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**United Nations Development Programme**

**Project Document**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project title:** Restoration of Degraded Natural Forests and Soil Erosion Management Improvement in Erosion-Prone Regions of China | | | | | | | |
| **Country(ies):**  People’s Republic of China (China) | **Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):**  National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) | | | | **Execution Modality***:*  National implementation | | |
| **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.  Country Programme Document (2021-2025) Output 2.4: Capacity of target government bodies enhanced to reduce environmental footprint at targeted areas.  UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021, Signature Solution 4: Promote nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet; Output 1.4.1: Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains. | | | | | | | |
| **UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category:**  MODERATE | | | **UNDP Gender Marker:**  GEN2 | | | | |
| **Atlas Award ID:** … | | | **Atlas Project/Output ID:** … | | | | |
| **UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number:** 6489 | | | **GEF Project ID number:** 10533 | | | | |
| **LPAC meeting date:** 31 May 2021 | | | | | | | |
| **Latest possible date to submit to GEF:** 30 June 2021 | | | | | | | |
| **Latest possible CEO endorsement date:** 31 Dec 2021 | | | | | | | |
| **Project duration in months:** 60 | | | | | | | |
| **Planned start date:** 01 January 2022 | | | **Planned end date:** 31 December 2026 | | | | |
| **Expected date of Mid-Term Review:** March 2024 | | | **Expected date Terminal evaluation:** September 2026 | | | | |
| **Brief project description:**  The project will support the Government of China’s effort to meet the National Land Degradation Neutral (LDN) targets by strengthening policy and incentive frameworks, enhancing institutional and individual capacities, improving the ecosystem services in these areas, safeguarding globally significant biodiversity, and leveraging expanded sources of financing for sustainable management of natural forest use land (NFUL). The project aligns the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area Objective 2 “*Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation”*.  The project’s multi-level governance approach for forest landscape restoration and sustainable management will be incorporated into the NFGA’s work for managing NFUL areas in China. The project interventions are expected to contribute towards restoration of 83,000 ha of forest land and replication of best practices to an additional cumulative area of 341,000 ha. Restoration techniques will include use of mixed plant species, including endemic and local species, to improve forest community biodiversity and to avoid risks of invasive alien species encroachment. In addition, the project will test innovative forest restoration techniques for scaling up potential. The underlying objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of the erosion-prone project landscapes through introduction of improved and innovative forest land restoration techniques. The landscape approach implemented under the project promotes multi-level, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder collaboration in generating global environmental benefits and socioeconomic co-benefits for an estimated 10,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 5,000 are women.  Reductions in the rates of loss and degradation of forests will also translate into reductions in the rates of loss of carbon sinks, resulting in an estimated 10 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent of lifetime direct project greenhouse gas emissions mitigated and XX million tCO2e of lifetime indirect GHG emissions mitigated, attributed to the catalytic action for replication.  The knowledge gained from the restoration demonstrations will be disseminated nationally through an online knowledge hub administered by the National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA). | | | | | | | |
| **Financing Plan** | | | | | | | |
| GEF Trust Fund grant | | | | | | | USD 2,986,758 |
| 1. **Total Budget administered by UNDP** | | | | | | | **USD 2,986,758** |
| **Co-financiers that will deliver project results included in the project results framework (Funds not administered through UNDP accounts)** | | | | | | | |
| National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 18,180,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 300,000 |
| Gansu Provincial Forestry Bureau (GPFB) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 2,000,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 1,000,000 |
| Chongqing Municipal Forestry Bureau (CMFB) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 1,500,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 600,000 |
| Yunnan Provincial Forestry Bureau (YPFB) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 1,000,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 400,000 |
| Guizhou Provincial Forestry Bureau (GPFB) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 500,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 100,000 |
| Fujian Provincial Forestry Bureau (FPFB) | | | | Public investment (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 1,000,000 |
| In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 400,000 |
| Menghai Jinsha Agricultural Technology Development Co. Ltd. | | | | Grant  (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 200,000 |
| Guizhou Qiming Agricultural Technology Development Co. Ltd. | | | | Grant  (Investment mobilized) | | | USD 300,000 |
| UNDP | | | | In-kind  (Recurrent expenditures) | | | USD 50,000 |
| 1. **Total confirmed co-financing** | | | | | | | **USD 27,330,000** |
| 1. **Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)** | | | | | | | **USD 30,316,758** |
| **Signatures** | | | | | | | |
| **Signature:** print name below | | **Agreed by Government Development Coordination Authority** | | | | **Date/Month/Year:** | |
| **Signature:** print name below | | **Agreed by Implementing Partner** | | | | **Date/Month/Year:** | |
| **Signature:** print name below | | **Agreed by UNDP** | | | | **Date/Month/Year:** | |
| **Key GEF Project Cycle Milestones:**  **Project document signature**: within 25 days of GEF CEO endorsement  **First disbursement date**: within 40 days of GEF CEO endorsement  **Inception workshop date**: within 60 days of GEF CEO endorsement  **Operational closure:** within 3 months of posting of TE to UNDP ERC  **Financial closure:** within 6 months of operational closure | | | | | | | |

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**Abbreviations and Acronyms:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AWP | Annual work plan |
| BAU | Business as usual |
| BPPS-NCE-VF | Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Nature, Climate and Energy, Vertical Fund team |
| CC | Climate change |
| CNY | Chinese yuan |
| CPD | Country programme document (UNDP China) |
| CSR | Corporate social responsibility |
| CTA | Chief Technical Advisor |
| DD | Due diligence |
| FLR | Forest landscape restoration |
| FPIC | Free, Prior and Informed Consent |
| FSP | Full Sized Project |
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GEFSEC | Global Environment Facility Secretariat |
| GRM | Grievance Redress Mechanism |
| ha | Hectare |
| HCS | High carbon stock |
| HCV | High conservation value |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| KAP | Knowledge, attitudes and practices |
| KBA | Key biodiversity area |
| KM | Knowledge management |
| LDN | Land degradation neutrality |
| 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 |
| NFGA | National Forest and Grassland Administration |
| NFUL | Natural forest use land |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| NPD | National Project Director |
| NTFPs | Non-timber forest products |
| PIMS | Project information management system |
| PIR | GEF Project Implementation Report |
| PMO | Project management office |
| POPP | Programme and operations policies and procedures |
| PPCP | Public private community partnership |
| PPG | Project preparation grant |
| RTA | Regional Technical Advisor |
| SDG | Sustainable development goal |
| SECU | Social and Environmental Compliance Unit |
| SES | Social and environmental standards (UNDP) |
| SESP | Social and environmental screening procedure (UNDP) |
| SOP | Standard operating procedure |
| STAP | GEF Scientific Technical Advisory Panel |
| TBD | To be determined |
| TE | Terminal evaluation |
| TOR | Terms of reference |
| TSA | Targeted scenario analysis |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNDP CO | United Nations Development Programme Country Office |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (China) |
| USD | United States dollar |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |

# Development Challenge

1. Land degradation is a major challenge in today’s China, seriously impacting those living in the affected downstream areas. In most regions of China, land degradation is a result of deforestation, which has led to soil erosion, loss of soil organic matter, soil salinization, and soil compaction, ultimately resulting in a decline in the ecosystem services which these areas are providing. While the root causes for the wide-spread land degradation are described in detail later in the section, the lack of or inadequate forest resource management policy in the past should be highlighted as a major factor for the degradation, which impacts forest landscapes in the NFUL today. However, since 1998, China has radically changed its policies after the country experienced devastating floods resulting in 3,656 deaths that year. In response, the government banned logging[[1]](#footnote-1) in NFUL areas in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River and the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River. China’s Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme report to the UNCCD (2017) notes that the area affected by soil and water loss, due to water induced soil erosion and water run-off, amounted to 1,293,200 km2 according to 2011 statistics, of which 21.2% were intensely affected. These problems, in turn, lead to downstream river siltation, excessive water runoff and low soil fertility in upstream forest and agricultural areas, and in its ultimate form, catastrophic flooding and landslide events.
2. Whilst China has been able to increase its overall forest cover from 17% to 23 % over the last two decades including an expansion in forest area designated as natural forest use land (NFUL), which in 2016 covered 138.68 million ha, the forest quality remains relatively low. For instance, 35.52 million ha are young forests, and 39.29 million ha are middle-aged forests making up 53.95% of the overall NFUL[[2]](#footnote-2). Moreover, the typical standing stock in China’s NFUL has an average from 90 to 130 m3 per ha, far below the 300 m3 per ha found in good forests around the world. And although tree coverage has increased, this has not translated into improved forest function. For instance, soil retention in many areas has not improved. thus, proving current efforts to be insufficient to address negative impacts from the decades of deforestation. Similarly, other ecosystem services provided by the NFUL, in particular, services related to soil improvement and surface runoff, are weak. The challenge of restoring NFUL is difficult, given that many regions have an ecologically fragile environment and poor soil quality.

**Project landscapes**:

1. The five targeted forest landscapes (see **Figure 1**), namely Xiaolongshan, Gansu Province; Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality; Xishuangbanna area, Yunnan Province; Libo County, Guizhou Province; Changting County, Fujian Province, are among the continuously experienced problems are: soil and water erosion, habitat degeneration and fragmentation, sedimentation and flooding of rivers caused by livestock grazing, cutting of firewood and cash crop monoculture.

Map to be added...

Figure 1: Country map showing locations of project landscapes

1. The vast majority of NFUL in and around **Xiaolongshan** is state-owned. Xiaolongshan Forestry Bureau (XLSFB) is a state-owned entity located in South-eastern Gansu Province. It is responsible for protecting and restoring state-owned forest land. It has 21 forest farms, with almost 6,000 employees, under its purview. Both the Yangtze River and the Yellow River cut through areas of Xiaolongshan. Total NFUL area is 828,699 ha, of which 74.5% or 617,078 ha is forested. The degraded NFUL areas cover an overall of 246,830 ha at the project site and of these 32 % has a rating of intensive or above. Xiaolongshan has suffered serious degradation over the years, weakening its ability to provide ecosystem services and natural forest restoration. Xiaolongshan houses more than 27 species of national level key protected, 32 endemic species, including 14 endemic tree species and 1,004 medicinal plant species, and endemic or local species which can be used in the forest reforestation are Red birch (*Betula albo-sinensis*) and Chinese oil pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*), and Dragon spruce (*Picea asperata*).
2. **Wuxi County** is located at the edge of the northeast area of Chongqing Municipality. In contrast to Xiaolongshan, the majority of NFUL in Wuxi County is collective. The state-owned forest farms in the county have only 140 state forest farm workers. Mountains and hills occupy 91.4% of Wuxi County’s area. The county is classified as a national-level poverty county. Total land area classified as NFUL is 326,933 ha of which of 218,912 ha are forested. The degraded NFUL areas cover an overall of 140,309 ha at the project site and of these 67 % has a rating of intensive or above. Of this, 12.2% is designated as protected ecological forest and 25.8% is public benefits forest at the national level. Another 40.6% is classified as collective public benefits forest at the local level. Thus, a total of 78.6% of Wuxi’s forest use land is strictly protected. Wuxi county houses more than 109 key protected species of national level, 27 endemic species, including 12 endemic tree species and 157 medicinal plant species. Endemic or local species which can be used in the forest restoration are black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*), and cypress (*Cupressus funebris*).
3. **Xishuangbanna area** is a three-county area covering 19,150 km2 that borders Laos in the south and Myanmar in the southwest. The area is known for its large ethnic minority populations of multiple ethnicity. 95% of Xishuangbanna is mountainous or hilly. The area is a transition zone between the flora and fauna of tropical Southeast Asia and subtropical and temperate China, resulting in a region with the highest biodiversity in China. The forested area of NFUL covers an overall area of 1,118,800 ha at the project site, and degraded NFUL areas covers an overall area of 434,867 ha at the project site and of these 42 % has a rating of intensive or above.With human population growth, traditional slash-and-burn agricultural activities, and rubber and pulp plantation expansion, deforestation of natural forestland has been dramatic in Xishuangbanna in recent years. Large areas of tropical rainforest and shifting cultivation lands at lower altitudes have been converted to rubber plantations because of the higher incomes they offer. As a result, natural forestland at higher altitudes or on steep slopes has then been cleared to meet the thereby created demand for new arable land. Xishuangbanna houses more than 90 key protected species of national level, 44 endemic species, including 20 endemic tree species and 1,715 medicinal plant species. Endemic or local species which can be used in the forest restoration are Oak (*Quercus spp*.), fir (*Cunninghamia Lanceolata*), and Yunnan pine (*Pinus yunnanensis).*
4. **Libo County** is located in the southern part of Guizhou Province, and also the upper reaches of the Pearl River. It has an area of 2,431.8 square kilometres and is designated as one of the main ecological function zones in China. Maolan Karst Forest ecosystem in Libo county, is the only surviving karst forest ecosystem in the world and Libo, together with Shilin and Wulong, was listed as the World Natural Heritage of Karst in Southern China in 2007. There are 193,655 hectares of NFUL in Libo county, of which 147,282 ha are forested. 46,373 hectares (23.9%) is the barren mountain and 27,213 hectares (14.1%) the rocky-desertification forest of which of large parts are seriously degraded making ecological restoration difficult. The degraded NFUL areas cover an overall area of 83,950 ha at the project site and of these 32 % has a rating of intensive or above. The county’s forest coverage rate is 55.2% and houses more than 170 species of national level key protected and 354 medicinal plant species providing for a “natural drug store” and a large in-situ gene bank. Nevertheless, despite the implementation of NFPP, the destruction of NFUL and its resources, including biodiversity, are intensifying and phenomena such as deforestation, indiscriminate reclamation of NFUL and overharvesting of wild plants extensively occur, thus leading to severe habitat fragmentation of NFUL in Libo County. Libo County houses more than 170 species of national level key protected, 41 endemic species, including 19 endemic tree species and 354 medicinal plant species. Endemic or local species which can be used in the forest restoration are Chinese cypress (*Platycladus orientalis*), fir (*Cunninghamia Lanceolata*), and camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*).
5. **Changting County** is located in the western mountainous region of Fujian Province, south of Wuyi Mountains, neighbouring Guangdong Province to the south, and Jiangxi province to the west. The county is dominated by low mountains and hilly regions. In Changting county forested NFUL area cover 274,000 hectares of which 80% are community managed. The degraded NFUL areas cover an overall area of 153,988 ha at the project site and of these 58 % has a rating of intensive or above. Due to extensively long-term poor management, inferior and residual forests account for about 1/2 of the total area of the NFUL, and the average stock rate on these lands is 55.3 m3/ha, much lower than the provincial average of 86.2 m3/ha. The ground layer is mainly sandstone, mudstone and acid igneous rocks, which are brittle and have strong surface erosion potential. The soil after weathering is mainly red soil and sandy loam, which is susceptible to collapse and mudslides. These unique natural conditions contribute to the ecological vulnerability of the area. Changting county houses more than 91 species of national level key protected, 24 endemic species, including 10 endemic tree species and 130 medicinal plant species. Endemic or local species which can be used in the forest restoration are cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria fortunei*), meatsequoia (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), and Fokienia-cypress (*Fokienia hodginsii*)*.*

More information on the project landscapes is described in the *Landscape profiles* in **Annex 13** to the project document.

