland resources and services, underpinned by a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), as per UNDP's SES Policy.

102. The focus of this output is to promote wetland protection at the provincial level. For instance, guidelines will be developed with clear wetland conservation planning content including scope, period of planning, local ecological, socio-economic analysis and assessment, etc. The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be a key informant for the development of policy/regulation amendments and technical guidelines to support ecological impact assessments of wetland infrastructure construction projects, as well as other Outputs under Component 1. The content will be made available to the public in order to establish a public supervision mechanism. In 2010, Sichuan Province promulgated Sichuan Provincial Regulation of Wetland Protection, stipulating the scope of wetlands and wetland protection responsibilities and prohibitions, which were effective in enhancing the protection of wetlands. However, this regulation is now eight years old, and needs to be revised and supplemented in order to meet the latest direction and requirements for wetland conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources. It is necessary for officials to further assess policies and regulations on wetland conservation and identify gaps and potential conflicts. The project will conduct assessment on provincial policy, legislation and regulations in wetland conservation and their gaps will be identified. An assessment report on wetland conservation policy and regulation will provide a detailed and reliable basis for the formulation of future wetland conservation and management policies. Based on the assessment report, relevant policies and regulations will be drafted and approved by relevant government agencies.

103. Indicative activities under Output 1.1.1 include:

1.1.1.1. Carry out a gap analysis of policies and regulations on wetland conservation and identify gaps and potential conflicts.
1.1.1.2. Based on the results of the gap analysis, formulate new and/or modified or amended polices and regulations on improved wetland conservation and management.
1.1.1.3. P Develop a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, (SESA) to ensure project-supported legal and policy amendments,take full consideration of potential upstream social and environmental impacts arising from the development of subsequent regulations/policies/guidelines.
1.1.1.4. Prepare guidance documents on wetland conservation, planning, socioeconomic analyses, and sustainable use of wetland resources and services.
1.1.1.5. Disseminate the guidance documents through convening stakeholder workshops, holding seminars and webinars, and distributing electronic and printed copies.
1.1.1.6. Promote and advocate for adopting the new and modified or amended policies and regulations on improved wetland conservation and management.

Output 1.1.2. Provincial inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms established with wetland biodiversity and resource conservation mainstreamed into provincial development and land use policies and plans

Key deliverables:

- Terms of reference for cross-sectoral coordination mechanism for promotion of mainstreaming of wetland resources conservation and sustainable use.
- Technical guidelines for ecological impact assessments of wetland infrastructure construction projects.
- Training records.

104. The purpose of this output is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources at the provincial level. A technical outline for wetland resources conservation and sustainable use will

be developed for provincial and sectoral planning. To achieve this goal, a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism will be established at the provincial level (including forestry, agriculture, water conservancy, land use, environmental protection, finance and tourism). Then, workshops will be held about integrating wetland conservation into departmental planning and cross-sectoral coordination meetings will be held once or twice a year to review implementation of provincial and sectoral plans and to discuss issues and solutions.

105. Wetland resources and biodiversity conservation will be incorporated into environmental impact assessments, and technical guidelines will be developed for ecological impact assessments of wetland infrastructure construction projects. The technical guidelines will also include best practices for management of pests in wetland ecosystems. In addition, the participation of stakeholders, including men and women in the environmental impact assessments relating to wetlands, and the consent of key stakeholders (such as wetland administrations) will be taken as a necessary condition for the approval of the project.

106. Indicative activities under Output 1.1.2 include:

1.1.2.1. Establish a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism, and convene a series of cross-sectoral capacity development workshops, focused on integrating wetland conservation and sustainable use into sectoral planning.
1.1.2.2. Develop technical guidelines for ecological impact assessments of wetland infrastructure construction projects.
1.1.2.3. Deliver trainings through seminars and/or webinars to governmental, NGOs, and consultant practitioners on applying the ecological impact assessment guidelines for wetland infrastructure projects as part of environmental impact assessment processes.

Outcome 1.2: Wetland parks management effectiveness substantially improved

107. This outcome will address barrier 2: management system, institutional and staff capacities of wetland protected areas remain weak, and barrier 3: weak legal and policy frameworks for wetland protected areas. The outcome will focus on the development of a manual on the formulation of management plans, supporting the formulation and implementation of management plans and yearly operation plans of Qionghai and Baihetan national wetland parks. This will include reasonable and effective allocation of resources, including human resources, financial, technical support and other resources. Meanwhile, provincial-level wetland planning, monitoring and evaluation technical guidelines will be developed and implemented to assess the effectiveness of wetland conservation and management. Through such standards, the authorities at provincial, prefecture (city) and county levels can improve their planning, monitoring and assessment, and law enforcement capabilities, and strengthen the effectiveness of wetland conservation and management. An evaluation of the management effectiveness of wetland reserves and parks will be regularly conducted and the results will be shared with the authorities of wetland management and the public. The outcome will include different types of training for the authorities of provincial, prefecture (city) and county levels with a target to train at least 200 staff (70% men; 30% women).

108. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 1.2 include:

- METT score for the Qionghai National Wetland Park: 67% (baseline is 39%)
- METT score for the Baihetan National Wetland Park: 67% (baseline is 45%).

109. The results expected under Outcome 1.2 will be achieved through the implementation of the following three outputs.

Output 1.2.1. Management plans and yearly operation plans with rational resource allocations -including human, financial, technical resources completed and implemented for two wetland parks (Qionghai and Baihetan)

Key deliverables:

- Wetland park management plans for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park (also to be informed by the SESA undertaken under Output 1.1.1 above).

- Annual review reports on the progress of implementing the wetland park management plans.

110. The purpose of this output is to optimize the capital input structure of wetland parks, overcome the constraints of wetland management and better cope with the threats faced by the two demonstration wetland parks in order to improve the overall effectiveness of their wetland conservation. The project will develop wetland park management plans, including methodology for the preparation of such plans, through training, guidance and to promote the preparation and implementation of wetland park management plans and annual work plans for the two demonstration wetland parks. The management plans will not only cover the wetland parks itself, but also include the surrounding watersheds of the parks, e.g., addressing management of pests and invasive alien species. As a result, it will not only improve the capability of the wetland park managerial staff but also optimize the use of the wetland park funds so that human resources, financial and technical inputs to the wetland parks will gradually shift from infrastructure construction to addressing the threats to wetlands and improving the management effectiveness of the wetland parks. As a result, the ecological functions of the wetlands will be gradually enhanced.

111. Indicative activities under Output 1.2.1 include:

1.2.1.1. Develop wetland park management plans for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park, taking SESA principles into account.
1.2.1.2. Support implementation of the wetland park management plans through delivering technical and financial capacity development.
1.2.1.3. Monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of the wetland park management plans, produce annual review reports, and update the plans annual with adaptive management measures accordingly.

Output 1.2.2. Monitoring systems to evaluate the status of wetland ecosystem and biodiversity of the provincial-wide wetlands implemented systematically and results used to improve the provincial policies and plans

Key deliverables:

- Monitoring and evaluation standards for assessing ecological status and management of wetland protected areas
- Strengthened information management systems for wetland protected area monitoring and evaluation
- Wetland park monitoring and evaluation reporting systems for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park

112. The main purpose of this output is to establish a comprehensive wetland monitoring system, to apply the results of the monitoring to improve provincial-level policies and planning and to promote the regular dissemination of monitoring information. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to formulate monitoring and evaluation standards to reflect the ecological status and management of wetlands at the provincial level, including indicators that reflect the ecological functions, biodiversity status, and threats to and management activities of wetlands. According to the monitoring and evaluation standards, wetland monitoring databases and information platforms using unified standards and a compatible format will be developed to ensure that each wetland protected area adopts comparable systems. At the same time, the project will establish a wetland park monitoring data reporting system; each wetland protected area will regularly report their monitoring results, and the data will be aggregated and analyzed at the provincial level. Dynamic changes to the main indicators will be tracked and released as an early warning.

113. Indicative activities under Output 1.2.2 include:

1.2.2.1. Develop provincial monitoring and evaluation standards for assessing ecological status and management of wetland protected areas.

1.2.2.2. Strengthen and/or develop information management systems for wetland protected area monitoring and evaluation.
1.2.2.3. Establish wetland park monitoring and evaluation reporting systems for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park.

Output 1.2.2. Institutional capacities of county, prefecture and provincial governments for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of protected wetland areas built and strengthened

Key deliverables:

- Updated gap analysis of wetland protected area planning, enforcement, and monitoring capacities at the provincial level
- Capacity development records
- Technical and investment assistance for strengthening and/or establishing wetland monitoring stations

114. The focus of this output is to strengthen capacity for effective planning, law enforcement and monitoring at the provincial, prefecture (city) and county levels. At the provincial level, the wetland protection and management center of Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau shall be responsible for supervising, planning and managing all wetland parks and wetland nature reserves in the province. As the wetland protection and management staff in Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau is insufficient, an advisory group will be established to provide technical support in monitoring and evaluation of provincial-wide wetland protected areas.

115. In view of the shortage of knowledge and skills of wetland management personnel, the project will deliver systematic training on wetland conservation, management, monitoring and communications. This will improve the knowledge structure and management skills and establish monitoring institutions and monitoring platforms at the provincial, prefecture (city) and county levels. This will include the establishment of monitoring stations and the provision of monitoring equipment to meet the needs of high-level wetland conservation and management.

116. Indicative activities under Output 1.2.3 include:

1.2.3.1. Conduct an updated gap analysis of wetland protected area planning, enforcement, and monitoring capacities at the provincial level.
1.2.3.2. Supported by a technical advisory group, deliver capacity development on planning, enforcement, monitoring, and communications based on the findings of the updated gap analysis.
1.2.3.3. Deliver a series of focused trainings for women professionals.
1.2.3.4. Provide technical and investment assistance for strengthening and/or establish wetland monitoring stations for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park; including procurement of equipment for training and demonstration purposes, including water quality test kits, drones, binoculars-monocular, digital cameras, etc.
1.2.3.5. Organize domestic and international learning exchanges, sharing best practices and lessons learned in wetland PA planning, management, and monitoring.

Outcome 1.3: Strengthened public awareness of wetland protection and sustainable use in Sichuan Province

117. This outcome addresses barrier 5: Inadequate public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources. The project will support the development of a wetland science education programme and conduct wetland science education activities. This will be achieved through systematic, diverse and interactive wetland science communication and education activities in Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park. At the same time, the project will develop guidelines for public wetland science education programmes, train wetland science education staff (men and women), and promote a public wetland education through Sichuan's wetland protected areas network.

118. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 1.3 include:

- 100% of people participating in environmental education programs significantly increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use

119. The results expected under Outcome 1.3 will be achieved through the implementation of the following output.

Output 1.3.1. Environmental education programs, designed and implemented at the provincial level, using Qionghai and Baihetan wetland parks as demonstration platforms

Key deliverables:

- Wetland environmental and communication programs to be integrated into the education centers at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park
- Provincial guidelines for wetland environmental education and communication

120. The purpose of the output is to establish a wetland environmental education programs at the education centers in Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park through developing indoor and outdoor integrated wetland science communications and education programmes for different public groups. Based on wetland resources and biodiversity of the two wetland parks, and following the principle of "wetland education-nature's simultaneous interpretation", environmental education books with local characteristics will be produced. Inspiring and interactive wetland science education activities will be designed and carried out. The provincial guidelines for wetland science communications and education of provincial wetland parks will be developed. One idea that was discussed during PPG phase stakeholder consultations regarding the environmental education program for the two pilot wetland parks is to increase awareness of local communities on the threats associated with invasive alien species and possibly to set up a voluntary monitoring scheme.

121. Indicative activities under Output 1.3.1 include:

1.3.1.1. Develop wetland environmental education and communication programs to be integrated into the education centers at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park.
1.3.1.2. Implement classroom and field level wetland environmental education activities at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park, supported by printed and online educational materials, also produced in local languages where relevant, and equipment procured for environmental educational purposes, including digital cameras, binoculars-monocular, flat panel electronic whiteboards, projectors, etc.
1.3.1.3. Based on experiences and lessons of the wetland environmental education activities implemented at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park, develop provincial guidelines for wetland environmental education and communication.

Component 2: Strengthening site level management and raising the standards for wetland parks
Total Cost: USD 11,679.640; GEF project grant requested: USD 1,499,640; Cofinancing: USD 10,180,000

122. The project will improve the management of wetland protected areas through the establishment of Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas. The project will also develop standards related to monitoring, ecological restoration, and sustainable use of wetland resources, and regulate conservation, restoration, monitoring and the sustainable use of wetland resources. Demonstration of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources will be conducted in two representative wetland parks - involving local communities - to improve biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of wetland resources and ecosystem services.

Outcome 2.1: Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas with globally important biodiversity created

123. This outcome addresses barrier 2: The management system and institutional and staff capacities of wetland protected areas remain weak. The outcome will establish a wetland management network (Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas). Since some wetland parks have not yet conducted any work to enhance the effective management of wetland reserves and parks, the project will establish a provincial-wide wetland protected areas network system based on the established 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves, 16 of which are located in KBAs. This will contribute to the protection of globally important biodiversity areas.

124. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 2.1 include:

- A Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas is created
- 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves are within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas
- 767,766 ha of wetland protected areas are included within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas

125. The results expected under Outcome 2.1 will be achieved through the implementation of the following two outputs.

Output 2.1.1. Direct and indirect threats to wetland protected areas assessed and consolidation plan for wetland protected areas developed in Sichuan Province

Key deliverables:

- Updated analysis of threats and barriers associated with conservation and management of the wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province and develop a scoped ESIA to provide clarity on the likelihood and/or scale of any potential negative impact on the local livelihoods.
- Detailed wetland conservation plan for Sichuan Province
- Report on the evaluation of the implementation of the provincial wetland conservation plan

126. The project will assess the importance of wetlands, categorize wetlands, assess the threats and barriers and conduct gap analysis, covering 40 approved wetland nature reserves and 39 provincial-level and national-level wetland parks. Based on the assessment, a detailed wetland conservation plan will be developed for enhancement of the wetland protected area system and expansion of wetland PA system including newly important wetlands under protection. Through implementation of the provincial wetland conservation plan, the project will improve the ecological status of wetland nature reserves and wetland parks.

127. Indicative activities under Output 2.1.1 include:

2.1.1.1. Carry out an updated analysis, informed by a scoped ESIA, of threats and barriers associated with conservation and management of wetland resources in Sichuan Province.
2.1.1.2. In collaboration with the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province under the authorization of Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (SFGB), prepare a detailed wetland conservation plan, aimed at enhancing coverage and effectiveness of the wetland protected area system.
2.1.1.3. Conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the provincial wetland conservation plan, assessing ecological status of wetland protected areas and the effectiveness of the conservation measures put into place.

Output 2.1.2. Sichuan's network for wetland protected areas established and supported by government to promote best practice

Key deliverables:

- Functional Sichuan wetland conservation and management network
- Working regulation for the Sichuan wetland conservation and management network

128. The focus of the output is to establish a knowledge and information sharing platform based on the 39 wetland parks and 40 nature reserves of the province. The platform will allow the sharing of data from the provincial wetland monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Led by the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province under the authorization of Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (SFGB) and with the support of 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves management authorities, the project will promote the establishment of a Sichuan wetland protected areas management network. Meanwhile, the project will also support Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau to develop a working regulation for the wetland conservation and management network to ensure that the network remains functional. The network members will meet regularly to share knowledge and best practice and to receive relevant training. It is expected that 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves, which is equivalent to 767,766 hectares, will be included in the network and have improved management. In collaboration with the national and other child projects of the UNDP-GEF C-PAR program, the project will also disseminate knowledge products through UNDP Biodiversity Exposure and PANORAMA[5].

129. Indicative activities under Output 2.1.2 include:

2.1.2.1. Design, administer and interpret baseline and end-of-project knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys, assessing knowledge, attitudes regarding wetland conservation and PA management.
2.1.2.2. Establish and initiate the functioning of a knowledge and information sharing platform for the wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province (Sichuan wetland conservation and management network).
2.1.2.3. Provide technical assistance for the development of a working regulation for the Sichuan wetland conservation and management network.
2.1.3.4. Organize awareness and advocacy campaigns, supported by knowledge products, such as short videos, factsheets, guide books, photo exhibits, etc.
2.1.2.5. Convene regular meetings, offline and online, for sharing knowledge and best practices and for delivering capacity development training.
2.1.2.6. Advocate the global environmental benefits generated through the project by participating in national, regional and international conferences, workshops, seminars and other events.

Outcome 2.2: Wetland park biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources and ecosystem services improved

130. This outcome addresses barrier 4: Limited participation and capacity of local communities in the management of wetland parks and reserves and barrier 5: Inadequate public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable use of resources. This outcome will identify stakeholders interested in sustainable utilization of wetland resources through participatory appraisal with local communities, to help ensure the process complies with UNDP standards on Indigenous people, an IPPF has been developed to guide outcome 2.2 (see **Annex 8**). IPP will describe how ethnic minorities will be involved at all Sustainable wetland agriculture production/livelihood systems development (output 2.2.2 and 2.2.3), and subsequent on-the-ground project activities (output 2.2.4 - Community-based alternative livelihoods designed and implemented in a participatory manner). Based on the rights and collective responsibilities of local communities in wetland protection and resource utilization, the project will select two villages through an open and transparent approach and build a new multi-participation mechanism for the protection and utilization of wetland resources in the form of conservation agreements between local communities and wetland park authorities.

131. Conservation agreements will support pilot villages in adopting wetland conservation actions such as producing “green” products utilizing the wetland resources and diversifying aquatic crop planting patterns, so as to increase the income of local residents from wetlands.

132. The project will build a multi-party communication platform using software application to improve local communication between the wetland park administration and stakeholders, particularly rural communities.

[5] https://panorama.solutions/en

133. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 2.1 include:

- The income from sustainable livelihood development for pilot communities increases by 20% against the baseline
- Local residents' awareness of the GEF project reaches 80%

134. The results expected under Outcome 2.2 will be achieved through the implementation of the following six outputs.

Output 2.2.1. Pilot wetland park master plans prepared and approved

Key deliverables:

- Master plans for Baihetan National Wetland Park and Qionghai National Wetland Park.

135. This output will support Baihetan National Wetland Park and Qionghai National Wetland Park to develop their master plans, which will incorporate project level Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) consistent with the requirements under UNDP's SES Policy (See Annex 21: Environmental and Social Management Framework for guidance) The project will also support the formulation of an eco-industrial development plan suitable for wetland parks.

136. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.1 include:

2.2.1.1. Develop master plans for the Baihetan National Wetland Park and Qionghai National Wetland Park. which will incorporate project level Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)
2.2.1.2. Socialize the master plans by convening stakeholder workshops with governmental stakeholders, as well as civil society organizations and local communities.

Output 2.2.2. Pilot communities identified and livelihood needs, resource use, environmental carrying capacity and potential for wetland sustainable products assessed

Key deliverables:

- Participatory socioeconomic assessments of the communities near the two pilot wetland parks.
- Strategies and priority actions for facilitating improved participation of local communities in wetland conservation and sustainable utilization.

137. The project will mobilize a multi-background social and economic survey team formed by stakeholders (see "Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)") to conduct participatory socioeconomic assessments of the communities near the two pilot wetland parks. The investigation will collect data on the status of economic, political, cultural, social and ecological development in the surrounding communities, including the ownership of wetland resources. The investigation will analyze the opportunities for, and threats to, sustainable utilization of wetland resources and develop Livelihood Action Plans (LAPs) for communities to participate in wetland conservation and sustainable utilization (see the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework, Annex 21, for an outline of a LAP).

138. The participatory assessment method will enable stakeholders identified in the PPG phase to express their views, and to share local knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of wetland resource use. In addition, attention will be given to vulnerable groups such as women and ethnic minorities.

139. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.2 include:

2.2.2.1. Deliver trainings on UNDP SES and participatory assessment approaches for PA management entities, local government officials, and other project partners.
2.2.2.2. Conduct participatory socioeconomic assessments of the communities near the pilot wetland parks.

2.2.2.3. Based on the findings of the participatory socioeconomic assessments, develop Livelihood Action Plans for facilitating improved participation of local communities in wetland conservation and sustainable utilization.

Output 2.2.3. Sustainable wetland agriculture production/livelihood systems, e.g., pollution-free, green-labelling, organic products, etc., successfully implemented via conservation agreements with local communities and relevant government agencies

Key deliverables:

- Two pilot conservation agreements between the Qionghai National Wetland Park Administration and two of the 10 administrative villages around the park
- Market analyses and business plans for two to three viable livelihood/business ventures
- Technical and investment assistance for community groups to implement the business plans

140. A Conservation Agreement offers direct incentives for conservation through a negotiated benefit package in return for conservation actions by communities. Thus, a conservation agreement links conservation financing to people who own and use natural resources. Benefits typically include investments in social services like health and education as well as investments in livelihoods. The size of these benefit packages depends on the cost of changes in resource use, as well as conservation performance. Rigorous monitoring verifies both conservation and socioeconomic results.

141. The information of the conservation-agreements will be provided to all 10 administrative villages around Qionghai wetland park, so that villagers can fully understand the connotation of the protection agreement and the requirements. One-day training on conservation agreement for all community representatives will be undertaken. The project will encourage the 10 administrative villages to apply to implement the protection projects in accordance with the requirements of the Park Protection Center. In an open and transparent manner, the project will select two of the administrative villages as pilot villages to receive financial and technical support. Meanwhile, the pilot communities will take wetland protection actions as their responsibilities via conservation agreements.

142. The objective of conservation agreement is to conserve biodiversity and wetland ecosystems through an incentive mechanism to local residents around the wetland parks. On the premise of conservation agreement developed in compliance with the Indigenous Peoples Planning framework (see **Annex 8 of the ProDoc)**, the wetland park administration will give certain authorization to pilot villages, allowing the villages to utilize natural resources in the wetland park to some extent, including economic utilization, carrying out cultural activities or improving living conditions. Conservation actions will be screened against UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP) to identify potential safeguard risks and identify measures for their avoidance, mitigation or management. . The project will provide technical training for local residents on how to generate income utilizing the natural resources in a sustainable manner. The conservation agreements may also include collaborative arrangements below local communities, protected area management administrations and scientific institutions on eradication and management of invasive alien species. Meanwhile, the protection responsibility and actions to be undertaken by the villages will be determined via consultations and community engagement.

143. The Qionghai National Wetland Park Protection Center will be supported to formulate wetland resources protection actions to be carried out by farmers collectively and the benefits they will receive for implementing those actions. The conservation agreement will explore a 'win-win' model to mitigate conflict between conservation actions and indigenous people's livelihoods, thus contributing towards achievement of Outcome 2.2.: Wetland park biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetland goods and ecosystem services improved in Qionghai wetland park. Detailed actions will be identified during the field assessment.

144. The project will conduct a feasibility study of wetland products and develop business plans for sustainable wetland productive schemes. The Park Protection Center will provide support and assistance to the villages in the development of wetland ecological products and the establishment of wetland-based alternative livelihoods based on the needs of the community.

145. The project will help identify 2-3 wetland eco-products for development and support the development of business plans with a profit motive for the community. The project will provide technical support and training to the selected communities (Party B) through Qionghai wetland park administration (Party A) to develop and take the products to market. Due to the rigid fiscal management system of government, it is often difficult for government departments to provide communities with such financial and technical support.

146. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.3 include:

2.2.3.1. Deliver one-day trainings on conservation agreements to the selected administrative villages around Qionghai National Wetland Park.
2.2.3.2. Through an open and transparent process compliant with FPIC (procedures outlined in Annex 8), prepare two pilot conservation agreements between the Qionghai National Wetland Park Administration and two of the administrative villages.
2.2.3.3. Carry out market analyses and feasibility studies of the proposed livelihood/business models and develop action plans for two to three concluded to be viable.
2.2.3.4. Through collaboration with the Park Protection Center, provide technical and investment assistance to local community groups to implement viable action plans.
2.2.3.5. Deliver training to the local community groups on development of skills, financial management, marketing, partnership building, fund-raising, etc.