**Threats and root causes (drivers)**:

1. From 1949 until the mid-1980s, the exploitable resources in most State-owned forest bureaus declined markedly while at the same time, China’s economic reality encouraged ever-increasing harvests of forest resources to generate revenue. This resulted in that forest bureaus, when encountering issues conflicting with their mandate, often favored economic returns. In addition, bureaus were often ineffective in enforcing timber harvest laws enabling farmers to indiscriminately clear forests to create farmland[[3]](#footnote-3). Although China has made leaps and bounce in terms of forest policy, planning and implementation since then, including the large-scale Natural Forest Protection Program, it is still marked by the effects of the forest degradation in the past.
2. In its current efforts to restore NFULs China encounters a number of key issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that the forests located on these lands can provide stronger ecological benefits including soil retention, contain water in the local areas and increase biodiversity through establishment of functional habitats.
3. **Unsustainable forest landscape management and restoration**: The current forest landscape restoration (FLR) and management threaten the effective restoration and rehabilitation of the degraded NFUL areas. Evidently current practices could be corrected to improve habitat quality and integrity, as well as improve upon the ecosystem services these landscapes can provide. For instance, under the current restoration practices the use of large-scale monoculture planting (and seed dispersal), most often using non-local species, is widespread. This is ill-advised as monocultures exhibit higher soil erosion, lower water retention capabilities, and lower soil organic content than mixed broadleaf and coniferous forest. Also, In the newly rehabilitated forest areas in previously heavily degraded natural forest soils, lack of active management directly results in a degradation of the young forest, for which thinning is needed to avoid competition among individual trees, decrease the risk of pest and prevent from forest fire. In addition, despite the strong efforts and investment in NFUL areas, these are often focused on small-scale, such as the forest stand level, rather than landscape level. Therefore, issues such as fragmentation are not detected and are seldom addressed. Part of this is related to the current lack of a holistic view and broad use of qualified indicators. Currently the NFPP uses limited indicators such as forest cover and standing stock but does not consider other key indicators, such as soil quality, resistance to pests and disease, biodiversity, connectivity, etc.
4. **Lack of effective engagement with local communities and forest owners**: Even though 48% of the NFUL areas is collectively owned by local communities, they are not actively engaged in the decision-making processes nor in site management per se. This has led to a lack of interest (and awareness) in the NFUL areas, its functions, as well as management. There is, therefore, a need to actively engage the local communities in the restoration and management planning efforts in the local areas in which they live. Such engagements will strengthen the community ownership and help raise the awareness of the purpose and expected results of the FLR efforts. Part of this process would be to help local communities identify possible opportunities for additional financial or livelihood benefits that could supplement the government compensation schemes.
5. **Lack of access to financing**: In the current setting local actors owning NFUL land receive eco-compensation from the Chinese government through its established funding mechanism. However, the compensation, which is on an average of CNY 15 RMB (approx. USD 2.3) per Chinese mu/year[[4]](#footnote-4), has to be considered low. Because of this, locals often engage in (as briefly outlined below) in illegal activities such as small plot farming. There is thus a need to develop new financial mechanisms and establish local close-to-nature businesses through private sector engagements, which cater to stakeholders in the local communities.
6. **Engagement in activities contradicting FLR objectives**: Because of the lack of access to financing and lack of effective engagement with local communities and forest owners, local people often engage in small scale agriculture within the NFUL areas, harvest wood for sale, graze livestock, as well as burn crop residue and other activities not allowed within the NFUL. While compensations to local communities are provided for refraining from such activities, common practice is, due to the low level of compensation, to collect the compensation and engage in illegal activities regardless. This is because, people depend on exploiting the natural resources for their livelihood/income. Addressing the issue of community involvement in the planning, management, and restoration processes of the NFUL areas, as well as expanding the financial and livelihood options available to local communities, would help minimize this root cause. Although habitat fragmentation is easily visible in the project targeted landscapes, such fragmentation is mostly based on old land use decisions which date decades back. That said local communities’ involvement in illegal activities in the NFUL areas is facilitating a further reduction in interior habitat and an increase in edge length, edge habitat area and the degree of isolation of natural forest land patches, which can modify the habitat’s physical or biota conditions that many species depend on.
7. Despite decades of NFUL restoration policy implementation, it has not generated the desired tangible results on the ground. The current approach to NFUL restoration is not sufficient to meet the national challenges of FLR, biodiversity conservation and green livelihood creation. The empirical evidence supports that this can be largely attributed to a lack of evidence-based natural forest and land restoration policy. The current government policy and program lack an approach to overcome these challenges. Although recently a landscape-level integrated approach of natural forest management is increasingly favored at the local level, there are several barriers to effectively adopting this approach nationally. The proposed project aims to overcome such key barriers and usher in a landscape-level integrated natural forest and land restoration approach nation-wide. The key barriers impeding the adoption of new approach are summarized below.

Threats and root causes are graphically illustrated on the problem tree presented in **Figure 2**, and more information is provided in the *Landscape profiles* in **Annex 13**.

To be added

Figure 2: Problem tree analysis

**Baseline initiatives and policy and development frameworks**:

1. Some of the key complementary baseline initiatives and policy and development frameworks are outlined below. The project will build upon lessons learned and strengthened capacities, and foster synergies through interaction on multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, delivery of capacity building through learning-by-doing approaches and co-financing arrangements
2. There are relevant and enabling national and provincial policies, programs and strategies for the proposed project, which include key legislation such as the People’s Republic of China (PRC) Law on Prevention and Control of Desertification, the Forestry Law, the Environment Protection Law and the Law on Water and Soil Conservation. As mentioned in the below section Consistency with National Priorities the project is in support of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030) and in line with China’s Voluntary LDN Targets (2017). Further, the project is aligned with various NFGA initiatives such as the National Plan for Poverty Alleviation through Forestry issued in 2014 and the Outlines on Promoting Ecological Civilization (2013-2020). Finally, the project, with its focus on NFUL areas, coincides with one of the six key NFGA programs[[5]](#footnote-5), which has been put in place to halt and reverse land degradation in NFUL areas, namely the NFPP. With the adoption of the PPRNF[[6]](#footnote-6) the NFPP will be expanded in the coming years to include all NFUL designated areas in China. The annual program expenditures are expected to more than double from the current approximate USD 3 billion annually. The full legislative, strategy and programmatic ecosystem of the project will be developed, as part of the PPG phase.
3. However, due to the outlined root causes and barriers, in the absence of the proposed project, the technical forestry approaches implemented in the NFUL areas will not exhibit significant improvement from the current models of monoculture planting and the used restricted access approach to natural regeneration. The lack of addressing fragmentation of natural forest will also allow to continuously omit possibilities for integrating and connecting NFUL with other conservation lands, such as protected areas and ecologically sensitive zones, as well as the NFUL areas themselves. While increased forest cover and its benefits will continue to occur using the current methodologies and approaches, they will not expedite the overall progress towards putting China on a holistic path of reducing the occurrence of catastrophic flooding and landslides to the expected extent. China will continue to judge its NFUL restoration efforts in a unidimensional way, using only forest cover as its main indicator of progress. Livelihoods of local people living in and around NFULs will continue, and the communities will still experience a lack of inclusion in issues that matter to them, even with regard to forest lands, which are owned by the communities themselves. Under-compensation for restrictions to land use will continue leading to increased pressure on the forests from the community engagement in animal grazing, wood collection and crop growing. Finally, the changes to the financing mechanisms of China’s NFUL restoration efforts will not be accelerated. The fund allocations from central government, through the established channels, will continue but the limited supplementary provisions for provincial and local initiatives will be maintained. Without testing pilots focusing on alternatives there will be no new mechanisms and set-ups for channeling needed funding to local initiatives, facilitating community engagement and bottom-up approaches to FLR. Thus, the programme will continue to face challenges where less than ideal restoration methods will continue to be implemented.
4. The baseline investment from the Chinese Government to the NFPP, implemented by the NFGA, for the next five years, is estimated to be roughly CNY 150 billion (approx. USD 23 billion). The current level of programme funding is CNY 20 billion (approx. USD 3 billion) per year, which is estimated to double to CNY 40 billion per year sometime after 2020. With the planned expansion of the NFPP from 70% to 100% of the NFULs the NFPP will cover 31 provinces, 1,900 counties and 300 forest industry bureaus, a rough calculation estimate renders an annual county investment of less than USD 2 million. This investment will support a continuation of the current unidimensional approach (i.e. uniform afforestation work and restricted access) to achieve natural regeneration of NFUL areas.
5. In addition to the NFPP, a number of ongoing initiatives are relevant to the FLR development challenges that the proposed project aims to address. In addition to the six key NFGA programs (i.e. Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP); Sloping Land Conversion Program (SLCP); Desertification Combating Program around Beijing and Tianjin (DCBT); Shelterbelt Network Development Program (SNDP); Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Protection Program (WCNR); and the Industrial Timberland Plantation Program (ITPP))[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Long-term vision**:

1. The long-term vision is to meet the National Land Degradation Neutral (LDN) targets relevant to NFUL by strengthening policy and incentive frameworks, building capacities for implementing sustainable forest management practices, improving ecological resilience of NFUL through implementation of participatory approaches of forest landscape restoration that restores ecosystem services in these areas, safeguards globally significant biodiversity, and ensures socioeconomic well-being of local communities.