Output 2.2.4. Community-based alternative livelihoods designed and implemented in a participatory manner

Key deliverables:

- Alternative livelihoods plan for local communities near the pilot wetland parks
- Joint capacity building program with local governmental agencies to delivery alternative livelihood trainings to local community groups
- Technical and investment support to local community groups for implementing alternative livelihood ventures

147. Due to the establishment of the two wetland parks, relocation with compensation and/or restrictions on local residents' traditional utilization of wetland resources occurred prior this project. The project will design a plan to identify community-based alternative livelihoods. One of the alternative livelihoods that will be considered is tourism since the pleasant climate at Qionghai Lake has been attracting more tourists to the park. Moreover, the project will leverage government funds and technical support to promote alternative livelihoods. Knowledge and skills training will be carried out to enable the local residents to transform as soon as possible and to adapt to new market changes and needs. It is expected that local residents will increase their income through alternative livelihoods.

148. A routine training mechanism for local residents will be established jointly with local government agencies, to provide skills training to local residents related to alternative livelihoods.

149. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.4 include:

2.2.4.1. Based on the findings of market analyses conducted for potential alternative livelihoods for local communities near the pilot wetland parks (including ecotourism), design a plan for strengthening and/or introducing alternative livelihood ventures.
2.2.4.2. Develop a capacity building program jointly with local government agencies, and deliver trainings to local community groups on skills development, marketing, partnership building, fund-raising, etc.
2.2.4.3. Provide technical and investment support to local community groups for implementing alternative livelihood ventures.

Output 2.2.5. Two-way information exchange improved between the wetland park administration and local

communities including the implementation and regular updates of project safeguard management plans

Key deliverables:

- WeChat application as one of the methods for stakeholders to lodge a grievance under the project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM)
- Regular reviews and updates of the SESP, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, other safeguards management frameworks and plans as warranted
- Records of annual stakeholder workshops

150. Information is the most important factor for community participation in the management of wetland protected areas, but it is also the foremost constraint. It is therefore important for the wetland park admin establish a smooth two-way information exchange with local residents. Wetland park management authorities can hold regular meetings with local residents and appoint a contact person for the communities.

151. Mobile internet and smartphones are widely used. Most of local residents under 50 years old in the surrounding communities of the two wetland parks use smartphones. A wetland park management software application (WeChat application) will be used for local residents to enable them freely to express their opinions. Through this two-way communication platform, local residents will better understand wetland protection policies and management activities and can report problems in the wetland parks and identify possible solutions. This two-way communication will enable the management measures of wetland parks to be more targeted and effective.

152. The WeChat application would support the grievance mechanism for the project. According to the requirements of environmental and social safeguard policies for the UNDP -GEF project, the project must ensure that any grievances and complaints from the stakeholders about the project can be reported, heard and handled appropriately.

153. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.5 include:

2.2.5.1. Develop a WeChat application as one of the methods for stakeholders to lodge a grievance under the project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM).
2.2.5.2. Carry out regular reviews and prepare updates of the SESP, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, other safeguards management frameworks and plans as warranted.
2.2.5.3. Convene annual stakeholder workshops to review progress, updated assessment of assumptions in the project Theory of Change, development of the annual work plan for the subsequent year, and discussion and dissemination of lessons learned, including those related to management of social and environmental risks.

Output 2.2.6. Project performance and results monitored and evaluated, and progress and M&E reports produced

Key deliverables:

- Project inception workshop and report
- Project progress reports and other M&E deliverables
- Regular reviews and updates of the SESP, Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Climate and Disaster Screening Report, COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework
- Midterm review report
- Terminal evaluation report
- Final project report.

154. The activities under this output are designed to put in place enabling procedures and protocols to facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation. The project inception workshop, to be held within three months

of signing of the project document, is a critical milestone on the implementation timeline, providing an opportunity to validate the project document, including the screening of social and environment risks; confirming governance implementation arrangements; assessing changes in relevant circumstances and making adjustments to the project results framework accordingly; verifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities; updating the project risks and agreeing to mitigation measures and responsibilities; and agreeing to the multi-year work plan. An inception workshop report will be prepared and disseminated among the project steering committee members. According to GEF requirements, two independent evaluations will be carried out of the project, a midterm review and terminal evaluation.

155. Under this output, the implementation of the project safeguard management plans will be monitored and evaluated. These include the Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, COVID-19 Action Framework, Climate and Disaster Risk Screening, and other safeguards frameworks and management plans. Adaptive management measures will be implemented according to feedback from the M&E activities, and the safeguard management plans will be updated accordingly.

156. A prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic (or similar crisis) could create challenges for the implementation of the project, i.e., associated with activities involving physical stakeholder workshops, delivering training in the field, convening community meetings, etc. The project will institute adaptive management as needed to reduce the risks of community spread. For example, meetings will be held remotely using virtual platforms as much as possible, health hazard assessments will be required for gatherings of multiple people, and mitigation measures will be implemented, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering trainings on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc. The SESP includes risks associated with COVID-19, and specific mitigation measures are described in the COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework in **Annex 12**.

157. Indicative activities under Output 2.2.6 include:

2.2.6.1. Design and convene the project inception workshop and prepare the inception report.
2.2.6.2. Carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of the GEF core indicators (including the midterm and terminal METT assessments) and other metrics included in the project results framework.
2.2.6.3. Prepare the GEF Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) and collate the supporting evidence files, and other progress reports .
2.2.6.4. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, COVID-19 Action Framework, Climate and Disaster Risk Screening, and other safeguards frameworks and management plans.
2.2.6.5. Conduct supervision and learning missions.
2.2.6.6. Procure and support the independent midterm review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE) of the project.
2.2.6.7. Procure and support the terminal evaluation (TE) of the project.
2.2.6.8. Prepare the final report for the project, including the PIR for the last year of implementation, the terminal evaluation report, and the management response to the terminal evaluation report.

Partnerships:

158. The intersection of the contributions and complimentary activities of the project co-financing partners with the planned project results are presented below.

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount	Included in project results?	If yes, list the relevant outputs
Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau	Public Investment	USD 12,565,000	No	N/A
	In-kind	USD 5,385,000	No	N/A

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount	Included in project results?	If yes, list the relevant outputs
UNDP (GEF Agency)	In-kind[6]	USD 60,000	Yes	2.2.6

159. The GEF has been supporting several projects related to biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change in China. Some of the key related initiatives where partnerships will be fostered are listed below.

a) **GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (**GEF Program ID 9403; UNDP Program ID 5695**)**: The C-PAR program covers a total of six child projects, including the subject project. Potential synergies with the national C-PAR child project (and other child projects) include: i) coordination and information exchange between the project boards, e.g., by inviting a member of the C-PAR Program Board to attend board meetings of this project as an observer – and vice versa allowing this project to observe at C-PAR program level (with SFGB represented on both boards, it will be appropriate for SFGB to take on this role; ii) inclusion of C-PAR project demonstration sites within the knowledge exchange program, such that this project can also benefit from – and share – lessons and best practices learned on PA strengthening, and view first-hand through domestic site visit the approaches being used by the project, iii) Establishment of a WeChat coordination group for relevant wildlife management and biodiversity conservation projects in China.

b) UNDP-GEF ***Transformational wildlife conservation management in China*** project (GEF ID 10701; UNDP PIMS 6607). The project aims to strengthen conservation and management of threatened wildlife species in China through improved multi-sectoral coordination, biodiversity mainstreaming across key production sectors, enhanced engagement of local communities, and demonstration of innovative frontier technologies. One of the two demonstration areas is located in Sichuan Province. In cooperation with the Giant Panda National Park, conservation and management of the iconic giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) species will be enhanced through establishment of ecological corridors linking fragmented populations and restoration of degraded habitats, and deployment of innovative frontier technologies. There are potential synergies with respect to capacity development, and sharing knowledge on frontier technologies and other innovative approaches.

c) UNDP-GEF ***FLYWAY*** project (GEF ID: 10073; UNDP PIMS 6110) ***Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China*****:** The FLYWAY project covers 4 provinces including Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai and Yunnan. There are potential synergies with respect to best management practices for wetland protected areas, knowledge sharing, and capacity development.

d) **GEF-6 PRC-GEF Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP) program** (GEF Program ID 9768; UNDP Program ID 5820): The C-SAP program, supported by UNDP, FAO and World Bank, includes five child projects, including one focused on strengthening China's frameworks for IAS management and control. Potential synergies include coordination on technical approaches, systems and standards for best practice IAS management. UNDP, as the GEF Agency for both projects, can help facilitate this coordination.

e) **ADB-GEF Innovating Eco-compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin (GEF ID 10711)**. This is envisaged to be implemented over the period of 2022-2027, covering 30 counties in the upper and mid-reaches of the Yangtze River Basin, including Yunnan and Sichuan provinces. There are potential synergies with respect to developing innovative policy measures and incentives and enhancing participation of the private sector and local communities.

Risks:

The identified risks that could affect the implementation and results of the project are described in the risk register in **Annex 5**, along with proposed mitigation measures and recommended risk owners who would be responsible to manage the risks during the project implementation phase. The social and environmental risks that were assessed as part of the *Social and Environmental Screening Procedure* (SESP) are also consolidated into the risk register. The SESP (see **Annex 4**) was finalized during the PPG phase, as required by UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SESP identified ten (10) risks for this project that could have potential

[6] UNDP's in-kind support will cover oversight cost only, not implementation related costs.

negative impacts in the absence of safeguards. The project carries an overall Substantial Risk Rating for safeguards risks, in line with UNDP requirements for positive responses to SESP Question 6.3. on impact to Indigenous people, for which an IPPF has been developed (see **Annex 8**). Among the other project risks identified through the SESP, eight (8) have been assessed as Moderate and one (1) risk was rated as Low. All eight safeguards standards are triggered

160. In accordance with UNDP's SES guidelines, the following safeguard assessments and management plans were completed during the project preparation phase:

- An Environmental and Social Management Framework (See **Annex 21)**
- A Stakeholder Engagement Plan including a description of the project level Grievance Redress Mechanism to address concerns raised by affected stakeholders from the project (see **Annex 7**)
- Indigenous Peoples (ethnic minorities) Planning Framework (**Annex 8**)
- A Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan (see **Annex 9**)
- Climate and Disaster Screening Report (see **Annex 11**)
- Covid-19 Analysis and Action Framework (see **Annex 12**)

161. Further risk assessments and management plans required under implementation are detailed in the SESP (Annex 4), ESMF (Annex 21) and IPPF (Annex 8). They include Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA), scoped Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs, incorporated into the Wetland Park Master Plans), an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), a Grievance Redress Mechanism and Livelihoods Action Plans. Consultation will follow the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, where relevant (see IPPF for details).

162. Consistent with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES)[7], namely Standard 1 (SES S1) on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management, project activities in or near environmentally sensitive areas require an abundance of caution. Overall, the project is expected to result in major long term positive impacts for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic benefits to China through more effective wildlife conservation and management, improved engagement of rural communities in conservation and improved flows of benefits from sustainable livelihood activities and ecosystem services.

163. Management of pests, particularly invasive alien species (IAS) is incorporated into the project outputs, including:

- Including best management practices in controlling and eradicating IAS in wetland ecosystems into the technical guidelines on ecological impact assessments (Output 1.1).
- Including management of IAS into the management plans for the two pilot wetland parks (Output 1.2).
- Increasing public awareness on the threats posed by IAS and promoting voluntary IAS monitoring schemes as part of the environmental education programs for the two pilot wetland parks (Output 1.3).
- Through the conservation agreements proposed under Output 2.3, promote collaboration between local communities, protected area management administrations and scientific institutions on eradication and management of IAS in the Qionghai National Wetland Park.

164. As outlined in the *Climate and Disaster Risk Screening* (see **Annex 11**), the demonstration sites are susceptible to a number of climate and disaster hazards, including extreme precipitation and flooding, strong winds, drought, extreme temperature, and geophysical hazards. The project will implement a series of measures to mitigate the risks associated with climate and disaster hazards on outcome/service delivery, consistent with the requirements and guidelines outlined in UNDP SES Standard 2 on *Climate and Disaster Risks*.

165. Project implementation will also ensure full adherence to government and UNDP directives related to COVID-19. Flexible approach to stakeholder consultations including use of social distancing and virtual measures as needed, as outlined in the COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework in **Annex 12**.

[7] Policy Update OPG approved in 2019, effective as of January 1, 2021.

Stakeholder Engagement and South-South Cooperation:

166. A stakeholder analysis was undertaken during project preparation to identify key stakeholders, consult with them regarding their interests in the project and define their roles and responsibilities during project implementation. Based on these analyses, a *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (**Annex 7**) has been developed to guide the implementation team.

167. The project design has a strong emphasis on inclusive stakeholder participation, particularly with respect to women, ethnic minorities, elderly, youth and other vulnerable groups. Specifically, the project will ensure the mainstreaming of women and ethnic minorities into the project trainings and various livelihood schemes.

168. Stakeholder consultation is required throughout, and a transparent project-level grievance redress process is freely available. The *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* also includes a description of the project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and information on UNDP's Accountability Mechanism. The *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* is an integral part of the project design, will be communicated to project stakeholders during the inception workshop and referenced in each of the terms of reference developed for implementation of project activities.

169. **Engagement with the Private Sector**. There has been increasing levels of participation by the private sector enterprises and foundations in biodiversity conservation in China, including establishment of private reserves, donating funds through corporate social responsibility initiatives, scaling up local cooperatives that are sustainably utilizing ecosystem goods and services, etc. Partnerships with private sector enterprises and foundations as well as NGOs will be explored during project implementation, as part of the interventions aimed at sustainable utilization of wetland resources, environmental education for students, tourism partnerships and concessions, scaling up sustainable livelihood initiatives for local communities, etc.

170. **South-South Cooperation**: The project will connect with similar country projects based on similar approaches to share resources combined and collective knowledge management products, and to facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform including UNDP Biodiversity Exposure and PANORAMA[8].

171. In addition, to bring the voice of China to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on wildlife conservation. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on innovative conservation initiatives in geopolitical, social, and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in China.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

172. The gender mainstreaming strategy for the project recognizes the differences between labor, knowledge, needs, and priorities of men and women, and calls for:

- Equal consultation with women and men on their needs and requirements associated with project interventions;
- Promotion of equal representation and participation of women and men in project activities;
- Development of strategic and planning documents with equal consultation of women and men at all levels, ranging from national, provincial, county and to the local communities;
- Providing gender trainings to all members of the PMO, the Site Officers, and consultants and other service providers tasked with community related activities.
- Equal payment for men and women, where applicable; and
- 50% of the project direct beneficiaries are women.

[8] https://panorama.solutions/en

173. More information on gender mainstreaming is included in **Annex 9** (*Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan*) to the project document. Gender equality and women's empowerment targets are integrated into the project results framework. The project will promote equitable representation of women in project decision-making bodies; facilitate equitable proportion of benefits realized from the project will be delivered to women; promote gender awareness throughout the project implementation phase.

Knowledge management

174. At the project level, communication will flow from the Project Management Office to co-executing partners, Project Steering Committee, Lead Agency, Implementing Agency and key stakeholders through organized meetings, reports and cross visits among the C-PAR projects.

175. At the public level, the project will develop a communications strategy and action plan, including designing communications and education activities, conducting relevant communications activities for different stakeholders, and publicizing the achievements of the UNDP-GEF project. Communication and education activities will be conducted on important days such as World Environment Day and World Water Day. Regularly updated communication and educational interpretation boards will be set up in local communities and lectures held to influence the daily behavior of local residents. The communication and education activities will give a full consideration to children and teenagers to help foster a respectful view about nature and values at an early age, and to influence their parents, including involving them in communication and educational activities.

176. The biodiversity knowledge platform developed under C-PAR1 (the national project under the C-PAR program) will be a mechanism for disseminating knowledge. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and platform. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to the project. The project will identify, analyze and share lessons learned that might be beneficial to the design and implementation of similar projects and disseminate these lessons widely. There will be continuous information exchange between this project and other projects of similar focus in the same country, region and globally. In addition, the project will develop a Knowledge Management Plan (KMP) during implementation of the project in tandem with the other C-PAR projects to ensure synergies across all the C-PAR projects. KM products including but not limited to training modules, printed information material, video case studies, awareness campaign materials, radio communication spots, etc., are expected to be developed by the project.

Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up:

Innovativeness:

177. **Innovation of provincial intersectoral cooperation mechanism**. The establishment of a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism will incorporate the objectives and planning of wetland conservation into the development plan of relevant government departments and ensure that all relevant departments incorporate the protection of wetland resources and biodiversity in planning and implementation. This can be established through regular (once or twice a year) coordination meetings to review the progress in implementing departmental plans, to address issues encountered and provide solutions.

178. **Management mechanism innovation**. Through the project, the guidelines for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of wetland management are formulated for wetland parks to assess wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the management effectiveness at the provincial level. These monitoring and assessment results will be regularly fed back to the decision-making of governments at all levels. In accordance with the technical guidelines, a unified wetland monitoring database and information publishing platform will be developed, and a provincial wetland monitoring system and network will be established so that the monitoring results on wetland resources and biodiversity can best serve the management.

179. **Innovation in community participation and communication mechanisms**. Through the conservation agreements, the project will introduce pollution-free, green and organic wetland agricultural production and diversified aquatic crop planting models to achieve ecologically friendly utilization and conservation of wetland resources.

180. To implement the safeguard plans, the project will apply a software application (WeChat application) to allow key stakeholders, particularly local residents, to understand the policies and express their opinions to wetland park administrations.

***Sustainability**:*

181. The project will be devoted to integrating the protection of wetlands into governmental and departmental plans, formulating relevant policies and regulations, improving the capacity of wetland park staff and local government, establishing monitoring and assessment mechanisms, improving public education of wetland protection, implementing a sustainable wetland eco-agriculture plan, optimizing local wetland industry institutions, and protecting wetland resources to ensure the benefits are sustained beyond the life of the project.

182. **Financial sustainability**. The total investment in wetland protection during the 13th Five-Year Plan period was substantial, including investment in comprehensive protection and restoration of wetlands, capacity building and demonstration projects of sustainable utilization. Baihetan Wetland Park invested USD 2.82 million for 2017-2019. As the state and provincial governments have prioritized ecological development in Sichuan, the monitoring and management of wetland parks will continue to be enhanced at the national and provincial levels. Sustainable financial support for wetland conservation will be provided by the government in the future. Similar levels of government investment in management and conservation of wetland ecosystems are expected to be committed during the current 14th Five-Year Plan.

183. **Institutional sustainability**. Through the project, Sichuan Province is urged to formulate and complete wetland park development standards and management measures and integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the policies and development plans of local government departments. At the same time, the project will support the establishment and improvement of a coordinating mechanism between different departments at the provincial level to ensure the conservation of wetlands and sustainable use of resources is taken into account. In the meantime, a monitoring and assessment system will be established and implemented to rate the effectiveness of management.

184. **Socioeconomic sustainability**. The project will establish and improve the coordination mechanism between departments at the provincial level (forestry, agriculture, water affairs, land, environmental protection, tourism and other sectors) to coordinate wetland protection and development.

185. The project will provide an effective demonstration for wetland parks and wetland nature reserves in the province through systematic, diverse and interactive wetland science education activities in Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park. The project will develop provincial guidelines for wetland science education on sustainable utilization of wetland resources, train personnel for wetland science education, and instruct wetland reserves and parks to develop science outreach and education plans so as to raise the public awareness of wetland conservation and sustainable utilization of resources in Sichuan Province.

186. **Environmental sustainability**. In accordance with the 13th Five-year Implementation Plan for Wetland Protection in Sichuan Province, the ecological red line for wetlands is delineated and strictly observed. Management of wetlands is carried out to control the total area of wetlands, with more than 1,747,800 hectares of wetlands in the province under control. National-level wetland nature reserves, wetland parks and other important wetlands are subject to strict protection. Wetlands in the source and upper reaches of the rivers of western Sichuan Plateau will be protected, with priority given to the protection of water resources and wild fauna and flora.

187. Wetland ecological compensation is carried out, and the long-term mechanism for wetland protection is established to balance the utilization relationship between wetland protection and wetland use.

188. Through the project, we will lay the foundation for the sustainability of wetland conservation and, based on 39 wetland parks and 52 wetland nature reserves, establish the province's wetland protection network system, so as to increase the province's wetland protected area and effectively protect globally important biodiversity areas.

Potential for scaling up:

189. At the provincial level, a unified monitoring and assessment standard will be established. A unified wetland monitoring database and information publishing platforms will be developed and implemented. The provincial wetland monitoring system and network will be in place. These practices will not only strengthen the effective management of wetland parks, but also can serve as a model for other provinces. The work done to explore the interdepartmental coordination working mechanisms of provincial governments can also serve as a reference for other provinces and cities. At the same time, the capacity building and improvement of government departments from provincial, prefecture (city) to county levels, and the establishment and improvement of effective wetland park management mechanism such as planning, supervision and law enforcement, will improve the capacity of wetland parks in coping with risks and threats. A summary of successful models of wetland park management and the establishment of relevant standards can provide a model for the management of wetland parks in other areas. The success of the project demonstration sites can influence existing management, operation and development modes and shift the focus of restoration from infrastructure construction to ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, so that the funds can be effectively utilized.

190. At present, wetland protection and restoration receive much attention from the leadership of China. And with regard to wetland management, protection and restoration, Chinese provinces and cities are actively exploring ways to improve wetland management. The results of the project demonstration sites will consequentially draw the attention of, and be promoted by, other provinces and cities and even the state. Additionally, because of the involvement of international organizations, the success of the project can be effectively promoted overseas.

V. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 13, SDG 15, and SDG 17

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) Outcome 3: People in China and the region benefit from a healthier and more resilient environment.

UNDP Country Programme Document for China (2021-2025), Pillar 2 (A healthier planet and resilient environment), Output 2.1: Adaptive policies developed at target level (subnational), financed and applied for nature-based systems to align with multilateral agreements and transboundary platforms.