**Barriers towards achieving the long-term vision**:

1. **Barrier 1: Outdated policy for natural forest and land management.** According to the sixth national natural forest resources inventory and the status of natural forest prepared in 2005, China has the largest man-made forest in the world. However, while forest area is increasing, the quality of the forest and the ecosystem services it provides are far from optimal. This is a direct result of the current afforestation approach for natural forest and land management, which generally lacks landscape-level integrated approaches. The nation-wide change in the approach is only possible through a change in the national policy and program implementation. Further, there is a lack of a long-term plan for transitioning from the current top-down implementation approach to one that engages stakeholders at landscape-level. This policy barrier is described as an “umbrella problem” by Chinese experts, and it will require an evidence-based innovative solution to bring about such a paradigm shift. Without changing the national policy and bringing changes to the NFPP implementation modalities, it is difficult to address the restoration challenges associated with forest and land in China. Furthermore, current national policy does not facilitate an environment that jump-starts changes, such as experimenting alternative restoration techniques, exploring financing mechanisms and transforming sustainable food production systems. Also lack of landscape planning guidelines and methodologies has hindered the NFPP in optimizing its interventions in the past. This is because holistic planning is currently absent and does not take into account ecological functionality of the broader landscape, water source and stream protection. The national policy lacks the foregoing standards, long-term plans and program to search for innovative solutions. At local level, responsible authorities lack capacity to develop plans that will initiate transition to an integrated approach to forest landscape. This barrier will be mainly addressed through the project’s interventions under Component 1: National, provincial and local policies updated to bridge the policy and regulatory gaps for NFUL in China.
2. **Barrier 2: Use of obsolete natural forest and land management techniques, lack of evidence-based technical guidelines on landscape-level approaches and lack of support program on sustainable livelihood innovation:** The restoration approach taken by China is ineffective in achieving its national natural forest restoration goals. A number of key markers, such as soil quality, biodiversity, and improved livelihoods, are below expectations or not achieved, as they receive little, or no, focus under the current implementation of the NFPP. Also as noted, monoculture has been a preferred afforestation technique, and while it simplifies the initial establishment process, monocultures alter the native soil conditions, reduce biodiversity and provide for lower levels of ecosystem services compared to other forest types. Furthermore, planting market-oriented plant species disincentivize restoration with native species. All of which has immense negative social and environmental consequences. At the same time, without proven good models for adoption, policy and decision makers do not receive evidence-based advice to assess the options for policy amendments. Another reason for the above-mentioned policy barrier, is the lack of national level evidence-based guidelines on a landscape-level integrated approach to forest landscape. In addition, China’s forest restoration efforts are unsuccessful due to a disconnect between national policy and the local stakeholders’ needs in NFPP. Consequently, many communities have restricted use of natural forest. The current program does not take this into consideration by for instance providing local communities with alternative green livelihood options. And there are no programs to address the needs of people living on the fringes of society. Ethnic minorities and women from low-income families, in particular, are often heavily dependent on natural forest for their livelihood. Although compensations are made for the imposed restrictions on land usage, the compensation is far too low in comparison to loss of livelihood. As a result, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources is prevailing. Studies have shown that there is a need to develop alternative livelihoods for local people, as part of NFPP, with funding provided through the program. Although some small livelihood initiatives are implemented, these ad-hoc projects and their results do not grab the attention of NFGA policy makers, and thus are not translated into the national policy. One problem is that these programs distribute money to individual households, which makes it difficult to measure the impact of the program, as it is difficult to track the fund utilization, and thus to measure success. Therefore, there is a need for implementation of nationally supported demonstration project that will provide an evidenced-based advice to NFGA on incorporation of green livelihoods support program in the NFPP. This barrier will be mainly addressed through the project’s interventions under component 2: Restoration of degraded NFUL protecting ecosystems services and improving livelihood of local communities through improved management in the project targeted landscapes.
3. **Barrier 3: Absence of financial incentives for adoption and scaling up of the new restoration approach**: There are two financial impediments for adoption and scaling up of new approaches. First impediment is the lack of payment system that is based on valuation of ecosystem services encouraging adoption of protection and restoration activities. Forest restoration and sustainable use can be encouraged by appropriate financial incentives. State-owned natural forest does not currently have financial incentives for transforming from monoculture restoration practices to “accelerated" [natural regeneration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_regeneration). Similarly, the communities that own or rely on forest and land are not encouraged to preserve and sustainably manage the forest. Instruments such as Payment for Ecosystem Services that can help finance a move away from traditional forest management and encourage sustainable forest use, are absent from the current national policy and program. A second impediment is that there is not enough funding available to support FLR at the level needed to achieve national results. There are a number of different, innovative financing mechanisms that have been discussed by NFGA, however, none have been brought to a level of detail and refinement so that they could be practically applied to generate more funds. In 2005, the China Committee for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) established the Task Force on eco-compensation and policy research. The Task Force contained six thematic research fields including national strategy, theory and method, watershed, mineral resource development, forest and natural reserves. An “eco-compensation” mechanism for financial transfers from downstream beneficiaries of ecosystem services to upstream service providers was discussed. Lastly, while there have been some efforts to include the private sector in the restoration and protection of NFUL areas, results of these efforts have not materialized. This is a drawback because the private sector may bring the benefit of greater efficiency – carrying out restoration and management at lower costs for the same level of quality. This barrier will be mainly addressed through the project’s interventions under Component 3: Development and emplacement of innovative financing mechanisms for SFM, FLR and LDN of NFUL in China.
4. **Barrier 4: Limited capacity, knowledge and awareness on a landscape-level integrated natural forest and land restoration approach**: Despite the decades of investment on natural forest and land restoration, China has not developed proven best management practices guidelines nor widely disseminated knowledge to local stakeholders. Most people (including Government staff and forest workers) are unaware of the technical deficiencies of current afforestation practices. Thus, capacity of responsible authorities, on how to oversee and implement restoration principles and techniques that have environmental, social, and economic benefits, also needs to be built. And while there is some knowledge of possible financing alternatives, that knowledge lacks depth. Similarly, while there is awareness of livelihood issues, there is little knowledge on how these could be addressed in a systematic way. Experts and officials also lack the detailed knowledge they need for improving soil restoration efforts, and the general public lacks knowledge of integrated approaches to address forest degradation and restoration issues. At the same time local communities have diverse and unique knowledge of their local forest and land. However, this knowledge is not incorporated into the national policy due to lack of consultation processes during policy and program formulation. This barrier will be addressed by the project’s interventions under Component 2 Demonstration pilot sites and Component 4: Awareness raising, knowledge management and M&E.

**National policy alignment**:

1. The project will be an important national contribution to the global efforts undertaken in connection with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the United Nations strategic plan for forests (2017–2030) and global initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge and ECCA30 as well as UNCCD’s implementing of LDN. The proposed project supports the China’s Voluntary LDN Targets (2017) and its five key actions listed under the sub-section SFM key actions (i.e. Establishing forest management planning system; Improving public financial support policy; Perfecting the modern fund support policy; Deepening the reform of forest resource management; and Scientific implementation of natural forest conservation).
2. The project also supports the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030), which makes a specific reference to NFUL under the NBSAP’s Priority Area 4 (i.e. To strengthen in-situ biodiversity conservation) and its action 15 (i.e. Improve biodiversity conservation outside nature reserves).
3. ...

**Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

1. 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:** |
| --- | --- |
| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | 10,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating and benefitting in interventions on strengthening access to natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services (aligned with SDG 1.1). Landscape strategies provide pro-poor and gender-sensitive frameworks for accelerating development in poverty-stricken areas (aligned with SDG 1.b). |
| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | 50% of the envisaged direct beneficiaries are estimated to be female (5,000 individuals). Women empowerment is expected to be strengthened through increased autonomy with respect to natural resource management, enhanced decision-making regarding credit, increased leadership through active participation in women’s groups, and reduction in workload (aligned with SDG 5.a). |
| A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated | The project will facilitate strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in the target landscapes (aligned with SDG 13.1). Climate change mitigation measures will be integrated into the FLR demonstration and management plans for the target landscapes (aligned with SDG 13.2). Local communities will have increased awareness of climate change mitigation through learning-by-doing capacity building delivered through partnerships with expert organizations and interactions enabling stakeholders (aligned with SDG 13.3). |
| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated | The project aims to improve management practices (aligned with SDG 15.2) and facilitate restoration of degraded NFUL (aligned with SDG 15.3). Biodiversity values will be integrated into the landscape strategies (aligned with 15.9), and co-financing from government, private sector and civil society will be mobilized to support conservation and restoration interventions (aligned with SDG 15.b). |
| Icon  Description automatically generated | Enhancing South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to best management approaches, specifically participatory models of forest landscape restoration (aligned with SDG 17.6). |

# Strategy

1. The project strategy is designed to address key barriers and underlying root causes that hinder an effective FLR in NFUL in China, and aims at improving ecosystem services, halt further forest degradation and forest fragmentation and shrinkage in forest areas. The adoption of a multi-level governance and landscape approach to FLR in NFUL areas will restore vital ecosystem functions, improve habitat quality, increase patch connectivity between NFUL etc. hereby expanding the areas accessible for biodiversity and provide resilient livelihood opportunities for local communities. An important component in the forest restoration efforts will be the use of locally occurring species, including endemic species, to take full advantage of their climate and habitat adaptation needed to survive in the conditions governing the individual forest landscapes.

**Summary of project approaches:**

***Innovative forest landscape restoration techniques***

1. Indicative intervention areas and FLR techniques have been identified in the five project landscapes, according to baseline analyses and stakeholder consultations completed during the PPG phase. The actual intervention areas and techniques will be confirmed during the participatory landscape assessments carried out during project implementation under Component 2 and documented in the FLR demonstration and management plans.
2. The envisaged FLR techniques include corridor establishment between fragmented stands of NFUL, upgrade of monoculture to mixed forests, planting mixed forests on degraded bare land, community-managed natural regeneration, and restoration of degraded NFUL.
3. Indicative intervention areas in the Xiaolongshan landscape are described below in **Table 2** and shown on the map in **Figure 3**.

Table 2: Indicative intervention areas in Xiaolongshan, Gansu Province

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed intervention area** | **Estimated area (ha)** | **Description of the location** |
| 1. Monoculture upgraded to mixed forest | 3,700 | In the eastern part of Taoping Forest Farm, with high density, poor resistance, and low forest quality. |
| 1. Planting of mixed forest on bare land | 300 | In the middle part of Taoping Forest Farm, forest land has degraded and formed bare land due to improper selection of tree species. |
| 1. Managed natural regeneration | 8,700 | In the northwest part of Taoping Forest Farm. Shrubs are widely distributed. |
| 1. Corridors between natural forest areas | 200 | In the southeast of Taoping Forest Farm. Different forest stands have broken belts. |
| 1. Restoration of degraded natural forest | 18,000 | In the north of Taoping Forest Farm, with too high density, unreasonable structure. |
| **Total:** | **30,900** |  |

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Figure 3: Indicative intervention areas, Xiaolongshan

1. Indicative intervention areas in the Wuxi County landscape are described below in **Table 3** and shown on the map in **Figure 4**.

Table 3: Indicative intervention areas in Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed intervention area** | **Estimated area (ha)** | **Description of the location** |
| 1. Monoculture upgraded to mixed forest | 6,000 | In the middle of Zhonggang Township, in the vicinity of Hongchiba Forest Farm. |
| 1. Planting of mixed forest on bare land | 300 | Mainly in Ningchang Town and Chengxiang Town, but also part of the eastern part of Tianxing Township, close to Daning River. Sparse forest located in this region. |
| 1. Managed natural regeneration | 1,000 | In Hongchiba forest farm. Less human interference |
| 1. Corridors between natural forest areas | 2,000 | In the middle of Shuangyangguan Township, close to the Yintiaoling National Nature Reserve. |
| 1. Restoration of degraded natural forest | 6,500 | At the junction of Tongcheng Town, Huatai Town, Chengxiang Town and Fengling Town. Woodland patches are not connected. Frequent human activities, with degradation of ecological functions. |
| **Total:** | **15,800** |  |

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Figure 4: Indicative intervention areas, Wuxi County

1. Indicative intervention areas in the Xishuangbanna landscape are described below in **Table 4** and shown on the map in **Figure 5**.

Table 4: Indicative intervention areas in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed intervention area** | **Estimated area (ha)** | **Description of the location** |
| 1. Managed natural regeneration | 7,000 | In Menhun Town, Menghai County, with the branch of Liusha River passing inside. Extensive pure forest coverage. |
| 1. Corridors between natural forest areas | 11,000 | In the upper middle part of Menghai County, adjacent to the reserve and state-owned natural forest. |
| 1. Restoration of degraded natural forest | 6,000 | In Menhun Town, Menghai County, adjacent to the reserve. Covering with naturally degraded sparse woodlands and shrubs. |
| **Total:** | **24,000** |  |

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Figure 5: Indicative intervention areas, Xishuangbanna

1. Indicative intervention areas in the Libo County landscape are described below in **Table 5** and shown on the map in **Figure 6**.

Table 5: Indicative intervention areas in Libo County, Guizhou Province

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed intervention area** | **Estimated area (ha)** | **Description of the location** |
| 1. Monoculture upgraded to mixed forest | 500 | In the middle of Xiaoqikong Town, closing to the water source protection area. |
| 1. Planting of mixed forest on bare land | 200 | In the middle of Limingguan shui nationality Township, in the vicinity of Dongtang management station. Low plant coverage. |
| 1. Managed natural regeneration | 1,000 | In the northeast of Limingguan shui nationality Township. The region across of Karst area. Less human interference |
| 1. Corridors between natural forest areas | 600 | Mainly in Xiaoqikong Town, passing through Qi river basin. Opportunity for connecting NFUL outside protected areas. |
| **Total:** | **2,300** |  |

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Figure 6: Indicative intervention areas, Libo County

1. Indicative intervention areas in the Changting County landscape are described below in **Table 6** and shown on the map in **Figure 7**.

Table 6: Indicative intervention areas in Changting County, Fujian Province

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Proposed intervention area** | **Estimated area (ha)** | **Description of the location** |
| 1. Monoculture upgraded to mixed forest | 2,000 | Across Hetian Town and Cewu Town, including the Ting River Basin. |
| 1. Planting of mixed forest on bare land | 500 | Mainly in Sanzhou and HetianTown. Degraded land within NFUL landscape, available for productive use. |
| 1. Managed natural regeneration | 3,000 | In the northern of Hetian Town, involved a lot of *Pinus massoniana* planation. |
| 1. Corridors between natural forest areas | 3,000 | Tongfang and Xinqiao Town, with the county boundary in the middle of the region. Opportunity for connecting NFUL outside protected areas. |
| 1. Restoration of degraded natural forest | 1,500 | Mainly in Gucheng Town, covering large area of shrubland and masson pine (*Pinus massoniana*) natural forest. |
| **Total:** | **10,000** |  |

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Figure 7: Indicative intervention areas, Changting County

***Facilitating participatory governance***

1. ...

***Building strengthened, resilient, and food-secure livelihoods***

1. ...

***Leveraging expanded investment into sustainable management of NFUL***

1. ...

**Targeting to maximize global environmental benefits:**

1. The project will promote an objectively targeted, evidence-based approach to forest landscape restoration in order to maximize the delivery of global environmental benefits. ...

**Theory of Change**:

1. The proposed GEF alternative to overcoming the barriers hindering sustainable management, restoration, and governance of natural forest use land (NFUL) in the project landscapes is predicated on a participatory and integrated landscape approach, as outlined in the project theory of change in **Figure 8**. As shown in this diagram, the theory of change for the project is represented by the following four causal pathways.