Aligned with **UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025)** Output Signature Solution #4 (Environment); contributing to UNDP SP Result 4.1: Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods; and Result 4.2: Public and private investment mechanisms mobilized for biodiversity, water, oceans, and climate solutions.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective: To expand and strengthen wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province China and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources	**Indicator 1 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1): Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use** (hectares) (Sub-Indicator 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management) **SDG 15.1**	767,766 ha METT score*: 24% *The METT assessment was made for the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves	767,766 ha METT score*: 38% *The METT assessment was made for the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves	767,766 ha METT score*: 60% *The METT assessment was made for the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves
	Indicator 2 (GEF Core Indicator 6): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent – tCO2e) (Sub-Indicator 6.1: Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of agriculture, forestry and other land use) **SDG 13.1, 13.2; SDG 13.3**	Under the baseline scenario, some mitigation benefits are expected through China's goal to increase ecosystem carbon sinks (updated NDC)	Estimated end target of 30,800 tCO23 of lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated confirmed through updated analysis using the FAO Ex-Ante Carbon Balance tool (EX ACT)	30,800 tCO2e (lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated)
	Indicator 3 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 11): Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment (individual people) **SDG 1.4; SDG 1.b; SDG 5.a**	0	1,500 direct project beneficiaries, of whom 750 are women	3,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 1,500 are women
Project Component 1	**Strengthening Sichuan Province's institutional capacity on systematic planning and mainstreaming at the provincial level to conserve and sustainably use wetlands resources**			
Project Outcome 1.1: Provincial government policies, legislations and development plans successfully incorporate inter-sectoral measures to conserve and use wetland resource sustainably	**Indicator 4:** Number of provincial development strategy and plans as well as related developmental plans incorporating wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	There are no provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation n Sichuan	At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation drafted and under review	At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation approved by key provincial departments
	Indicator 5: Number of provincial development strategy and plans as well as related developmental plans incorporating wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	No technical guideline of ecological impact assessment on infrastructure construction project in wetlands exists	One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands drafted and under review.	One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands approved by Sichuan provincial government.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	**Output 1.1.1.** Gaps in provincial policy, legislation and regulations for wetland conservation are identified and policies, laws and regulations drafted and approved by relevant government agencies **Output 1.1.2.** Provincial inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms established with wetland biodiversity and resource conservation mainstreamed into provincial development and land use policies and plans			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Outcome 1.2: Wetland parks management effectiveness substantially improved	**Indicator 6:** Change in score of Management Effectiveness (METT) of the selected wetland Parks	Qionghai National Wetland Park: 39% Baihetan National Wetland Park: 45%	Qionghai National Wetland Park: 50% Baihetan National Wetland Park: 55%	Qionghai National Wetland Park: 67% Baihetan National Wetland Park: 67%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	**Output 1.2.1**. Management plans and yearly operation plans with rational resource allocations -including human, financial, technical resources are completed and implemented for two wetland parks (Qionghai and Baihetan) **Output 1.2.2**. Monitoring systems to evaluate the status of wetland ecosystem and biodiversity of the provincial-wide wetlands implemented systematically and results used to improve provincial policies and plans **Output 1.2.3**. Institutional capacities of county, prefecture and provincial governments for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of protected wetland areas built and strengthened			
Outcome 1.3: Public awareness on issues related to wetland conservation and sustainable use in Sichuan strengthened	**Indicator 7:** Percentage of people participating in environmental education programs that increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use	Knowledge level before participation in environmental education programs to be determined at the beginning of project implementation	Environmental education programs under implementation, and baseline knowledge survey completed	100% of people participating in environmental education programs significantly increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3	**Output 1.3.1**. Environmental education programs, designed and implemented at the provincial level, using Qionghai and Baihetan wetland parks as demonstration platforms			
Project component 2	**Strengthening site level management and raising standards for wetland parks**			
Outcome 2.1: Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas with globally important biodiversity created	**Indicator 8:** There is no wetland protected areas network in Sichuan	There is no wetland protected areas network in Sichuan	Proposal for Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas has been created and under review by SFGB	A Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas has been created and endorsed by the SFGB
	Indicator 9: Number of wetland protected area and their watersheds managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	None of Individual wetland protected areas are managed within a wetland protected areas network	20 wetland parks and 20 wetland nature reserves are managed under forestry sector within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves are managed under forestry sector within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas
	Indicator 10: Number of ha of wetland protected areas is managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	0 ha of wetland protected areas is managed within a network of wetland protected areas	460,000 hectares of wetland protected area is managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	767,766 hectares of wetland protected area is managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	**Output 2.1.1**. Direct and indirect threats to wetland protected areas assessed and expansion and consolidation plan for wetland protected areas developed for Sichuan Province **Output 2.1.2**. Sichuan's network for wetland protected areas established and supported by government to promote best practice			
Outcome 2.2: Wetland park biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources and ecosystem services	**Indicator 11:** Percentage increase in income from wetland sustainable livelihood ventures	The income from sustainability livelihood activities associated in pilot communities to be determined at the beginning of project implementation	The income from sustainable livelihood development for pilot communities increases by 10% against the baseline	The income from sustainable livelihood development for pilot communities increases by 20% against the baseline

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
improved in Qionghai wetland park	**Indicator 12:** Percentage of local residents with awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems	Extent of local resident's awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems and positive feedback (baseline data will be collected at the beginning of project implementation)	No midterm target (insufficient time from baseline)	Local residents' awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems reaches 80%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	**Output 2.2.1.** The pilot wetland park master plan and the wetland conservation and restoration plan are prepared and approved. **Output 2.2.2.** Pilot communities in Qionghai Wetland Park are identified and livelihood needs, resource use, environmental carrying capacity and potential for wetland sustainable products assessed **Output 2.2.3**. Sustainable wetland agriculture production/livelihood systems, e.g., pollution-free, green-labelling, organic products, etc., successfully implemented via conservation agreements with local communities and relevant government agencies **Output 2.2.4**. Community-based alternative livelihoods designed and implemented in a participatory manner **Output 2.2.5**. Two-way information exchange improved between the wetland park administrations and local communities including the implementation and regular updates of project safeguard management plans **Output 2.2.6**. Project performance and results monitored and evaluated, and progress and M&E reports produced			

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) PLAN

191. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy **The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.**

192. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[9]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

193. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed – including during the Project Inception Workshop - and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Minimum project monitoring and reporting requirements as required by the GEF:

194. Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date, with the aim to:

a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the Project Board.
h. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

195. The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.

GEF Core Indicators:

196. The GEF Core indicators included as **Annex 16** will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website.

[9] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

197. The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard UNDP templates and UNDP guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

198. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

199. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

200. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by May 2024. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

Terminal Evaluation (TE):

201. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance prepared by the UNDP IEO for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center.

202. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The consultants that will be hired by UNDP evaluation specialists to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the consultants should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

203. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

204. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by October 2026 (or within 6 weeks of TE report completion). A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

Final Report:

205. The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

206. Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information**:** To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy[10] and the GEF policy on public involvement[11].

[10] See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/

[11] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

Monitoring Plan:

207. The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Table 3: Monitoring plan

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source / Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project objective: to expand and strengthen wetland protected areas in Sichuan Province China and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources	**Indicator 1 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1): Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use** (hectares) (Sub-Indicator 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management)	Midterm: 767,766 ha METT score: 38% End of project: 767,766 ha METT score: 60%	The indicator and end targets are based on the baseline METT assessments for the wetland PA system in Sichuan Province that includes 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves.	METT assessments	Verify at project inception, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of midterm and terminal METT assessments	Risks: Improvements in management effectiveness not as successful as envisaged. Assumptions: Improvements in management effectiveness achieved as envisaged.
	Indicator 2 (GEF Core Indicator 6): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e); Sub-Indicator 6.1: Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use	Midterm: Estimated end target of 30,800 tCO23 of lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated confirmed through updated analysis using the FAO Ex-Ante Carbon Balance tool (EX ACT) End of project: 30,800 tCO2e (lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated)	The estimations of GHG emissions avoided are presented in FAO Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT) annexed to the Project Document.	EX-ACT	Verify at project inception, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor	EX-ACT calculation results documented in project M&E reports	Risks: assumptions regarding mitigation benefits associated with improved wetland PA management do not hold. Assumptions: assumptions regarding mitigation benefits associated with improved wetland PA management remain valid.
	Indicator 3 (GEF Core Indicator 11): # of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment (individual people)	Midterm: 1,500 direct project beneficiaries, of whom 750 are women End of project: 3,000 direct project beneficiaries, of whom 1,500 are women	Direct beneficiaries include the local communities near the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park, management and staff of the SFGB, as well as the management and staff of the two pilot wetland parks.	Annual review of direct project beneficiaries, through training records, interventions under implementation, participation in sustainable livelihood initiatives, etc.	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Community Engagement Specialist, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Information summarized in project M&E reports, training records, etc.	Risks: Local communities are reluctant to participate in project sponsored activities; women are not actively engaged in project activities due to cultural norms. Assumptions: Local communities, including women are actively involved in project activities.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source / Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Outcome 1.1: Provincial government policies, legislations and development plans successfully incorporate inter-sectoral measures to conserve and use wetland resource sustainably	**Indicator 4:** Number of provincial development strategy and plans as well as related developmental plans incorporating wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	Midterm: At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation drafted and under review End of project: At least three 5-year provincial departmental plans incorporating wetland resources conservation approved by key provincial departments	Wetland conservation objectives mainstreamed into departmental / sectoral plans	Documentary evidence, including approved departmental / sectoral plans	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of documentary evidence	Risks: possible changes in management positions could delay progress; regulatory and approval processes may take longer than the project implementation timeframe. Assumptions: Provincial departments recognize the added value and are committed; Project Board will advocate for approval.
	Indicator 5: Number of provincial development strategy and plans as well as related developmental plans incorporating wetland ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	Midterm: One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands drafted and under review End of project: One technical guideline on ecological impact assessments for infrastructure construction projects in wetlands approved by Sichuan provincial government	Risks to wetland ecosystems and resources reflected in ecological assessment processes for infrastructure development	Documentary evidence, namely the approved technical guideline and also evidence of the application of the guideline	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of documentary evidence	Risks: possible changes in management positions could delay progress; approval processes may take longer than the project implementation timeframe. Assumptions: Stakeholders recognize the need for such a guideline and are committed; Project Board will advocate for approval.
Outcome 1.2: Wetland parks management effectiveness substantially improved	**Indicator 6:** Change in score of Management Effectiveness (METT) of the selected wetland Parks	Midterm: Qionghai National Wetland Park: 50% Baihetan National Wetland Park: 55% End of project: Qionghai National Wetland Park: 67% Baihetan National Wetland Park: 67%	The indicator and end targets are based on the baseline METT assessments of the two pilot wetland protected areas, namely the Qionghai Lake and Baihetan national wetland parks.	METT assessments	Verify at project inception, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of midterm and terminal METT assessments	Risks: Improvements in management effectiveness not as successful as envisaged. Assumptions: Improvements in management effectiveness achieved as envisaged.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source / Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Outcome 1.3: Public awareness on issues related to wetland conservation and sustainable use in Sichuan strengthened	**Indicator 7:** Percentage of people participating in environmental education programs that increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use	Midterm: Environmental education programs under implementation, and baseline knowledge survey completed End of project: 100% of people participating in environmental education programs significantly increase their knowledge on wetland conservation and sustainable use	Inclusion of wetland issues into environmental education curricula will help ensure long-term sustainability of project results	Training records, curricula developed	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Community Engagement Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of documentary evidence, including training records and curricula developed	Risks: Lack of interest by local institutions, limited involvement of women. Assumptions: Stakeholder interest remains high during project implementation; involvement of women steered through implementation of gender action plan.
Outcome 2.1: Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas with globally important biodiversity created	**Indicator 8:** There is no wetland protected areas network in Sichuan	Midterm: Proposal for Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas has been created and under review by SFGB End of project: A Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas has been created and endorsed by the SFGB	Establishment of a network of the wetland protected areas in Sichuan will help improve information exchange, knowledge sharing, and efficient use of resources	Declaration endorsed by SFGB	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of documentary evidence, namely the declaration endorsed by SFGB	Risks: Inconsistent involvement by the wetland PA's. Assumptions: Strong leadership by SFGB will ensure consistent involvement.
	Indicator 9: Number of wetland protected area and their watersheds managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	Midterm: 20 wetland parks and 20 wetland nature reserves are managed under forestry sector within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas End of project: 39 wetland parks and 40 wetland nature reserves are managed under forestry sector within the newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	The network will cover the existing wetland protected areas, including wetland parks and wetland nature reserves in Sichuan	M&E reports	Verify at project inception, assess annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of documentary evidence	Risks: Inconsistent involvement by the wetland PA's. Assumptions: Strong leadership by SFGB will ensure consistent involvement.
	Indicator 10: Number of ha of wetland protected areas is managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	Midterm: 460,000 hectares of wetland protected area is managed within a newly created	The network will cover the existing wetland protected areas, including wetland parks	M&E reports	Verify at project inception, assess	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Wetlands PA	Review of documentary evidence	Risks: Inconsistent involvement by the wetland PA's.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source / Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
		Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas End of project: 767,766 hectares of wetland protected area is managed within a newly created Sichuan's network of wetland protected areas	and wetland nature reserves in Sichuan		annually, and evaluate at midterm review and terminal evaluation	Management Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers		Assumptions: Strong leadership by SFGB will ensure consistent involvement.
Outcome 2.2: Wetland park biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources and ecosystem services improved in Qionghai wetland park	**Indicator 11:** Percentage increase in income from wetland sustainable livelihood ventures	Midterm: The income from sustainable livelihood development for pilot communities increases by 10% against the baseline End of project: The income from sustainable livelihood development for pilot communities increases by 20% against the baseline	This indicator measures the extent to which benefits of sustainable livelihood initiatives reach households in the local communities.	Business plans, household surveys, M&E reports, partnership agreements	Annually, and evaluated at midterm review and terminal evaluation.	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Community Engagement Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of business plans, household surveys, M&E reports, partnership agreements	Risks: communities lack interest; insufficient market demand; tourism levels reduced due to prolonged pandemic. Assumptions: multi-stakeholder approaches will help facilitate durable partnerships in the project landscapes; tourism levels will be promoted and sustained; benefits reach the envisaged number of households.
	Indicator 12: Percentage of local residents with awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems	Midterm: No midterm target (insufficient time from baseline) End of project: Local residents' awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems reaches 80%	This indicator measures the effectiveness of the project in helping to facilitate increased awareness, based on the results of independent baseline and end-of project KAP surveys.	Baseline and end-of-project KAP survey results.	KAP surveys conducted at project inception (baseline) and at the end of the project.	M&E-Safeguards Officer, Community Engagement Specialist, Chief Technical Advisor, Protected Area Focal Points and Site Officers	Review of baseline and end-of-project KAP survey results.	Risks: inconsistent survey techniques; knowledge management approach does not address the identified gaps. Assumptions: a qualified independent institution or organization will carry out the KAP survey; the project's knowledge management plan will be developed based on the findings of the baseline KAP survey.