**Causal Pathway 1: Institutional strengthening.**

1. The outputs and interventions under Component 1 are designed to facilitate institutional strengthening, including adopting enabling policies for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches and building capacities of national and subnational government stakeholders tasked with management of NFUL. A national-level road map for sustainable management of NFUL will be transcribed into landscape level NFUL strategies, supported by an indicator system for delivering monitoring and evaluation feedback to ensure adaptive management measures are implemented in response to system level changes. An important impact driver affecting this causal pathway is the government’s sustained commitment to environmental sustainability, particularly with respect to NFUL. And it is assumed that there is sufficient flexibility at the institutional level for mainstreaming best management practices and committed financing to support incentive mechanisms.
2. One of the key assumptions outlined in the project theory of change for advancing from project level outcomes to longer-term outcomes (intermediate states) and ultimately to durable impacts is that multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance structures remain in place for delivering integrated approaches for sustainable landscape management. It is also assumed that this high-level commitment is reflected among key institutions and that governance conditions in local jurisdictions are sufficiently flexible to adopt change. The longer-term outcome linked to these assumptions is to achieve enabling policies and allowing land uses, ecosystem values and services and stakeholder interests to be reconciled. Mainstreaming these policies and frameworks in the project landscapes and scaling up to other areas in the target provinces and in other jurisdictions in China will help ensure NFUL landscapes are sustainably managed, leading to resilient ecosystems and communities, zero net land degradation, and substantial avoidance of GHG emissions.

**Causal Pathway 2: Demonstrating innovative FLR approaches at scale.**

1. Participatory models of conservation and restoration of NFUL under the project will feed into national and subnational strategic development priorities, assuming that governance conditions in the project landscapes permit restoration and conservation and local stakeholders are motivated and committed to participate. Over the longer term, ecosystem functions and environmental services will be ensured through conservation and restoration, with co-benefits generated for participating local communities. The effectiveness of these models will depend on enabling policies and incentives that are assumed will adapt to changing circumstances over time. There need to be clear linkages between conservation goals and social outcomes, e.g., diversification of livelihoods through sustainable use of forest resources, genuine collaborative management regimes involve local communities into decision-making and benefit-sharing schemes – including women and other marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities.

**Causal Pathway 3: Incentivizing sustainable management of NFUL.**

1. The improved landscape management approaches are assumed to reduce threats to NFUL, whereby forest-dependent communities recognize the return on investment in the sustainable models demonstrated under Component 2. This scenario is dependent on the assumption that the sustainable options are attractive to local farmers and business sector partners, i.e., participatory NFUL conservation and restoration approaches need to be technically and economically feasible.
2. Realizing durable change will depend on the availability and accessibility of public and private resources for incentives. This assumes that business sector partners share the vision of sustainable management of NFUL and markets reliably reward sustainable production. An important factor driving this change is consumer demand and their willingness to pay for sustainably produced ecosystem goods and services. Achieving the longer-term outcome of maintaining and improving the flows of ecosystem services, including sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities is interdependent on the enabling policies and frameworks in Causal Pathway No. 1.

**Causal Pathway 4: Enabling adaptive management.**

1. Ensuring durable long-term impacts will depend on the landscape-level stakeholders’ ability to adopt best practices and emerging knowledge regarding sustainable management of NFUL, as well as adapt to changing socio-political and environmental conditions. The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management strategy, facilitating collaborative interactions across local, national, regional, and global levels. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important impact driver in this regard, and it is assumed that human resources and institutional frameworks remain stable. The coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management strengthened on the project will help foster change and upscaling, thus maximizing the effectiveness, durability, and scale of the long-term impacts.

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Figure 8: Project theory of change

# Results and Partnerships

Expected Results*:*

1. ...
2. **Global Environmental benefits**:
3. The project aligns the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area Objective 2 “*Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation”*. ...The project will generate global environmental benefits through:

* Promotion of biodiversity-friendly, agroforestry systems, and the establishment and/or maintenance of corridors and set-asides will contribute towards restoration of degraded forest areas and croplands.
* Restoration of ecosystems in areas of importance for biological connectivity or habitat, using appropriate species and management regimes tailored to the ecological needs of priority species, will contribute towards restoration-rehabilitation of degraded forest areas.
* Reducing the decline of soil fertility through the application of integrated nutrient management (good agricultural practice).
* Reducing soil erosion by providing for adequate soil cover and other runoff control measures.
* Reductions in the rates of loss and degradation of forests, as described above, will also translate directly into reductions in the rates of loss of carbon sinks and consequent greenhouse gas emissions.
* The restoration of forest areas and the promotion of structurally and compositionally diverse systems, will result in net increases in carbon capture.

1. These global environmental benefits are reflected quantitatively in the GEF-7 Core Indicator worksheet included in **Annex 18** and summarized below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GEF-7 indicators and targets** | |
| 3.2 Area of forest and forest land restored | 83,000 ha (direct)  341,000 (indirect) |
| 6.1 Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector | 10 million tCO2e (lifetime direct)  XX million tCO2e (lifetime indirect) |
| 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment | 10,000 (50:50 gender balance) |

1. **Project objective**: To mainstream sustainable Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for improving flows of ecosystems services of degraded Natural Forest Use Land (NFUL) in soil erosion-prone regions of China, based on a multi-level governance and landscape approach.

**Component 1: Institutional strengthening for forest landscape restoration of natural forest use land**

Total Cost: USD TBD; GEF project grant requested: USD TBD; Cofinancing: USD TBD

1. **Component 1** focuses on updating policies, plans, and standards that will take China’s NFUL restoration and management program, from its current unidimensional approach. Hereby moving away from forest protection using mostly monoculture planting etc., to one that pursues multiple aspects of natural forest management, which includes the use of multiple environmental parameters, and the involvement of multiple stakeholder groups in the pursuit of improved FLR.
2. ...

**Outcome 1: Multi-level governance and landscape approaches for FLR and LDN in degraded NFUL areas enabled through strengthened policy frameworks and institutional capacities at national and subnational levels**

1. The baseline situation and incremental reasoning for Outcome 1 are summarized below in **Table 7**.

Table 7: Summary of baseline and incremental reasoning for Outcome 1

| **Summary of Baseline Situation** | **Incremental Reasoning** |
| --- | --- |
| *Output 1.1: National, provincial and local NFUL conservation statutes reviewed and amended, or new statutes introduced, to promote FLR of NFUL* | |
| ... | … |
| *Output 1.2. National-level roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL adopted by NFGA and transcribed into landscape level NFUL strategies with secured resources and mechanisms for implementation* | |
| … | ... |
| *Output 1.3. Indicator system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of NFUL FLR developed, demonstrated in the project landscapes, and adopted in other NFUL areas in China* | |
| … | ... |
| *Output 1.4. National and subnational institutional capacities strengthened for designing and implementing multi-level governance forest landscape restoration of NFUL areas* | |
| … | ... |

1. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 1 include:

* National roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL endorsed by the NFGA
* Five landscape NFUL strategies approved by provincial government units

**Output 1.1: Enabling environment for integrated, multi-stakeholder collaborative approaches strengthened by introducing systems leadership skills and guidelines for integrated landscape management developed**

Key deliverables/results:

* Policy briefs for amended and/or new policies, rules, and regulations at national and subnational levels

1. Under this output, building upon the assessments made during the PPG phase, a gap analysis will be carried out of current NFPP and the Public Benefits Forest regulations and other NFUL statues to identify current inadequacies hindering an ecology driven approach. This work will be undertaken at national and the subnational levels. Based upon results of the analyses and stakeholder consultations, policy briefs will be developed for amendments or new policies, rules, and regulations.
2. Indicative activities under Output 1.1 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 1.1.1. Building upon review made at PPG phase, carry out an updated gap analysis of the national level NFUL policy framework, and prepare policy briefs for amended and/or new policies, rules, and regulations. | ✔ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1.1.2. Organize a stakeholder workshop to introduce and advocate for adoption of amended and/or new NFUL policies, rules, and regulations. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 1.1.3. Review subnational policy frameworks for the five project landscapes, and prepare recommendations for amended or new policies, rules, and regulations. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 1.2: National-level roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL adopted by NFGA and transcribed into landscape level NFUL strategies with secured resources and mechanisms for implementation**

Key deliverables/results:

* National roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL
* Five landscape level NFUL strategies
* Improved capacities of forestry institutions in the five project landscapes

1. The project will support the development of a roadmap delineating China’s long-term approach towards sustainable management of NFUL, aimed at obtaining the full FLR potential of the NFPP. Part of this work is to understand the extent of land degradation within NFUL and its socioeconomic impacts. Assessments of the ecological impact of the NFPP so far, including ecosystem services provision will be undertaken. In addition, targeted research on trade-offs, costs-benefit analysis of restoration, and identifying incremental synergies will be undertaken. The UNCCD’s LDN TPP[[8]](#footnote-8) checklist, the UNCCD Secretariat’s LDN Operational Guidance for Country Support[[9]](#footnote-9), the STAP guidelines on LDN project funded by the GEF[[10]](#footnote-10) and other relevant documents which will be used for guidance for the project overall, will also be used as references in connection with the roadmap development. The roadmap will be reviewed and endorsed using internal NFGA mechanisms.
2. The key element of the national roadmap will be transcribed into landscape level NFUL strategies for the five project landscapes. Established tools, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), and available NFGA and academic analysis tools will be considered in developing the NFUL strategies. Care will be taken to involve local stakeholders including local community actors to ensure broad buy-in and also to ensure that management of community owned forest is community centered.
3. Indicative activities under Output 1.2 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 1.2.1. Building upon the situational analyses prepared during the PPG phase, carry out an updated review of national-level plans, strategies, and incentive mechanisms for NFUL FLR and conservation. | ✔ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1.2.2. Develop a national-level roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL through participatory involvement of officials from governmental ministries and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and the donor community. | ✔ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1.2.3. Develop landscape level NFUL strategies for the five project landscapes – including sustainable financing plans for implementation of actionable plans stemming from the NFUL strategies and integrated into provincial planning and budgeting frameworks. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 1.2.4. Convene stakeholder workshops in the five project landscapes, facilitating awareness and fund-raising for implementation of the NFUL strategies. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 1.3: Indicator system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of NFUL FLR developed, demonstrated in the project landscapes, and adopted in other NFUL areas in China**

Key deliverables/results:

* NFUL FLR indicator system

1. Supporting the development of NFUL FLR indicator system, the project will look at (1) technical and cost aspects of improved standard field work models for NFUL restoration; (2) monitoring methodologies[[11]](#footnote-11) and indicator development (including those demonstrated in Component 2); (3) close-to-nature livelihood options, such as agroforestry and under the canopy husbandry in NFUL areas having in mind special initiatives promoting women and ethnic minorities (neither currently addressed in existing policy); and (4) protection and conservation function of NFUL workers.
2. Indicative activities under Output 1.3 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 1.3.1. Based on a comprehensive review of relevant indicator systems, develop a NFUL FLR indicator system that is appropriate for institutional arrangements in China. | ✔ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Activity 1.3.2. Implement the indicator system for the five project landscapes, assess the results and lessons after at least one full year of implementation, update the system in the form of a technical guidance document based on results and lessons of implementation demonstrations. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 1.3.3. Disseminate and advocate the indicator system for other NFUL areas in China, e.g., through organizing a stakeholder workshop, holding online training sessions, etc. | ✔ |  |  |  |  |  |

**Output 1.4: National and subnational institutional capacities strengthened for designing and implementing multi-level governance forest landscape restoration of NFUL areas**

Key deliverables/results:

* Updated capacity needs assessment
* Institutional capacity development plan
* Training records

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 1.4 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 1.4.1. Verify the capacity needs assessment completed during the PPG phase and design an institutional capacity development plan. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 1.4.2. Update capacity-building modules and training materials and deliver capacity building to national and subnational institutional stakeholders. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 1.4.3. Organize domestic and/or international technical exchanges, interacting with projects working on NFUL areas in other countries. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Component 2: Demonstration and upscaling of innovative, participatory FLR interventions**

Total Cost: USD TBD; GEF project grant requested: USD TBD; Cofinancing: USD TBD

1. **Component 2** focuses on demonstrating, monitoring, and improving approaches for innovative models of NFUL restoration and management that will improve FLR results and climate and disaster resilience. The demonstrations will cover new technical approaches to NFUL restoration and alternative livelihoods for people living in NFUL areas. The project will use approaches, which have been “small plot” tested by Chinese academic and forestry institutions in collaboration with local stakeholders~~. Tools and best practices from abroad (which are applicable to local conditions) will in this connection, be reviewed and adopted as appropriate.~~ As part of this, international resource sites such as World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)[[12]](#footnote-12), the UNCCD knowledge hub[[13]](#footnote-13), the FAO Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Toolbox[[14]](#footnote-14) will be explored. These international resources along with relevant national ones will also be fully explored in connection with the work under all of the project’s four components. The NFUL restoration models and associated work will place emphasis on technical and financial viability of the NFUL and will include (1) upgrading of monoculture planted on NFUL to mixed forest; (2) planting of mixed forest on bare land in NFUL areas; (3) human facilitated natural regeneration (“close off the mountain, grow the forest”) via selective methods for planting, sowing, mulching, etc.; and (4) development of forest corridors (or “forest belts”) to connect fragments of natural forest. As part of the process extensive training of government officials at provincial and local level will be provided, as will training to forest workers and other relevant stakeholders.
2. ...