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:

208. The M&E budget presented below in **Table 4** provides a breakdown of costs for M&E activities to be led by the Project Management Office during project implementation. These costs are equivalent to those of the M&E Component of the Results Framework and TBWP. Other project M&E activities can be added to this budget if they are included under the M&E component of the results framework. The oversight and participation of the UNDP Country Office/Regional technical advisors/HQ Units in these M&E activities and in performing standard UNDP M&E requirements are not included as these are covered by the GEF Fee.

Table 4: Monitoring and evaluation budget

GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	11,557	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	19,636	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	N/A	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of SESP, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, Climate and Disaster Risk Screening, COVID-19 Action Framework	32,572	On-going
Supervision missions	N/A	Annually
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): ***costs associated with conducting the independent review/evaluation to be commissioned by UNDP not the Implementing Partner or PMU.***	31,000	May 2024
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE): ***costs associated with conducting the independent evaluation to be commissioned by UNDP not the Implementing Partner or the PMU.***	31,000	October 2026
TOTAL indicative COST	$125,765	Equivalent to TBWP Component 2, Output 2.2.6

VII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the project's governance mechanism

209. Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the **Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province**. The Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province is an affiliated organization under Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (SFGB). It is designated by Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (SFGB) to take on the responsibility of managing and/or implementing international cooperative projects in wildlife conservation and wetland protection in Sichuan Province. The overall risk assessment conducted in the Partner Capacity Assessment Tool and the HACT assessment (**Annex 19**) concluded a Low risk for this IP.

210. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of GEF resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

211. The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Risk management as outlined in this Project Document.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year.
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

212. Project Stakeholders and Target Groups: The project stakeholders and target groups include the local communities near the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park, management and staff of the SFGB, as well as the management and staff of the two pilot wetland parks and the other wetland protected areas in Sichuan. Project stakeholders also include provincial and local governmental departments, incorporating wetland conservation into sectoral plans.

213. UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

Section 2: Project governance structure

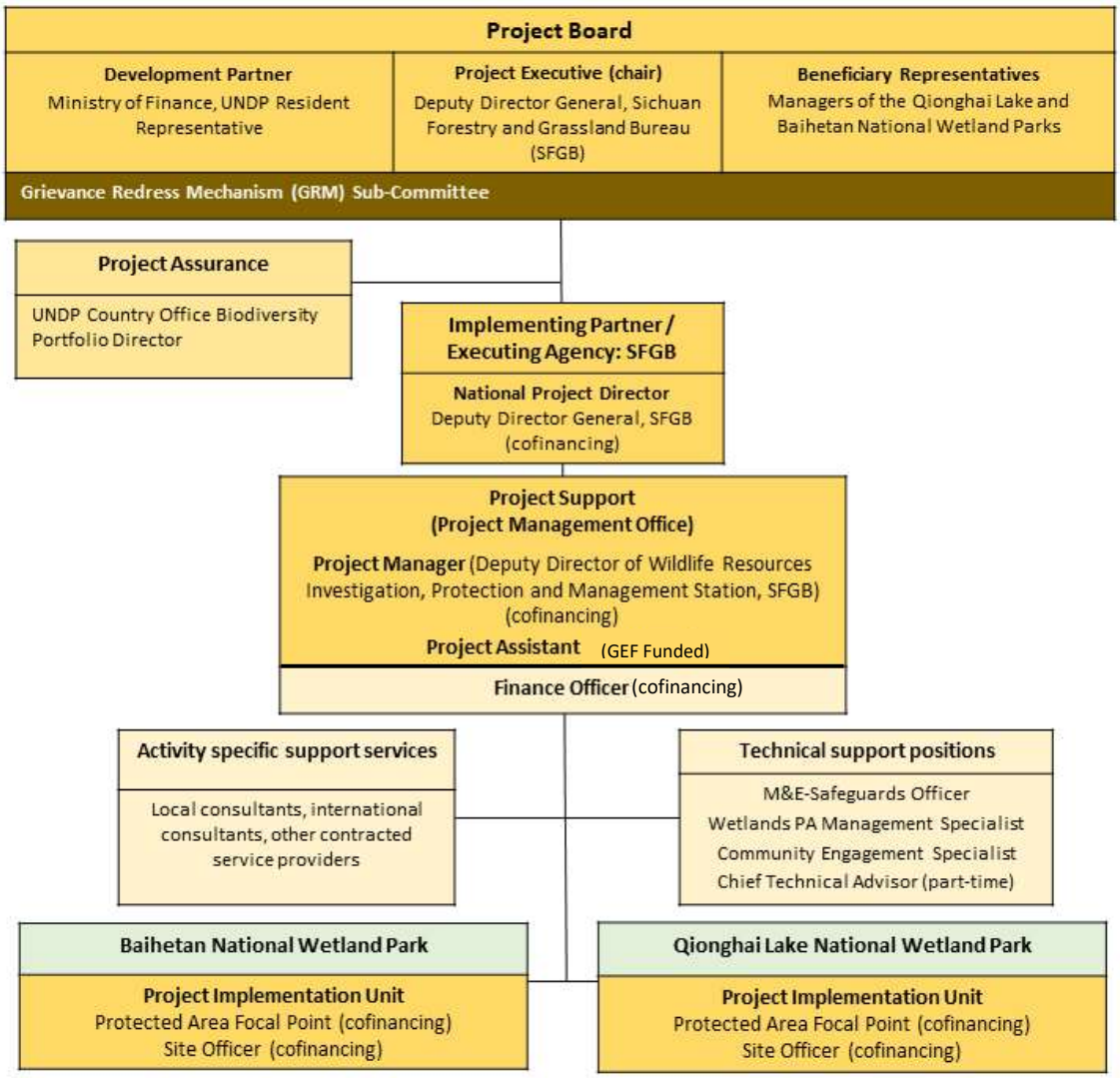


Figure 6: Project Organization Structure

214. The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

215. Second line of defense includes:

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at portfolio level.
- BPPS NCE RTA oversees technical quality control assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.
- UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

MOF will be a core member of the Project Steering Committee. MOF will have a core role in providing guidance, coordination and supervision on the disbursement and expense of the GEF grant, performance evaluation, documentation, and promotion of project results.

OFP, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, conducts guidance over the implementation of the project. As the communication authority with GEF in China, the Ministry of finance provides high-level strategic guidance and participates in project proposal endorsement.
Major changes in the project, such as the adjustment of investment funds and policy coordination funds in the project by more than 15%, terminating the implementation of Project and some other important changes, should be reported to, seek advice of and agreed by the Ministry of Finance. OFP coordinates various departments in the ministry to express their opinions on major changes. For the adjusted plan, the Ministry of Finance, together with UNDP, is responsible for supervising the implementation of major changes.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-á-vis UNDP representation on the Project Board

216. As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

217. In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-à-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 4: Roles and responsibilities of the project organization structure

a) **Project Board:**

218. All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

219. The two main (mandatory) roles of the Project Board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the "Provide Oversight" section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the "Manage Change" section of the POPP).

220. Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- ✓ Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ✓ Meet annually; at least once.
- ✓ Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ✓ Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- ✓ Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

221. Responsibilities of the Project Board:

- ✓ Consensus decision making:
  - The Project Board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
  - Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
  - The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
  - In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
  - In case consensus cannot be reached within the Project Board, the UNDP representative on the Project Board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
- ✓ Oversee project execution:
  - Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
  - Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
  - Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
  - Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
  - Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
  - Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
  - Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
  - Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
- ✓ Risk Management:
  - Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
  - Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
  - Address project-level grievances.
- ✓ Coordination:
  - Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
  - Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

222. **Composition of the Project Board**: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must

be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive (National Project Director) is the Deputy Director General of the Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau (SFGB).

2. **Beneficiary Representatives**: Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representatives are:
   i. Manager of the Qionghai National Wetland Park.
   ii. Manager of the Baihetan National Wetland Park.
3. **Development Partners:** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partners are:
   iii. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
   iv. Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

b) Project Assurance:

223. Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. Under project assurance, UNDP will also monitor reporting on co-financing activities. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

224. A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is: Dr. Ma Chaode, BD Portfolio Director of CO.

c) Project Management – Execution of the project:

225. The Project Manager (PM) (also called National Project Coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Office (PMO) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The Project Manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

226. Roles and responsibilities of the PMO members are detailed in the **Annex 6**. A designated representative of the PMO is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

227. The primary PMO representative attending board meetings is the Project Manager.

VIII. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

228. The total cost of the project is USD 20,662,294. This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 2,652,294 administered by UNDP, and additional support of USD 18,010,000. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only.

229. **Co-financing**: The actual realization of project co-financing amounts will be monitored by the UNDP Country Office and the PMU on an annual basis in the GEF PIR and will be reported to the GEF during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process as follows.

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount
Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Bureau	Public Investment	USD 12,565,000
	In-kind	USD 5,385,000
UNDP (GEF Agency)	In-kind	USD 60,000

230. **Budget Revision and Tolerance**: As per UNDP POPP, the project board may agree with the project manager on a tolerance level for each detailed plan under the overall multi-year workplan. The agreed tolerance should be written in the project document or approved project board meeting minutes. It should normally not exceed 10 percent of the agreed annual budget at the activity level, but within the overall approved multi-year workplan at the activity level. Within the agreed tolerances, the project manager can operate without intervention from the project board. Restrictions apply as follows:

231. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager/IP through UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the BPPS/NCE-VF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF. It is **strongly encouraged** to maintain the expenditures within the approved budget at the budgetary account and at the component level:

a) Budget reallocations must prove that the suggested changes in the budget will not lead to material changes in the results to be achieved by the project. A strong justification is required and will be approved on an exceptional basis. Budget re-allocations among the components (including PMC) of the approved Total Budget and Work Plans (TBWP) that represent a value greater than 10% of the total GEF grant.

b) Introduction of new outputs/activities (i.e. budget items) that were not part of the agreed project document and TBWP that represent a value greater than 5% of the total GEF grant. The new budget items must be eligible as per the GEF and UNDP policies.

c) Project management cost (PMC): budget under PMC component is capped and cannot be increased.

232. Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount will be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

233. **Project extensions:** The UNDP Resident Representative and the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extension requests. Note that all extensions incur costs and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and subject to the conditions and maximum durations set out in the UNDP POPP; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the additional UNDP oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources, in accordance with UNDP's guidance set out in UNDP POPP

234. Audit: The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop. If the Implementing Partner is an UN Agency, the project will be audited according to that Agencies applicable audit policies.

235. **Project Closure**: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final

project commitments presented to the Project Board during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

236. **Operational completion**: The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. **Operational closure must happen at the end date calculated by the approved duration after the Project Document signature or at the revised operational closure date as approved in the project extension. Any expected activity after the operational date requires project extension approval.** The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the project should have completed the transfer or disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

237. **Transfer or disposal of assets**: In consultation with the Implementing Partner and other parties of the project, UNDP is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the project board following UNDP rules and regulations. Assets may be transferred to the government for project activities managed by a national institution at any time during the life of a project (it is strongly encouraged to be done before the operational closure date). In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file[12]. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit complete their assignments.