**Outcome 2: Innovative, participatory FLR interventions demonstrated and upscaled in NFUL, facilitated by multi-level and multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms**

1. The baseline situation and incremental reasoning for Outcome 2 are summarized below in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Summary of baseline and incremental reasoning for Outcome 2

| **Summary of Baseline Situation** | **Incremental Reasoning** |
| --- | --- |
| *Output 2.1. FLR demonstration management plans developed and endorsed by multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms* | |
| ... | … |
| *Output 2.2. Sustainable livelihoods for local beneficiaries demonstrated and enhanced through capacity building and partnership building, with particular emphasis on gender mainstreaming* | |
| ... | ... |
| *Output 2.3. FLR demonstration and management plans implemented in the five project landscapes* | |
| ... | … |
| *Output 2.4. Best practices of FLR innovative, participatory approaches upscaled in other NFUL areas based on results and lessons of demonstrations in project landscapes* | |
| … | ... |

1. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 2 include:

* …

**Output 2.1: FLR demonstration management plans developed and endorsed by multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 2.1 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 2.1.1. Establish and operationalize multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms in each of the five project landscapes, with participation by provincial, prefecture, county, and township government units, forest and agricultural associations, NGOs and business sector, and having equitable representation of women and ethnic minorities. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.1.2. Building upon the PPG baseline analyses presented in the *Landscape Profiles* (Annex 13 to the Project Document), carry out participatory landscape assessments, including equitable participation by women and ethnic minorities, confirming key intervention areas and identifying livelihood enhancement priorities. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.1.3. Develop FLR demonstration and management plans for each of the five project landscapes aligned with province level NFPP interventions, incorporating the indicator system developed under Output 1.3, and endorsed by the multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 2.2: Sustainable livelihoods for local beneficiaries demonstrated and enhanced through capacity building and partnership building, with particular emphasis on gender mainstreaming**

Key deliverables/results:

* ...

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 2.2 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 2.2.1. Building upon the baseline analyses made at the PPG phase, assess current livelihood models and partnerships, identifying gaps and opportunities, with particular emphasis on gender mainstreaming. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.2.2. Carry out market analyses for potentially viable sustainable livelihood options for local communities in the five project landscapes, and develop sustainable livelihood business plans for local associations (e.g., cooperatives, women’s groups, etc.) |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.2.3. Design and deliver capacity building to local beneficiaries for enhanced sustainable livelihoods (skills training, financial management, learning-by-doing, etc.), including domestic knowledge exchanges, through cross visits among the project landscapes and/or to other NFUL areas in China. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.2.4. Deliver targeted trainings to women’s groups, organized in collaboration with existing programmes, e.g., implemented by the All-China Women’s Federation. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.2.5. Facilitate new and strengthened partnerships between business enterprises and local communities by facilitating increased social associations (e.g., cooperatives, women’s groups, etc.), increasing awareness of existing finance opportunities, etc. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.2.6. Demonstrate improved sustainable livelihood models in five project landscapes, based on the sustainable livelihood business plans, deliver technical and low-value grant assistance to local associations, including but not limited to: (a) improving quality of harvested non-timber forest products, (b) developing ecotourism experiences, (c) obtaining ecolabeling of products or services, (d) nursery development, etc. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 2.3: FLR demonstration and management plans implemented in the five project landscapes**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 2.3 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 2.3.1. Initiate implementation of the FLR demonstration and management plans in the five project landscapes, through coordination with the multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms, delivering site level capacity building and supervision to County Forestry staff and forest farm workers, and facilitating innovative FLR techniques at demonstration plots in the project landscapes. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.3.2. Socialize the FLR interventions among local communities through organizing community level meetings, site visits, distribution of knowledge products, etc. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.3.3. Support subnational forestry entities in implementing adaptive management adjustments according to results of monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 2.4: Best practices of FLR innovative, participatory approaches upscaled in other NFUL areas based on results and lessons of demonstrations in project landscapes**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 2.4 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 2.4.1. Verify the NFUL landscape strategies developed under Output 1.2 and identify NFUL areas where demonstrated FLR innovative approaches will be upscaled and provide strategic guidance towards upscaling of the demonstrated FLR innovative approaches in the five project landscapes. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 2.4.2. Organize domestic technical exchanges on best practices of FLR approaches, through cross visits among the project landscapes and/or to other NFUL areas in China. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Component 3: Incentive systems for durable investment in sustainable management of NFUL**

Total Cost: USD TBD; GEF project grant requested: USD TBD; Cofinancing: USD TBD

1. **Component 3** will leverage expanded funding for projects and initiatives for the sustainable management and restoration of NFUL through diversified financing mechanisms and channels. Although the ecosystem compensation mechanism has existed in China for a long time, the baseline data for compensation has been missing. In particular, the standards for measuring the value of goods and services of natural forests on landscape scale are extremely scarce. Through the pilot demonstration and with the benefits of UNDP’s Targeted Scenario Analysis[[15]](#footnote-15) the project will establish ecological compensation mechanisms in the five provinces. Through these eco-compensation mechanisms financial transfers will be provided to local stakeholders living in NFUL areas for providing ecosystem and soil protection services, in form of the preservation, protection, and restoration of the forest lands. Thus, the investments in sustainable management and restoration of degraded NFUL areas will be expanded.
2. ...

**Outcome 3: Incentive systems improved and expanded for durable investment in sustainable management of NFUL**

1. The baseline situation and incremental reasoning for Outcome 3 are summarized below in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Summary of baseline and incremental reasoning for Outcome 3

| **Summary of Baseline Situation** | **Incremental Reasoning** |
| --- | --- |
| *Output 3.1.  Improved ecological compensation mechanisms formulated using targeted scenario analysis approaches and advocated for adoption in the project landscapes and in other NFUL in China* | |
| ... | ... |
| *Output 3.2. Expanded types and sources of financing for sustainable management of NFUL through public-private-community partnerships* | |
| … | … |

1. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 3 include:

* ...

**Output 3.1: Improved ecological compensation mechanisms formulated using targeted scenario analysis approaches and advocated for adoption in the project landscapes and in other NFUL in China**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 3.1 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 3.1.1. Building upon the baseline analyses completed during the PPG phase, carry out a comparative assessment of existing ecological compensation mechanisms at the national and subnational levels, with gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) principles incorporated into the analysis and conclusions. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 3.1.2. Carry out targeted scenario analyses, comparing business as usual scenarios with potential improved ecological compensation mechanisms, with GESI analytical framework built into the analyses, and develop recommendations for improved ecological compensation mechanisms that reflect the values and services of NFUL. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 3.1.3. Advocate for adoption of improved ecological compensation mechanisms, e.g., through organizing stakeholder workshops, and provide strategic guidance to the implementation of improved mechanisms. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 3.2: Expanded types and sources of financing for sustainable management of NFUL through public-private-community partnerships**

Key deliverables/results:

* …
* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 3.2 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 3.2.1. Building upon the baseline analyses prepared during the PPG phase, carry out a comparative assessment of functioning public-private-community partnerships. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 3.2.2. Formulate recommendations for new and/or strengthened public-private community partnerships, aligned with the NFUL landscape strategies. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 3.2.3. Deliver capacity building to local stakeholders for developing bankable FLR supporting public-private-community partnerships. |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 3.2.4. Advocate for strengthened and new public-private-community partnerships and provide strategic guidance towards delivery of multiple benefits through sustainable management of NFUL. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Component 4: Coordination, Knowledge Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation**

Total Cost: USD TBD; GEF project grant requested: USD TBD; Cofinancing: USD TBD

1. In this component ...

**Outcome 4: Integrated coordination, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation to enhance capacities for upscaling**

1. Under **Component 4** the project will draw from the other components to document processes, best practices, innovations, lessons learned and outcomes, which can be translated into useful communication materials, such as impact stories, technical advisory notes and guidelines. Part of this will be the dissemination of the innovative FLR methods used by the project (developed under Output 2.1). In addition, best practices methodologies will be developed to communicate the technical results related to survival rates and forest productivity, as well as cost reduction from the business-as-usual scenario.
2. ...
3. The baseline situation and incremental reasoning for Outcome 4 are summarized below in **Table 10.**

Table 10: Summary of baseline and incremental reasoning for Outcome 4

| **Summary of Baseline Situation** | **Incremental Reasoning** |
| --- | --- |
| *Output 4.1. Project implementation controlled through proactive steering committee function, and durability of project results guided through development of a project sustainability plan* | |
| … | … |
| *Output 4.2. Knowledge management and communication systems implemented for supporting scaling up of best practices* | |
| ... | ... |
| *Output 4.3.* *Inclusive participation and adaptive management supported through participatory monitoring and evaluation of project results, including implementation of the gender action plan, SESP, and stakeholder engagement plan* | |
| … | … |

1. Results expected through achievement of Outcome 4 include:

* …

**Output 4.1: Project implementation controlled through proactive steering committee function, and durability of project results guided through development of a project sustainability plan**

1. ….
2. Indicative activities under Output 4.1 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 4.1.1. Convene Project Board meetings, rotated among the five project landscapes, supported by stakeholder meetings as part of annual work plan preparations. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.1.2. Develop and initiate the implementation of the project sustainability plan. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 4.2: Knowledge management and communication systems implemented for supporting scaling up of best practices**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 4.2 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 4.2.1. Design, administer and interpret baseline and end-of-project knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys, assessing knowledge, attitudes regarding participatory FLR of NFUL areas. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.2.2. Based on the results of the baseline KAP survey of this project , develop and oversee the implementation of a knowledge management strategy and action plan. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.2.3. Establish and maintain information and knowledge sharing systems on the project, including internet platforms, social media, etc. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.2.4. Advocate the global environmental benefits generated through the project by participating in national, regional and international conferences, workshops, seminars and other events, Organize awareness raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes and aimed at defined target groups, e.g., farmers, women’s groups, governmental agencies, enterprises and the public, through methods identified in the knowledge management action plan, e.g., social media, print media, radio, local and provincial television, etc. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.2.5. Organize a conference showcasing and sharing the achievements of the project. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

**Output 4.3: Inclusive participation and adaptive management supported through participatory monitoring and evaluation of project results, including implementation of the gender action plan, SESP, and stakeholder engagement plan**

Key deliverables/results:

* …

1. ...
2. Indicative activities under Output 4.3 include:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity description | National | Gansu | Chongqing | Yunnan | Guizhou | Fujian |
| Activity 4.3.1. Design and convene the project inception workshop and prepare inception report. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.3.2. Carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of the GEF core indicators and project results framework and prepare the GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) and other progress reports. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.3.3. Carry out monitoring and evaluation and regular updates of the gender action plan, SESP, and stakeholder engagement plan. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.3.4. Support the independent midterm review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE) of the project. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| Activity 4.3.5. 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:

1. The project strategy has a strong emphasis on building upon baseline activities implemented by project partners, as well as on establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved. The project will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. Some of the key related initiatives where partnerships will be fostered are listed below in **Table 11**.

Table 11: Intersection of related initiatives with project outputs

| **Other Initiatives** | **Main Partner(s)** | **Intersections with project outputs** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP) | NFGA | All outputs |
| UNDP-GEF China’s Protected Area Reform Program (C-PAR) | ... | ... |
| UNDP-GEF Payment for Watershed Services in the Chishui River Basin for the Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity | ... | ... |
| UNDP-GEF Developing and Implementing the National Framework on Access to and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge | ... | ... |
| Asian Development Bank-GEF Western China Land Degradation Partnership | ... | ... |
| Asian Development Bank-GEF Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Land Management in the Western Regions | ... | ... |
| FAO-GEF Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up of SLM Project | ... | ... |
| IUCN-GEF Building Climate Resilient Green Infrastructure: enhancing ecosystem services of planted forests in China through forest landscape restoration and governance innovation | ... | ... |
| Sino-German Financial Cooperation Projects on Sustainable Forest Management | ... | ... |
| WWF initiatives | ... | ... |
| Conservation International initiatives | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | ... |

Risks:

1. 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.
2. 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 5**) was finalized during the PPG phase, as required by UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The overall risk-rating for the project is “Moderate”. Among the seven (7) project risks identified through the SESP, six (6) have been assessed as Moderate and one (1) risk was rated as Low. To meet the requirements prescribed in the UNDP SES, the following safeguard plans have been prepared and integrated into the project design: (i) involvement of ethnic minorities has been integrated into the *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (**Annex 9**), (ii) *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan* (**Annex 10**), (iii) *COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework* (**Annex 16**), and (iv) *Climate and Disaster Risk Screening* (**Annex 15**).
3. Ethnic minorities are residing and depending on the forest resources in the NFUL ecosystems in some of the project landscapes. Whilst ethnic minorities are residing in some of the project landscapes, the lands and natural resources are collectively owned and used by the local communities, not specific to particular ethnic groups. Land in China is either owned by the state or by collectives, as outlined in Article 9 (Land Ownership) of the Constitution and Article 205, Part II of the Civil Law which further stipulates state ownership of forest lands. In the project landscapes, the collectively held land is appropriated to local communities, regardless of their ethnic group. Stakeholder participation and engagement in projects are well established practices in China. Moreover, ethnic minority groups are generally well represented in the village and township councils in China, and in many cases whole villages and townships are from one (or few) minority group/s. However, there is still a tendency to engage in a top-down approach. The project strategy has a strong emphasis on strengthening the livelihood opportunities for local communities, introducing or expanding sustainable alternatives and facilitating genuine collaborative arrangements between local communities, private sector enterprises, and forest management entities. The project will ensure that stakeholder engagement is undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner so that the rights and interests of ethnic minorities are protected and their unique concerns and needs are identified and addressed. Consistent with Standard 6 (Indigenous Peoples) of the UNDP SES, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes will be implemented for activities involving the accessing of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of ethnic minorities and local communities.
4. Facilitated by multi-stakeholder collaborative processes, the project strategy promotes landscape approaches for achieving sustainable management of natural resources. Bringing together cross-sectoral and multiple stakeholders into participatory processes will help enhance the knowledge of the risks associated with zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 and how landscape management approaches can help mitigate the risks and build social and ecological resilience of local communities. The project will also promote sustainable close-to-nature livelihoods, which will contribute to increased food and income security of local communities, strengthening their coping capacities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other socioeconomic disruptions.
5. As outlined in the *Climate and Disaster Risk Screening* (see **Annex 15**), the project landscapes 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. Implementation of a landscape approach on the project reduces climate and disaster risks, through increased awareness on the value of safeguarding critical NFUL and demonstration of how improved landscape management practices and demonstration of participatory restoration techniques can generate mutually supportive socioeconomic and natural resource benefits. The project will involve high-level policy makers and advocate for mainstreaming the FLR innovations for generating co-benefits for ecosystems and their services, including strengthening resilience to catastrophic events such as flooding and landslides, and negative impacts to agriculture and forest production systems. In addition, the project’s multi-pronged approach will encourage budget allocation monitoring and evaluation, including introduction of a proposed indicator system that incorporates climate information into landscape-level restoration and management, capacity building, and outreach to policy makers. As to implementing NFUL restoration demonstrations, the project will ensure that qualified professionals are engaged and provide supervisory and advisory support and coordination. Knowledge generated from the FLR demonstrations will be disseminated among key stakeholder groups, facilitating mainstreaming and upscaling in other regions in the country.
6. Risks associated with biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, and community health, safety, and working conditions, and pollution prevention will be addressed through specific restoration demonstration and management plans that will be developed during project implementation and application of UNDP social and environmental standards, mitigation measures and proactive stakeholder engagement during project implementation.

Stakeholder engagement and south-south cooperation:

1. 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 9**) has been developed to guide the implementation team.
2. 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, and collaborative participation in the restoration interventions on Natural Forest Use Lands (NFUL). Provincial, Municipal, and County forest management entities, including county and township level forestry bureaus, will play a key role in the capacity building at the local level.
3. The project will promote local accountability and rule of law. The project strategy is built upon the principle of multi-level governance and promotes genuine participation of local communities in forest management and restoration. Stakeholder consultation is required throughout, and a transparent project-level grievance redress process is freely available.
4. The multi-level governance and landscape approaches integrated into the project strategy entail broad engagement, among different administrative levels (e.g., national, provincial, county, local), across different sectors (e.g., forestry, conservation, agriculture, tourism, disaster management, community development, etc.), and involving multiple types of stakeholders, including governmental, civil society, private sector, and research-academic institutional sectors.
5. 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.
6. **Engagement with the business sector**. During the PPG phase, two of the private sector companies operating in the project landscapes have been consulted with on synergies with the project objectives. Menghai Jinsha Agricultural Technology Development Co. Ltd. in the Zhejiang Province has operated a forestry related business in Xishuangbanna since 2013, cooperating with local communities in two villages (Mangsao and Manguo), providing livelihood opportunities through a successful agroforestry business model. The promoted under-the-forest-canopy economy includes forest related animal husbandry and planting of economic trees and crop in the forest. As part the company support, the company has facilitated the development of the village cooperatives which organizes the investment and the work of local families. The company has also provided different technical support and trainings such as agritainment and on ecotourism. Guizhou Qiming Agricultural Technology Development Co. Ltd. is engaged with local farmers in Libo County in Guizhou Province with cultivating Tiepi Shihu *Dendrodium officinale*, which are the stems of orchid plants used in traditional Chinese medicine.
7. The Menghai Jinsha and Guizhou Qiming have issued co-financing commitment letters (see **Annex 22**) for the project. The project will engage with these companies and other business enterprises in the target landscapes, inviting them to participate as part of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, facilitating increased investment in sustainable management of NFUL through improved public-private-community partnerships, etc.
8. **South-south cooperation** (SSTrC): The project will also seek to engage other developing countries facing similar challenges with the aim of fostering broader South-South cooperation. It will among other do this by taking full advantages of NFGA’s participation in international engagements such as the Restoration Initiative. Through this the proposed project can provide influence and create international synergies, for instance by facilitating exchange and brining project lessons and knowledge to countries participating in the Bonn Challenge and the ECCA30[[16]](#footnote-16) initiatives both under the auspices of IUCN.
9. 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 and PANORAMA[[17]](#footnote-17).
10. 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 sustainable management of NFUL. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on participatory forest landscape restoration in geopolitical, social, and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in China.

Gender equality and Women’s Empowerment:

1. There have been substantive improvements in China over the past 30 years regarding human and gender development. Despite the positive improvements in gender equality as indicated by the UNDP indices, traditional gender roles and divisions of labor in the family and community continue to prevail, resulting in unequal resource allocation within households and across different economic sectors for women, especially in rural areas with less socio-economic development opportunities. Men are typically the owners of valuable resources and assets such as land including forest land, property and credit, and can accumulate capital and start a business more easily than women can. In a family business, women usually undertake unpaid labor, while entrepreneurial rights and opportunities are reserved for men[[18]](#footnote-18). As more rural men migrate for work, women are often left behind as primary labor of rural households, bearing the burden of family responsibilities and agricultural work that pays much less than a job in an urban factory. This has also led to a marked gender-based occupational segregation, with women concentrated in services, agriculture and informal work, and a gender wage gap.
2. Some of the specific gender inequalities identified in the 2019 report on “Women and Men in China – Facts & Figures 2019”[[19]](#footnote-19) include the following:
3. **Unequal representation in leadership and decision-making positions at all levels.** Women deputies account for 24.9 of the 13th National People’s Congress and 20.4% of the membership of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, far lower than men. There is just one woman in the 25-member Politburo of the Communist Party. In enterprises, women account for just 30% of decision-making positions. In the rural areas, only 11.1% of village committee directors were served by women in 2018.
4. **Unequal share of household responsibilities.** Women in rural and urban areas alike spend twice as much time on unpaid care work than men. Among the reasons for women employees losing a job, 32% is due to conflicts with taking care of the family while that for male employees was only 2.9%.
5. **Unequal opportunities accessing education, especially for rural women and girls.** While China has reached universal enrolment of basic education in the urban areas, the gender gap accessing 9-year basic education persists in poor rural areas. The average years of education received in rural areas is 7.3 years for girls as compared to 8.1 years for boys. In 2017, 11% of rural women at age of 15 or above were illiterate while that of rural men was only 4.2%. In 2017 Women accounted for 73.6% of illiterate populations in rural China.
6. **Women are under-represented in agriculture (including forestry) technology service teams.** In 2017, 241,000 women and 477,000 men worked as agricultural technicians. Women accounted for 33.7% of the occupation.
7. Situational analyses of the five project landscape are presented in the *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan* (**Annex 10**).
8. The gender mainstreaming strategy for the project recognizes the differences between labor, knowledge, needs, and priorities of men and women, and calls for:

* Dedicated consultation with women during the identification and design of alternative livelihood improvement and incentive mechanisms to ensure women’s perspectives help shape the interventions and mechanisms developed and ensure that they reflect women’s needs and priorities. As needed, organize separate consultations with women prior to ensure that they receive information about the specific activities and opportunities for them to voice their views, needs and preferences. For consultations in communities consisting primarily of ethnic minorities, communication will also be delivered in local languages and using cultural appropriate methods.
* As part of the participatory landscape assessments and NFUL conservation and restoration plans, identification and recognition of areas where women play a key role in the cultivation, processing and marketing of traditional crops and livestock, and identification of areas where women’s traditional experience and capabilities could be tapped or further developed.
* Equitable representation of women in multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, which will guide the implementation of community-based activities.
* Targeted training and technical assistance to women beneficiaries, women groups and associations in all five landscapes, ensuring that at least 50% of direct beneficiaries of the project are women and that training supports them to achieve livelihood objectives and empowerment.
* Targeted training of women professionals among national, provincial and local governmental units.
* Where feasible, supporting the establishment of business ventures that are run by women or have a majority participation by women, and facilitating opportunities for women and women groups to participate in project activities aimed at introducing improved livelihoods activities, developing niche markets, broadening partnerships with agricultural associations and enterprises, etc.
* Equal consideration of women in the baseline knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey, and targeted awareness-raising actions incorporated into the project knowledge management strategy and action plan.
* Recruitment of a Gender-Safeguards Specialist to support the gender mainstreaming objectives of the project.
* Assignment of gender focal points at national project management office and at the five project landscapes to ensure gender mainstreaming objectives are effectively implemented and to advocate for linkages with complementary governmental programs and initiatives.
* Ensure and encourage equal opportunity recruitment of women for positions within the project management office, consultancies, and other service providers.

1. More information on gender mainstreaming is included in **Annex 10** (*Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan*) to the project document. Specific gender equality and women’s empowerment targets have been set, including ensuring equitable representation of women in project decision-making bodies; ensuring equitable proportion of benefits realized from the project will be delivered to women; ensuring gender considerations are integrated into the FLR demonstration and management plans; promoting gender awareness throughout the project implementation phase; and promoting equal opportunity for employment for positions within the project management office, consultancies and other service providers.

Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up:

1. **Innovativeness:** The project will work to ensure an ecologically sensitive FLR of NFUL areas and address current barriers restricting an optimal implementation of the NFPP, hereby revitalizing the program. This is a new endeavour that will provide important results and lessons for China. This project will support the development of innovative approaches for FLR, including converting monoculture to mixed forest, planting of mixed forest on bare land (instead of monoculture), community-managed natural regeneration, and the establishment of forest corridors between fragmented patches of natural forest. The integrated management frameworks and approaches to be developed under the project are innovations for China that will greatly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of SFM and restoration. The project will wherever possible link to other FLR initiatives and programs under the auspices of NFGA, hereby expanding the influence of the project.
2. Local level PPCP engagements will demonstrate long-term sustainable close-to-nature livelihood interventions including various agroforestry and under-the-canopy husbandry initiatives. The ecological compensation mechanisms currently in place will be assessed using state-of-the-art targeted scenario analyses, and adjustments to the compensation schemes formulated that better reflect the value and services of NFUL. The adjusted compensation schemes will act as models for inclusion into the suite of measures implemented under the NFPP across China.
3. **Sustainability**: The establishment of durable impacts lies at the heart of project approaches and outcomes. The strong ownership of project results by NFGA will support the internalization of project results and lessons learned within NFGA, both during and following the end of the project. The project will strengthen the policy and regulatory framework for FLR and support institutional capacity building of involved agencies at national and local levels. The project strategy also aims to increase the awareness of government decision makers, facilitating increased support and funding allocation for site specific on-the-ground implementation at local level. This will help strengthen the sustainability of project outcomes. The participatory approach at targeted landscapes supports an increased understanding and interest of key stakeholders. Further the establishment of multi-stakeholder landscape-level collaborative mechanisms will enable stakeholders to work together on implementing FLR. These mechanisms will continue beyond closure of the project.
4. **Potential for scaling up:** The project has the potential for impacts well beyond the target landscapes. In general, the project’s policy and planning work will be critical to long-term sustainability of project results. Equally important is the strong ownership of the project by NFGA. NFGA will use this project to make an expedited effort towards a transformational change to its Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP). The project’s policy and technical work related to the NFPP road map, national level standards and indicator system, landscape level plans etc. will provide a new foundation for the existing program. Thus, the project results have the potential to be up scaled to all NFUL areas in China. In addition, the project adopted approaches will also influence other forest related programs managed by NFGA. Furthermore, the proposed project’s experiences and knowledge products will be widely shared internationally through NFGA’s international coordination and cooperation channels, where for instance NFGA’s involvement in the GEF/IUCN/FAO/UNEP Restoration Initiative provides for an important link to the Bonn Challenge and thus creates a possibility for building additional synergies and experience sharing internationally through existing global initiatives/platforms.