238. **Financial completion (closure)**: The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

239. The project will be financially completed **within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. If Operational Closure is delayed for any justified and approved reason, the Country Office should do all efforts to Financially Close the project within 9 months after TE is completed. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the BPPS/NCE-VF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

240. Refund to GEF: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate in New York. No action is required by the UNDP Country Office on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF Trustee.

[12] See https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Project%20Management_Closing.docx&action=default.

IX. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan		
Atlas Award ID:	00141709	Atlas Output Project ID: 00130230
Atlas Proposal or Award Title:	Expanding the Coverage and Strengthening the Management of Wetland Protected Areas in Sichuan Province, China	
Atlas Business Unit	CHN 10	
Atlas Primary Output Project Title	Expanding the Coverage and Strengthening the Management of Wetland Protected Areas in Sichuan Province, China	
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	6669	
Implementing Partner	the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province	

Atlas Activity (GEF Component)	Atlas Implementing Agent	Atlas Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount 2022 (USD)	Amount 2023 (USD)	Amount 2024 (USD)	Amount 2025 (USD)	Amount 2026 (USD)	Amount 2027 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
COMPONENT 1. Strengthening Sichuan Province's institutional capacity on systematic planning and mainstreaming at the provincial level to conserve and sustainably use wetlands resources	**the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province**	**62000**	**GEF**	71200	International Consultants	0	9,000	18,000	18,000	0	0	**45,000**	1
				71300	Local Consultants	38,550	48,850	38,500	37,000	36,100	4,000	**203,000**	2
				71600	Travel	300	21,125	61,625	61,475	19,975	0	**164,500**	3
				71800	Contractual Services - Impl. Partner	22,650	31,620	33,040	34,600	36,400	9,550	**167,860**	4
				72100	Contractual Services - Companies	8,000	57,500	53,750	53,750	32,000	0	**205,000**	5
				72200	Equipment and Furniture	35,000	65,000	0	0	0	0	**100,000**	6
				72800	Information Technology Equipment	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	**20,000**	7
				74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs	600	10,700	9,700	8,500	8,500	0	**38,000**	8
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	1,000	26,500	21,500	20,250	15,750	0	**85,000**	9
					Sub-total, Component 1 GEF	**106,100**	**290,295**	**236,115**	**233,575**	**148,725**	**13,550**	**1,028,360**	
					Total Component 1	**106,100**	**290,295**	**236,115**	**233,575**	**148,725**	**13,550**	**1,028,360**	
COMPONENT 2. Strengthening site level management and raising standards for wetland parks	**the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province**	**62000**	**GEF**	71200	International Consultants	0	0	21,000	0	0	21,000	**42,000**	10
				71300	Local Consultants	40,500	90,000	42,000	36,000	36,000	15,000	**259,500**	11
				71600	Travel	4,000	14,500	14,500	11,500	10,500	5,000	**60,000**	12
				71800	Contractual Services - Impl. Partner	53,850	75,180	78,560	82,400	86,600	22,700	**399,290**	13
				72100	Contractual Services - Companies	19,000	234,000	122,000	85,000	85,000	5,000	**550,000**	14
				72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	0	**5,350**	15
				74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs	0	13,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	0	**51,000**	16
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	9,000	33,450	29,950	29,950	29,950	200	**132,500**	17
					Sub-total, Component 2 GEF	**127,420**	**461,700**	**321,580**	**258,420**	**261,620**	**68,900**	**1,499,640**	
					Total Component 2	**127,420**	**461,700**	**321,580**	**258,420**	**261,620**	**68,900**	**1,499,640**	
Project Management	**the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province**	**62000**	**GEF**	71600	Travel	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	250	**5,000**	18
				71800	Contractual Services - Impl. Partner	8,100	11,400	12,000	12,600	13,200	3,450	**60,750**	19
				72500	Supplies	300	300	300	300	300	0	**1,500**	20
				72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	600	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	600	**6,000**	21
				72800	Information Technology Equipment	2,044	0	0	0	0	0	**2,044**	22
				73100	Rental & Maintenance-Premises	3,600	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	1,200	**24,000**	23
				74100	Professional Services	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	**25,000**	24

Atlas Activity (GEF Component)	Atlas Implementing Agent	Atlas Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount 2022 (USD)	Amount 2023 (USD)	Amount 2024 (USD)	Amount 2025 (USD)	Amount 2026 (USD)	Amount 2027 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
					Sub-total, Project Management GEF	15,394	23,700	24,300	24,900	25,500	10,500	124,294	
					Total Project Management	15,394	23,700	24,300	24,900	25,500	10,500	124,294	
PROJECT TOTAL						248,914	775,695	581,995	516,895	435,845	92,950	2,652,294	

Budget Note No.	Project output (Description)
Component 1:	
1	**71200. International consultants.** Output 1.2.3. **International Wetland PA Specialist**, for 15 weeks at USD 3,000 per week (USD 45,000), supporting capacity building activities, sharing international best practice, supporting the planned international learning exchanges. **Total: USD 45,000**
2	**71300. Local consultants.** **Chief Technical Advisor**, for 40 weeks at USD 2,000 per week (USD 80,000), providing technical and strategic guidance for assessing gaps in legislation and preparing draft amendments and policies (Output 1.1.1), helping to facilitate improved cross-sectoral collaboration (Output 1.1.2), development of management plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 1.2.1), establishment of strengthened monitoring systems and capacities (Output 1.2.2), capacity development for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring (Outputs 1.2.3), and helping in designing and implementing strengthened environmental education programs (Output 1.3.1). **Biodiversity Mainstreaming Specialist**, for 35 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 52,500), carrying out a gap analysis of policies and regulations on wetland conservation and identify gaps and potential conflicts; formulating new and/or modified or amended polices and regulations on improved wetland conservation and management; preparing guidance documents on wetland conservation, planning, socioeconomic analyses, and sustainable use of wetland resources and services (Output 1.1.1); develop technical guidelines for ecological impact assessments of wetland infrastructure construction projects, and deliver trainings (Output 1.1.2). **Wetland Conservation and PA Planning Specialist**, for 35 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 52,500), developing wetland park management plans for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park; supporting implementation of the wetland park management plans through delivering technical and financial capacity development; monitoring and evaluating the progress of the implementation of the wetland park management plans, produce annual review reports, and updating the plans annual with adaptive management measures accordingly (Output 1.2.1). **Interpreter-Translator**, for 12 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (18,000), supporting the international learning exchanges and the International Wetland PA Specialist (Output 1.2.3), and providing other interpretation and translation services. **Total: USD 203,000**
3	**71600. Travel.** Output 1.1.1. Travel and DSA for stakeholder workshops (USD 1,000). Output 1.1.2. Travel and DSA for trainings (USD 3,000). Output 1.2.1. Travel and DSA expenses for capacity development activities (USD 3,000). Output 1.2.2. Travel and DSA expenses for capacity development activities regarding monitoring and evaluation standards and systems (USD 3,000). Output 1.2.3. Domestic airfare and local travel for domestic learning exchanges (4 trips, 15 participants each) (USD 30,000); DSA for domestic learning exchanges (4 trips, 15 participants each, 7-day trips each) (31,500); International airfare and local travel for domestic learning exchanges (2 trips, 10 participants, 10-day trips each) (USD 60,000); DSA for international learning exchanges (2 trips, 10 participants, 10-day trips each) (USD 23,000). Output 1.3.1. Local travel and DSA for environmental education (USD 10,000). **Total: USD 164,500**
4	**71800. Contractual Services – Implementing Partner.** **M&E-Safeguards Officer** for 14 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 3,000 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 47,040), providing strategic guidance on M&E and safeguard management aspects for the activities under Component 1 including assessment and development of new or amended legislation and policies (Output 1.1.1), strengthening of provincial inter-sectoral coordination (Output 1.1.2), development and implementation of updated management plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output

Budget Note No.	Project output (Description)
	1.2.1), enhancing monitoring systems and capacities (Output 1.2.2), building institutional capacities for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of wetland protected areas (Outputs 1.2.3), and design and implementation of environmental education programs. **Wetlands PA Management Specialist** for 30 months out of a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 2,300 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 76,200), providing technical and strategic guidance for the activities under Component 1 including assessment and development of new or amended legislation and policies (Output 1.1.1), strengthening of provincial inter-sectoral coordination (Output 1.1.2), development and implementation of updated management plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 1.2.1), enhancing monitoring systems and capacities (Output 1.2.2), building institutional capacities for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of wetland protected areas (Outputs 1.2.3), and design and implementation of environmental education programs. **Community Engagement Specialist** for 8 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 2,300 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 20,320), providing strategic guidance on community engagement aspects for the activities under Component 1 including assessment and development of new or amended legislation and policies (Output 1.1.1), strengthening of provincial inter-sectoral coordination (Output 1.1.2), development and implementation of updated management plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 1.2.1), enhancing monitoring systems and capacities (Output 1.2.2), building institutional capacities for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of wetland protected areas (Outputs 1.2.3), and design and implementation of environmental education programs. **Project Assistant** for 12 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 1,800 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 24,300), providing assistance in the procurement and implementation of activities under Component 1 including assessment and development of new or amended legislation and policies (Output 1.1.1), strengthening of provincial inter-sectoral coordination (Output 1.1.2), development and implementation of updated management plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 1.2.1), enhancing monitoring systems and capacities (Output 1.2.2), building institutional capacities for effective planning, enforcement and monitoring of wetland protected areas (Outputs 1.2.3), and design and implementation of environmental education programs. **Total: USD 167,860**
5	**72100. Contractual services – Companies.** Output 1.2.2. Develop provincial monitoring and evaluation standards for assessing ecological status and management of wetland protected areas; Strengthen and/or develop information management systems for wetland protected area monitoring and evaluation; Establish wetland park monitoring and evaluation reporting systems for the Qionghai National Wetland Park and the Baihetan National Wetland Park (USD 80,000). Output 1.2.3. Conduct an updated gap analysis of wetland protected area planning, enforcement, and monitoring capacities at the provincial level; deliver capacity development on planning, enforcement, monitoring, and communications based on the findings of the updated gap analysis (USD 35,000). Output 1.2.3. Deliver a series of focused trainings for women professionals (USD 10,000). Output 1.3.1. Develop wetland environmental education and communication programs to be integrated into the education centers at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park; Implement classroom and field level wetland environmental education activities at the Qionghai National Wetland Park and Baihetan National Wetland Park (USD 80,000). **Total: USD 205,000**
6	**72200. Equipment and furniture**. Output 1.2.3. Equipment for training and demonstration purposes, including water quality test kits, drones, binoculars-monocular, digital cameras, etc. (2 x USD 35,00: USD 70,000) Output 1.3.1. Equipment for environmental educational purposes, including digital cameras, binoculars-monocular, flat panel electronic whiteboard, projectors, etc. (USD 30,000) **Total: USD 100,000**
7	**72800. Information technology equipment**. Output 1.3.1. Information technology equipment for environmental education purposes, including computers, printers, routers, etc. (2 x USD 10,000: USD 20,000) **Total: USD 20,000**
8	**74200. Audio visual & print production costs**. Output 1.1.1. Printing costs (USD 1,000); Output 1.1.2. Printing costs (USD 1,000); Output 1.2.1. Printing costs associated with updated PA management plans (USD 3,000); Output 1.2.2. Printing costs associated with improved monitoring systems (USD 3,000); Output 1.3.1. Audiovisual and printed production costs for environmental education activities (USD 30,000). **Total: USD 38,000**
9	**75700. Training, Workshop, Conference.** Output 1.1.1. Disseminate the guidance documents through convening stakeholder workshops, holding seminars and webinars, and distributing electronic and printed copies (USD 5,000). Output 1.1.2. Deliver trainings through seminars and/or webinars to governmental, NGOs, and consultant practitioners on applying the ecological impact assessment guidelines for wetland infrastructure projects as part of environmental impact assessment processes (USD 10,000).

Budget Note No.	Project output (Description)
	Output 1.2.1. Support implementation of the wetland park management plans through delivering technical and financial capacity development (USD 10,000). Output 1.2.2. Capacity development activities regarding monitoring and evaluation standards and systems (USD 10,000). Output 1.2.3. Capacity development trainings, workshops (USD 15,000). Output 1.3.1. Environmental education trainings, workshops (USD 35,000). **Total: USD 85,000**
Component 2:	
10	**71200. International consultants.** Output 2.2.6. International Midterm Review Lead Consultant, for 7 weeks at USD 3,000 per week (USD 21,000). Output 2.2.6. International Terminal Evaluation Consultant, for 7 weeks at USD 3,000 per week (USD 21,000). **Total: USD 42,000**
11	**71300. Local consultants.** **Chief Technical Advisor**, for 60 weeks at USD 2,000 per week (USD 120,000), providing technical and strategic guidance for developing the planned wetland protected area consolidation plan (Output 2.1.1), helping to facilitate establishment and functioning of the Sichuan wetland conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2), preparation of the master plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 2.2.1), assessing the environmental carrying capacities of the pilot sites (Output 2.2.2), formulating and implementing conservation agreements with local communities (Outputs 2.2.3), assessing and deploying alternative livelihood ventures (Output 2.2.4), supporting implementation of safeguard management plans (Output 2.2.5), and supporting project M&E (Output 2.2.6). **Wetland Conservation and PA Planning Specialist**, for 15 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 22,500), providing technical assistance for the development of a working regulation for the Sichuan wetland conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2). **Wetland Resource Utilization Specialist**, for 30 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 45,000), carrying out market analyses and feasibility studies of the proposed livelihood/business models and develop action plans for two to three concluded to be viable (Output 2.2.1). **Local M&E-Safeguards Consultant(s),** for 40 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (sub-total: USD 60,000), supporting regular review of SESP, stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan, and other safeguard frameworks and plans as warranted (Output 2.2.5); assisting with monitoring and evaluation of project activities and implementation of safeguards management frameworks and plans (Output 2.2.6). **National Midterm Review Consultant**, for 4 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 6,000), supporting the midterm review (Output 2.2.6). **National Terminal Evaluation Consultant**, for 4 weeks at USD 1,500 per week (USD 6,000), supporting the terminal evaluation (Output 2.2.6). **Total: USD 259,500**
12	**71600. Travel.** Output 2.1.2. Travel and DSA expenses for the meetings convened as part of the wetlands conservation and management network (USD 5,000). Output 2.2.1. Travel and DSA expenses for socializing the master plans (USD 5,000). Output 2.2.2. Travel and DSA expenses associated with the participatory assessments (USD 3,000). Output 2.2.3. Travel and DSA expenses associated with market analyses and execution of the action plans under the conservation agreements (USD 10,000). Output 2.2.4. Travel and DSA expenses associated with analyses and deployment of alternative livelihood ventures (USD 10,000). Output 2.2.5. Travel and DSA expenses associated with implementation of safeguard management plans (USD 10,000). Output 2.2.6. Travel expenses associated with the inception workshop (USD 2,000), M&E missions (USD 5,000), supervision missions (USD 2,000), midterm review (USD 4,000), terminal evaluation (USD 4,000). **Total: USD 60,000**
13	**71800. Contractual Services – Implementing Partner.** **M&E-Safeguards Officer** for 46 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 3,000 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 154,560), providing strategic guidance on M&E and safeguard management aspects for the activities under Component 2 including assessment of direct and indirect threats and development of planned wetland protected area consolidation plan (Output 2.1.1), development and functioning of the Sichuan wetlands conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2), development the master plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 2.2.1), identifying local communities for potential sustainable utilization of wetland resources and analyses of environmental carrying capacities (Output 2.2.2), facilitating and implementing conservation agreements between protected areas and local communities on sustainable utilization of wetland resources (Outputs 2.2.3), design and deployment of alternative livelihood ventures (Output 2.2.4), implementation of safeguards management plans (Output 2.2.5), and implementation of project M&E activities (Output 2.2.6).

Budget Note No.	Project output (Description)
	Wetlands PA Management Specialist for 30 months out of a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 2,300 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 76,200), providing technical and strategic guidance for the activities under Component 2 including assessment of direct and indirect threats and development of planned wetland protected area consolidation plan (Output 2.1.1), development and functioning of the Sichuan wetlands conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2), development the master plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 2.2.1), identifying local communities for potential sustainable utilization of wetland resources and analyses of environmental carrying capacities (Output 2.2.2), facilitating and implementing conservation agreements between protected areas and local communities on sustainable utilization of wetland resources (Outputs 2.2.3), design and deployment of alternative livelihood ventures (Output 2.2.4), implementation of safeguards management plans (Output 2.2.5), and implementation of project M&E activities (Output 2.2.6). **Community Engagement Specialist** for 52 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 2,300 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 132,080), providing strategic guidance on community engagement aspects for the activities under Component 2 including assessment of direct and indirect threats and development of planned wetland protected area consolidation plan (Output 2.1.1), development and functioning of the Sichuan wetlands conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2), development the master plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 2.2.1), identifying local communities for potential sustainable utilization of wetland resources and analyses of environmental carrying capacities (Output 2.2.2), facilitating and implementing conservation agreements between protected areas and local communities on sustainable utilization of wetland resources (Outputs 2.2.3), design and deployment of alternative livelihood ventures (Output 2.2.4), implementation of safeguards management plans (Output 2.2.5), and implementation of project M&E activities (Output 2.2.6). **Project Assistant** for 18 months out a total of 60 months at a gross salary of USD 1,800 per month, with an annual 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 (sub-total: USD 36,450), providing assistance in the procurement and implementation of activities under Component 2 including assessment of direct and indirect threats and development of planned wetland protected area consolidation plan (Output 2.1.1), development and functioning of the Sichuan wetlands conservation and management network (Output 2.1.2), development the master plans for the two pilot protected areas (Output 2.2.1), identifying local communities for potential sustainable utilization of wetland resources and analyses of environmental carrying capacities (Output 2.2.2), facilitating and implementing conservation agreements between protected areas and local communities on sustainable utilization of wetland resources (Outputs 2.2.3), design and deployment of alternative livelihood ventures (Output 2.2.4), implementation of safeguards management plans (Output 2.2.5), and implementation of project M&E activities (Output 2.2.6). **Total: USD 399,290**
14	**72100. Contractual services – Companies.** Output 2.1.1. Carry out an updated analysis of threats and barriers associated with conservation and management of wetland resources in Sichuan Province; prepare a detailed wetland conservation plan, aimed at enhancing coverage and effectiveness of the wetland protected area system; conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the provincial wetland conservation plan, assessing ecological status of wetland protected areas and the effectiveness of the conservation measures put into place (USD 50,000). Output 2.1.2. Design, administer and interpret baseline and end-of-project knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys, assessing knowledge, attitudes regarding wetland conservation and PA management (USD 10,000). Output 2.2.1. Develop master plans for the Baihetan National Wetland Park and Qionghai National Wetland Park (USD 70,000). Output 2.2.2. Conduct participatory socioeconomic assessments of the communities near the pilot wetland parks; develop strategies and priority actions for facilitating improved participation of local communities in wetland conservation and sustainable utilization (USD 50,000). Output 2.2.3. Through collaboration with the Park Protection Center, provide technical and investment assistance to local community groups to implement viable action plans (USD 160,000). Output 2.2.4. Based on the findings of market analyses conducted for potential alternative livelihoods for local communities near the pilot wetland parks (including ecotourism), design a plan for strengthening and/or introducing alternative livelihood ventures (USD 20,000). Output 2.2.4. Provide technical and investment support to local community groups for implementing alternative livelihood ventures (USD 180,000). Output 2.2.5. Develop a WeChat application as one of the methods for stakeholders to lodge a grievance under the project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM) (USD 10,000). **Total: USD 550,000**
15	**72400. Communication and Audio Visual Equipment**. Communication and audio visual equipment expenses associated with the operation of the knowledge management systems, connectivity charges, data charges, website domain expenses, etc., during the 5-year implementation timeframe. **Total: USD 5,350**
16	**74200. Audio visual & print production costs**. Output 2.1.2. Audiovisual and print production costs for knowledge products, such as short videos, factsheets, guide books, photo exhibits, etc. (USD 50,000). Output 2.2.2. Printing costs for supporting the communication of the participatory socioeconomic assessments (USD 1,000). **Total: USD 51,000**
17	**75700. Training, Workshop, Conference.**

Budget Note No.	Project output (Description)
	Output 2.1.2. Convene regular meetings, offline and online, for sharing knowledge and best practices and for delivering capacity development training (USD 20,000). Output 2.1.2. Organize awareness and advocacy campaigns (USD 10,000). Output 2.1.2. Advocate the global environmental benefits generated through the project by participating in national, regional and international conferences, workshops, seminars and other events (USD 20,000). Output 2.2.1. Socialize the master plans by convening stakeholder workshops with governmental stakeholders, as well as civil society organizations and local communities (USD 20,000). Output 2.2.2. Trainings on UNDP SES and participatory assessment approaches for PA management entities, local government officials, and other project partners (USD 5,000). Output 2.2.2. Community workshops associated with the participatory assessments (USD 5,000). Output 2.2.3. Deliver training to the local community groups on development of skills, financial management, marketing, partnership building, fund-raising, etc. (USD 20,000). Output 2.2.4. Develop a capacity building program jointly with local government agencies, and deliver trainings to local community groups on skills development, marketing, partnership building, fund-raising, etc. (USD 25,000). Output 2.2.5. Convene annual stakeholder workshop to review progress, updated assessment of assumptions in the project Theory of Change, development of the annual work plan for the subsequent year, and discussion and dissemination of lessons learned, including those related to management of social and environmental risks (USD 5,000). Output 2.2.6. Inception workshop (USD 1,500); other M&E related workshop expenses (USD 1,000). **Total: USD 132,500**
Project Management:	
18	**71600. Travel** Local travel expenses associated with the operations of the Project Management Office during the 5-year implementation timeframe. **Total: USD 5,000**
19	**71800. Contractual services – Implementing Partner.** **Project Management Associate,** for 30 months out of 60 months total, at a gross salary of USD 1,800 per month, with a 5% cost of living adjustment starting from year 2 and extending through year 6. **Total: USD 60,750**
20	**72500. Supplies**. Costs of office supplies for the Project Management Office during the 5-year implementation timeframe. **Total: USD 1,500**
21	**72400. Communication and Audio Visual Equipment**. Communication and audio visual equipment expenses associated with the operation of the Project Management Office, including mobile telephone charges, email subscriptions, connectivity charges, courier charges, etc., during the 5-year implementation timeframe. **Total: USD 6,000**
22	**72800. Information technology equipment**. Information technology equipment (e.g., laptop, printer-scanner, etc.) for the Project Assistant. **Total: USD 2,044**
23	**73100. Rental & Maintenance - Premises**. Rental and maintenance costs associated with the premises of the Project Management Office in Chengdu, at USD 400 per month for 60 months. **Total: USD 24,000**
24	**74100. Professional services**. Financial audits and spot-checks during the 5-year project implementation timeframe, at USD 5,000 per year. **Total: USD 25,000**

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

241. This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of China and UNDP, signed on 29 June 1979. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

242. This project will be implemented by **the Wildlife Investigation & Protection Station of Sichuan Province** ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

243. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA , the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
   a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried out.
   b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

2. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

3. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.

4. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

   a. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

   b. Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation,

when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

5. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

6. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

7. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

8. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

9. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

10. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

11. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

12. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

13. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

14. UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

15. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

> *Note:* The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

16. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

17. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

18. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, *mutatis mutandis*, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XII. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: GEF Budget template

Annex 2: Project map and geospatial coordinates of pilot wetland parks

Annex 3: Multiyear Workplan

Annex 4: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Annex 5: UNDP Risk Register

Annex 6: Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies

Annex 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Annex 8: Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

Annex 9: Gender analysis and gender action plan

Annex 10: Procurement plan

Annex 11: Climate and disaster screening report

Annex 12: COVID-19 analysis and action framework

Annex 13: Profiles of demonstration sites

Annex 14: METT baseline assessments

Annex 15: Estimation of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated

Annex 16: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Annex 17: GEF 7 taxonomy

Annex 18: Additional agreements (cofinancing letters)

Annex 19: Partner capacity assessment tool and HACT assessment

Annex 20: UNDP project quality assurance report

Annex 21: Environmental and social management framework