# Project Results Framework

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 17** | | | | |
| **This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD):** Country Programme Document for China (2021-2025) 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; UNSDCF Outcome 3: People in China and the region benefit from a healthier and more resilient environment; UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021: Signature Solution #4 (Sustainable Planet), Output 1.4.1: Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains: Output 2.4.1: Gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened, and solutions adopted, to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources, in line with international conventions and national legislation. | | | | |
|  | **Objective and Outcome Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Mid-term Target** | **End of Project Target** |
| **Project Objective:** Tomainstream sustainable Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for improving flows of ecosystems services of degraded Natural Forest Use Land (NFUL) in soil erosion-prone regions of China, based on a multi-level governance and landscape approach | **Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 3): Area of land restored** (hectares)  **SDG 15.1, 15.2, 15.3**  **China LDN TSP: Newly treated soil erosion area 860,000 km2 by 2030)** | ... | ... | 83,000 ha (GEF 7 Sub-Indicator 3.2: Area of forest and forest land restored) |
| **Mandatory Indicator 2 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 6): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent – tCO2e)  **SDG 13.1, 13.2; SDG 13.3**  **China LDN TSP: Forest Coverage (>24% by 2030)** | ... | ... | 10 million tCO2e (lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated)  XX million tCO2e (lifetime indirect GHG emissions mitigated) |
| **Mandatory** **Indicator 3 (GEF-7 Core Indicator 11): #direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment** (individual people)  **SDG 1.4; SDG 1.b; SDG 5.a**  **China LD TSP: 5.6 (Enhance publicity and mobilization and induce social participation)** | ... | ... | 10,000 (50:50 gender balance) |
| **Component 1: Institutional Strengthening for Forest Landscape Restoration of Natural Forest Use Land** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1:** Multi-level governance and landscape approaches for FLR and LDN in degraded NFUL areas enabled through strengthened policy frameworks and institutional capacities at national and subnational levels | **Indicator 4: Strengthened enabling environment**, as indicated by (a) the number of national level roadmaps for sustainable management of NFUL endorsed and supported by an improved policy framework, and (b) the number of Landscape NFUL strategies approved  **China LDN TSP: 5.2 (Strengthen the legal system to protect resources and achievements)** | ... | ... | (a) One national roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL endorsed by the NFGA, and (b) 5 Landscape NFUL strategies approved by Provincial government units |
| **Indicator 5: Improved capacities of forestry institutions**, as indicated by increases in the cumulative values of the Capacity Development (CD) Scorecard for (a) Xiaolongshan Forestry Bureau, (b) Wuxi County Forestry Bureau, (c) Xishuangbanna Forestry Bureau, (d) Libo County Forestry Bureau, and (e) Changting County Forestry Bureau  **China LDN TSP: 5.1 (Strengthen leadership and coordination, intensify institutional development)** | Cumulative CD score:  (a) Xiaolongshan Forestry Bureau: XX  (b) Wuxi County Forestry Bureau: XX  (c) Xishuangbanna Forestry Bureau: XX  (d) Libo County Forestry Bureau: XX  (e) Changting County Forestry Bureau: XX | ... | Cumulative CD score:  (a) Xiaolongshan Forestry Bureau: XX  (b) Wuxi County Forestry Bureau: XX  (c) Xishuangbanna Forestry Bureau: XX  (d) Libo County Forestry Bureau: XX  (e) Changting County Forestry Bureau: XX |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 1** | **Output 1.1**: National, provincial and local NFUL conservation statutes reviewed and amended, or new statutes introduced to promote FLR of NFUL.  **Output 1.2**: National-level roadmap for sustainable management of NFUL adopted by NFGA and transcribed into landscape level NFUL strategies with secured resources and mechanisms for implementation.  **Output 1.3**: Indicator system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of FLR of NFUL developed, demonstrated in the project landscapes, and adopted in other NFUL areas in China.  **Output 1.4**. National and subnational institutional capacities strengthened for sustainable management of NFUL | | | |
| **Component 2: Demonstration and upscaling of innovative participatory FLR interventions** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2:** Innovative, participatory FLR interventions demonstrated and upscaled in NFUL, facilitated by multi-level and multi-stakeholder landscape governance mechanisms | **Indicator 6: Durability of local participation**, as indicated by the number of sustainable livelihood models operationalized through strengthened or new associations (e.g., cooperatives, women’s groups, enterprises, etc.) in the project landscapes, gender disaggregated  **China LDN TSP: 5.4 (Rely on scientific & technological progress to improve prevention and control); 5.6 (Enhance publicity and mobilization and induce social participation)** | ... | ... | 10 sustainable livelihood models operationalized (of which at least 4 are women-led) |
| **Indicator 7: Degree of upscaling of innovative FLR approaches**, as indicated by the area of NFUL land restored using the best management techniques demonstrated in the project landscapes  **China LDN TSP: Forest Coverage (>24% by 2030); 5.5 (Improve management level to ensure project quality); 5.7 (Strengthen supervision & evaluation to ensure implementation of the plans)** | ... | ... | 341,000 ha |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 2** | **Output 2.1**: FLR demonstration management plans developed and endorsed by multi-level, multi-stakeholder landscape governance forums.  **Output 2.2**: Sustainable livelihoods for local beneficiaries demonstrated and enhanced through capacity building and partnership building, with particular emphasis on gender mainstreaming.  **Output 2.3**: FLR demonstration management plans implemented in the five project landscapes.  **Output 2.4**. Best practices of FLR innovative, participatory approaches upscaled in other NFUL based on results and lessons of demonstrations in project landscapes. | | | |
| **Component 3: Incentive systems for durable investment in sustainable management of NFUL** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3:** Incentive systems improved and expanded for durable investment in sustainable management of NFUL | **Indicator 8: NFUL conservation reflected in ecological compensation mechanisms**, as indicated by the number of existing or new ecological compensation mechanisms that reflect the value and services of NFUL  **China LDN TSP: 5.3 (Improve policies and measures and increase investment)** | ... | ... | 5 ecological compensation mechanisms reflect the value and services of NFUL |
| **Indicator 9: Expanded stakeholder participation in FLR approaches,** as indicated by the number of business enterprises in the project landscapes entering new public-private-community partnerships  **China LDN TSP: 5.3 (Improve policies and measures and increase investment)** | ... | ... | 5 business enterprises in the project landscapes entering new public-private-community partnerships |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 3** | **Output 3.1:** Improved ecological compensation mechanisms formulated using targeted scenario analysis approaches and advocated for adoption in the project landscapes and in other NFUL in China.  **Output 3.2:** Expanded types and sources of financing for sustainable management of NFUL through public-private-community partnerships. | | | |
| **Component 4: Coordination, Knowledge Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**: Integrated coordination, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation to enhance capacities for upscaling | **Indicator 10: Improved understanding among key stakeholder groups of the value of NFUL conservation**, as indicated by results of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) surveys (disaggregated by women, ethnic minorities, and youth), among the following stakeholder groups:  (a) Subnational governmental stakeholders  (b) Local communities  (c) Private sector  **China LDN TSP: 5.6 (Enhance publicity and mobilization and induce social participation)** | Baseline KAP surveys will be made during project inception phase. | No midterm targets, as measurable changes require time. | Provisional end targets:  (a) Increase of at least XX% percentage points  (b) Increase of at least XX% percentage points  (c) Increase of at least XX% percentage points |
| **Indicator 11: Effectiveness of knowledge sharing,** as indicated by (a) the cumulative number of visits/downloads of knowledge products on Internet and social media platforms, and (b) the number of people reached through dissemination of knowledge products, participation in workshops, etc. (gender disaggregated)  **China LDN TSP: 5.6 (Enhance publicity and mobilization and induce social participation)** | ... | ... | a) 5,000 visits/downloads of knowledge products on Internet and social media platforms, and (b) 150,000 people (of whom 50% are women) reached through dissemination of knowledge products, participation in workshops, etc. |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 4** | **Output 4.1:** Project implementation controlled through proactive steering committee function, and durability of project results guided through development of a project sustainability plan.  **Output 4.2:** Knowledge management and communication systems implemented for supporting scaling up of best practices.  **Output 4.3:** Inclusive participation and adaptive management supported through participatory monitoring and evaluation of the gender action plan, SESP, and stakeholder engagement plan. | | | |

# Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan

1. The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and 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. The Monitoring Plan included in **Annex 4** details the roles, responsibilities, frequency of monitoring project results.
2. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the [UNDP POPP](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/programme_and_operationspoliciesandprocedures.html) and [UNDP Evaluation Policy](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/evaluation/evaluation_policyofundp.html). The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.
3. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the [GEF Monitoring Policy](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-C.56-03%2C%20Policy%20on%20Monitoring.pdf) and the [GEF Evaluation Policy](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.ME_C56_02_GEF_Evaluation_Policy_May_2019_0.pdf) and other [relevant GEF policies](https://www.thegef.org/documents/policies-guidelines)[[20]](#footnote-20). The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in **Annex 4**, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.
4. 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 during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

**Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:**

1. Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:
2. 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.
3. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
4. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
5. 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.
6. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
7. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
8. Plan and schedule Project Board and state-level steering committee meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.
9. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

1. The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. The quality rating of the previous year’s PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

GEF Core Indicators:

1. The GEF Core indicators included as **Annex 18** 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](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Results_Guidelines.pdf).

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

1. The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance prepared by the UNDP IEO for GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guidance.shtml#gef) (ERC).
2. 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 under review.
3. 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/GEF Directorate.
4. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by March 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):

1. 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](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guidance.shtml#gef).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by September 2026. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report’s completion.

Final Report:

1. 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.
2. 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[[21]](#footnote-21) and the GEF policy on public involvement[[22]](#footnote-22).

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:

1. The project monitoring and evaluation plan and budget are outlined below in **Table 12**.

Table 12: Monitoring and evaluation plan and budget

| **GEF M&E requirements** | **Indicative costs (USD)** | **Time frame** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Inception Workshop** | 18,800 | Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project |
| **Inception Report** | None[[23]](#footnote-23) | Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project |
| **M&E of GEF core indicators in and project results framework** | 17,800 | Annually and at mid-point and closure |
| **GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)** | 9,000 | Annually typically between June-August |
| **Monitoring of ESMF/ESMP, stakeholder engagement plan, and gender action plans** | 41,400 | On-going |
| **Supervision missions** | None**[[24]](#footnote-24)** | Annually |
| **Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)** | 30,500 | March 2024 |
| **Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)** | 30,500 | September 2026 |
| **TOTAL indicative COST** | **148,000** | Added to TBWP component 4 |

# Governance and Management Arrangements

**Roles and responsibilities of the project’s governance mechanism:**

1. Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the **National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA)**.
2. 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.
3. 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.

1. Project stakeholders and target groups: The project stakeholders and target groups include national and subnational governmental ministries, departments and agencies tasked with management of NFUL areas, as well as local communities who depend on NFUL resources for their livelihoods, as well as civil society organizations, academic-research institutes, and business enterprises involved in the sustainable management of forest resources. Demonstration activities will be carried out in the selected five project landscapes. In each project landscape, multi-level and multi-stakeholder landscape governance forums will be established for ensuring inclusive participation and decision-making among the key project stakeholders and target groups. Local government entities having jurisdiction over the project landscapes will designate project-level Landscape Coordinators and gender focal points. These positions will be covered by co-financing contributions and help facilitate engagement across the administrative levels and among the stakeholder groups.
2. UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Board.

**Project organisation structure:**

A picture containing table

Description automatically generated

Figure 9: Project organizational structure

1. Project Board: The Project Board is responsible for setting policy direction and taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. 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.
2. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
3. Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

* Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints.
* Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager and approve corrective and/or adaptive actions where applicable.
* Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
* Agree on Project Manager’s tolerances as required regarding management decision and financial approving authority, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the Project Manager’s tolerances are exceeded.
* Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF.
* Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
* Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.
* Review and verify co-financing for this project.
* Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year.
* Appraise the mid-year and annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report.
* Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
* Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
* Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.
* Address project-level grievances.
* Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses.
* Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up.
* Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

1. The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:
2. **Project Executive (National Project Director)**: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive(National Project Director) is the Deputy Director General of the NFPP at the NFGA.
3. **Beneficiary Representatives**: Individuals or groups representing the interests of those 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. The Beneficiary representatives are:
   * 1. Xiaolongshan, Gansu Province
     2. Wuxi County, Chongqing Municipality
     3. Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province
     4. Libo County, Guizhou Province
     5. Changting County, Fujian Province
4. **Development Partners**: Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partners are:
   * 1. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
     2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
5. **Project Assurance:** UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed, and conflict of interest issues are monitored and addressed. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides a three – tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.
6. **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 only if the following conditions are met: one extension only for a project for a maximum of six months; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in project management costs (PMC) will be covered by non-GEF resources; the UNDP Country Office oversight costs in excess of CO’s Agency fee specified in the DOA during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources.
7. GRM Sub-Committee: A GRM Sub-Committee will be established and convened on an ad hoc basis, to attempt to resolve the grievance, request further information to clarify the issue, refer the grievance to independent mediation or determine the request is outside the scope and mandate of the Project Board and refer it elsewhere (e.g., the state judicial system). The GRM is described in project *Stakeholder Engagment Plan* (**Annex 9** to the Project Document).
8. Project Management Office: Project management services will be delivered by the Project Management Office (PMO), staffed as follows:

* Project Manager
* Project Assistant

1. The **Project Manager** has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Project Board. Specific duties and responsibilities of the Project Manager and Project Assistant positions are outlined in **Annex 7** to the Project Document (*Overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts*).
2. Technical Support Positions: A part-time **Chief Technical Advisor** will be recruited for providing strategic technical guidance to the project. The Chief Technical Advisor position will be contracted through a long-term contractual agreement and embedded with the PMO team in the offices of the NFGA in Beijing, the contract should be reviewed by both UNDP and NFGA annually.
3. Short-term technical support will be procured as needed among qualified consultants, institutes, and civil society organizations and other service partners through competitive bidding processes. The types of expertise envisaged on short-term assignments may include but are not limited to the following:

* Policy Analysis and Design
* Workshop Facilitation
* Indicator System Design
* Capacity Building/Training
* Business Development
* Low-Value Grant Administration
* Forest Restoration Design and Monitoring
* Ecological Compensation Mechanism Analysis and Design
* Design and Delivery of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Survey
* Knowledge Management
* Gender-Safeguards
* Monitoring and Evaluation

1. **Landscape Coordinators** and **Gender Focal Points** will be responsible to ensure landscape level stakeholders are engaged in the project, liaising with subnational government departments, civil society, and business enterprises, assist in communication and awareness raising among local communities, and support monitoring and evaluation activities. The Landscape Coordinators and Gender Focal Points will be assigned by the provincial and/or local forestry bureaus and covered by the recipient government co-financing contributions.

# Financial Planning and Management

1. The total cost of the project is **USD 30,516,758**.This is financed through a GEF grant of **USD 2,986,758** administered by UNDP*,* and additional support of **USD 27,530,000**. 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.
2. Confirmed Co-financing: The actual realization of project co-financing will be monitored during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process and will be reported to the GEF. Note that all project activities included in the project results framework that will be delivered by co-financing partners (even if the funds do not pass through UNDP accounts) must comply with UNDP’s social and environmental standards. Co-financing will be used for the project activities/outputs presented below in **Table 13**.

Table 13: Breakdown of co-financing activities

| **Co-financing source** | **Co-financing type** | **Co-financing amount** | **Planned Co-financing**  **Activities/Outputs** | **Risks** | **Risk Mitigation Measures** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNDP | In-kind, recurrent expenditures | $50,000 | … | ... | … |
| NFGA | Public investment, investment mobilized | $18,180,000 | … | ... | … |
| In-kind, recurrent expenditures | $300,000 | … | ... | … |
| Subnational government entities | Public investment, investment mobilized | $6,000,000 | … | ... | … |
| In-kind, recurrent expenditures | $2,500,000 | … | ... | … |
| Menghai Jinsha Agricultural Technology Devel. Co. Ltd. | Grant, investment mobilized | $200,000 | … | ... | … |
| Guizhou Qiming Agricultural Technology Devel. Co. Ltd | Grant, investment mobilized | $300,000 | … | ... | … |

1. Budget Revision and Tolerance: As per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP, the project board will agree on a budget tolerance level for each plan under the overall annual work plan allowing the Project Manager to expend up to the tolerance level beyond the approved project budget amount for the year without requiring a revision from the Project Board. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager and UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the UNDP-GEF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF: a) Budget re-allocations among components in the project with amounts involving 10% of the total project grant or more; b) Introduction of new budget items/or components that exceed 5% of original GEF allocation.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. Project Closure: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. On an exceptional basis only, and if there is no increase of the project budget, one extension of the operational closure date beyond the initial duration of the project may be approved by the UNDP-GEF Directorate. However, 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.
5. 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 with 3 months of posting the TE report to the UNDP ERC**. The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the relevant parties will have already agreed and confirmed in writing on the arrangements for the disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.
6. 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. In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file. The transfer should be done before Project management Unit (team) complete their assignments.
7. 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).
8. The project will be financially completed **within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. 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 UNDP-GEF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.
9. Refund to GEF: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the UNDP-GEF Directorate in New York. No action is required at CO level on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF Trustee.

# Total Budget and Work Plan

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Budget and Work Plan** | | |
| Atlas Award ID: | 000 … | Atlas Output Project ID: … |
| Atlas Proposal or Award Title: | Restoration of Degraded Natural Forests and Soil Erosion Management Improvement in Erosion-Prone Regions of China | |
| Atlas Business Unit | CHN 10 | |
| Atlas Primary Output Project Title | Restoration of Degraded Natural Forests and Soil Erosion Management Improvement in Erosion-Prone Regions of China | |
| UNDP-GEF PIMS No. | 6489 | |
| Implementing Partner | National Forestry and Grassland Administration | |

| **Atlas Activity  (GEF Component)** | **Atlas Implementing Agent** | **Atlas Fund ID** | **Donor Name** | **Atlas Budgetary Account Code** | **ATLAS Budget Description** | **Amount Year 1  (USD)** | **Amount Year 2  (USD)** | **Amount Year 3  (USD)** | **Amount  Year 4  (USD)** | **Amount  Year 5  (USD)** | **Total  (USD)** | **See Budget Note:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component 1:** Institutional strengthening for forest landscape restoration of natural forest use land | **NFGA** | **62000** | **GEF** | 71200 | International Consultants | 0 | 0 | 16,500 | 16,500 | 0 | **33,000** | 1 |
| 71300 | Local Consultants | 7,600 | 9,100 | 20,350 | 11,350 | 7,600 | **56,000** | 2 |
| 71400 | Contractual Services - Individuals | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | **26,000** | 3 |
| 71600 | Travel | 0 | 11,250 | 53,750 | 23,750 | 6,250 | **95,000** | 4 |
| 72100 | Contractual Services - Companies | 71,250 | 167,500 | 71,250 | 15,000 | 15,000 | **340,000** | 5 |
| 74200 | Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs | 0 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | **30,000** | 6 |
| 75700 | Training, Workshops and Confer | 0 | 18,750 | 83,750 | 33,750 | 8,750 | **145,000** | 7 |
| **Sub-total, Component 1 GEF** | | | | | **84,050** | **219,300** | **258,300** | **113,050** | **50,300** | **725,000** |  |
| **Total Component 1** | | | | | | **84,050** | **219,300** | **258,300** | **113,050** | **50,300** | **725,000** |  |
| **Component 2:** Demonstration and upscaling of innovative, participatory FLR interventions | **NFGA** | **62000** | **GEF** | 71300 | Local Consultants | 27,160 | 31,910 | 31,910 | 31,910 | 31,910 | **154,800** | 8 |
| 71400 | Contractual Services - Individuals | 13,040 | 15,640 | 15,640 | 15,640 | 15,640 | **75,600** | 9 |
| 71600 | Travel | 6,000 | 12,250 | 16,750 | 18,250 | 16,750 | **70,000** | 10 |
| 72100 | Contractual Services - Companies | 18,750 | 162,500 | 161,250 | 115,000 | 115,000 | **572,500** | 11 |
| 72600 | Grants | 0 | 0 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 | **200,000** | 12 |
| 72800 | Information Technology Equipment | 0 | 37,500 | 37,500 | 0 | 0 | **75,000** | 13 |
| 74200 | Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs | 0 | 6,775 | 6,775 | 6,775 | 6,775 | **27,100** | 14 |
| 75700 | Training, Workshops and Confer | 10,000 | 25,000 | 37,000 | 41,000 | 37,000 | **150,000** | 15 |
| **Sub-total, Component 2 GEF** | | | | | **74,950** | **291,575** | **406,825** | **328,575** | **223,075** | **1,325,000** |  |
| **Total Component 2** | | | | | | **74,950** | **291,575** | **406,825** | **328,575** | **223,075** | **1,325,000** |  |
| **Component 3:** Incentive systems for durable investment in sustainable management of NFUL | **NFGA** | **62000** | **GEF** | 71200 | International Consultants | 0 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 0 | 0 | **18,000** | 16 |
| 71300 | Local Consultants | 0 | 28,200 | 28,200 | 5,700 | 5,700 | **67,800** | 17 |
| 71400 | Contractual Services - Individuals | 0 | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 | 7,800 | **31,200** | 18 |
| 71600 | Travel | 2,000 | 2,750 | 2,750 | 2,750 | 2,750 | **13,000** | 19 |
| 72100 | Contractual Services - Companies | 0 | 37,500 | 77,500 | 30,000 | 30,000 | **175,000** | 20 |
| 75700 | Training, Workshops and Confer | 0 | 5,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | **25,000** | 21 |
| **Sub-total, Component 3 GEF** | | | | | **2,000** | **90,250** | **135,250** | **51,250** | **51,250** | **330,000** |  |
| **Total Component 3** | | | | | | **2,000** | **90,250** | **135,250** | **51,250** | **51,250** | **330,000** |  |
| **Component 4**: Coordination, Knowledge Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation | **NFGA** | **62000** | **GEF** | 71200 | International Consultants | 0 | 0 | 18,000 | 0 | 30,000 | **48,000** | 22 |
| 71300 | Local Consultants | 13,600 | 13,600 | 21,100 | 13,600 | 36,100 | **98,000** | 23 |
| 71400 | Contractual Services - Individuals | 8,480 | 8,480 | 8,480 | 8,480 | 8,480 | **42,400** | 24 |
| 71600 | Travel | 20,500 | 15,500 | 20,500 | 15,500 | 20,500 | **92,500** | 25 |
| 72100 | Contractual Services - Companies | 16,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 16,000 | **50,000** | 26 |
| 72800 | Information Technology Equipment | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **15,000** | 27 |
| 74200 | Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs | 0 | 9,658 | 9,658 | 9,658 | 9,658 | **38,633** | 28 |
| 74500 | Miscellaneous Expenses | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | **30,000** | 29 |
| 75700 | Training, Workshops and Confer | 7,000 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 29,500 | **50,000** | 30 |
| **Sub-total, Component 4 GEF** | | | | | **86,580** | **63,738** | **94,238** | **63,738** | **156,238** | **464,533** |  |
| **Total Component 4** | | | | | | **86,580** | **63,738** | **94,238** | **63,738** | **156,238** | **464,533** |  |
| **Project Management** | **NFGA** | **62000** | **GEF** | 71800 | Contractual Services - Impl. Partner | 24,000 | 24,000 | 24,000 | 24,000 | 24,000 | **120,000** | 31 |
| 74100 | Professional Services | 4,445 | 4,445 | 4,445 | 4,445 | 4,445 | **22,225** | 32 |
| **Sub-total, Project Management GEF** | | | | | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **142,225** |  |
| **Total Project Management** | | | | | | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **28,445** | **142,225** |  |
| **PROJECT TOTAL** | | | | | | **276,025** | **693,308** | **923,058** | **585,058** | **509,308** | **2,986,758** |  |

**Summary of Funds:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Amount Year 1** | **Amount Year 2** | **Amount Year 3** | **Amount Year 4** | **Amount Year 5** | **Total** |
| GEF grant administered by UNDP | $276,025 | $693,308 | $923,058 | $585,058 | $509,308 | **$2,986,758** |
| National Forestry and Grassland Administration (public investment) | $1,818,000 | $5,454,000 | $5,454,000 | $3,636,000 | $1,818,000 | **$18,180,000** |
| National Forestry and Grassland Administration (in-kind) | $30,000 | $90,000 | $90,000 | $60,000 | $30,000 | **$300,000** |
| Gansu Provincial Forestry Bureau (public-investment) | $200,000 | $600,000 | $600,000 | $400,000 | $200,000 | **$2,000,000** |
| Gansu Provincial Forestry Bureau (in-kind) | $100,000 | $300,000 | $300,000 | $200,000 | $100,000 | **$1,000,000** |
| Chongqing Municipal Forestry Bureau (public investment) | $150,000 | $450,000 | $450,000 | $300,000 | $150,000 | **$1,500,000** |
| Chongqing Municipal Forestry Bureau (in-kind) | $60,000 | $180,000 | $180,000 | $120,000 | $60,000 | **$600,000** |
| Yunnan Provincial Forestry Bureau (public investment) | $100,000 | $300,000 | $300,000 | $200,000 | $100,000 | **$1,000,000** |
| Yunnan Provincial Forestry Bureau (in-kind) | $40,000 | $120,000 | $120,000 | $80,000 | $40,000 | **$400,000** |
| Guizhou Provincial Forestry Bureau (public investment) | $50,000 | $150,000 | $150,000 | $100,000 | $50,000 | **$500,000** |
| Guizhou Provincial Forestry Bureau (in-kind) | $10,000 | $30,000 | $30,000 | $20,000 | $10,000 | **$100,000** |
| Fujian Provincial Forestry Bureau (public investment) | $100,000 | $300,000 | $300,000 | $200,000 | $100,000 | **$1,000,000** |
| Fujian Provincial Forestry Bureau (in-kind) | $40,000 | $120,000 | $120,000 | $80,000 | $40,000 | **$400,000** |
| Menghai Jinsha Agricultural Technology Devel. Co. Ltd. (grant) | $40,000 | $40,000 | $40,000 | $40,000 | $40,000 | **$200,000** |
| Guizhou Qiming Agricultural Technology Devel. Co. Ltd (grant) | $60,000 | $60,000 | $60,000 | $60,000 | $60,000 | **$300,000** |
| UNDP (in-kind) | $10,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | **$50,000** |
| **TOTAL:** | **$3,084,025** | **$8,897,308** | **$9,127,058** | **$6,091,058** | **$3,317,308** | **$30,516,758** |

| **Budget note number** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- |
| **Component 1:** | |
| 1 | **71200. International consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 33,000** |
| 2 | **71300. Local consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 56,000** |
| 3 | **71400. Contractual Services - Individuals.**  …  **Total: USD 26,000** |
| 4 | **71600. Travel.**  …  **Total: USD 95,000** |
| 5 | **72100. Contractual services – Companies.**  …  **Total: USD 340,000** |
| 6 | **74200. Audio visual & print production costs**.  …  **Total: USD 30,000** |
| 7 | **75700. Training, workshop, conference.**  …  **Total: USD 145,000** |
| **Component 2:** | |
| 8 | **71300. Local consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 154,800** |
| 9 | **71400. Contractual Services - Individuals.**  …  **Total: USD 75,600** |
| 10 | **71600. Travel.**  …  **Total: USD 70,000** |
| 11 | **72100. Contractual services – Companies.**  …  **Total: USD 572,500** |
| 12 | **72600. Grants.**  …  **Total: USD 200,000** |
| 13 | **72800.** **Information technology equipment**.  …  **Total: USD 75,000** |
| 14 | **74200. Audio visual & print production costs**.  …  **Total: USD 27,100** |
| 15 | **75700. Training, Workshop, Conference.**  …  **Total: USD 150,000** |
| **Component 3:** | |
| 16 | **71200. International consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 18,000** |
| 17 | **71300. Local consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 67,800** |
| 18 | **71400. Contractual Services - Individuals.**  …  **Total: USD 31,200** |
| 19 | **71600. Travel.**  …  **Total: USD 13,000** |
| 20 | **72100. Contractual services – Companies.**  …  **Total: USD 175,000** |
| 21 | **75700. Training, Workshop, Conference.**  …  **Total: USD 25,000** |
| **Component 4 / Outcome 4:** | |
| 22 | **71200. International consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 48,000** |
| 23 | **71300. Local consultants.**  …  **Total: USD 98,000** |
| 24 | **71400. Contractual Services - Individuals.**  …  **Total: USD 42,400** |
| 25 | **71600. Travel.**  …  **Total: USD 92,500** |
| 26 | **72100. Contractual services – Companies.**  …  **Total: USD 50,000** |
| 27 | **72800.** **Information technology equipment**.  …  **Total: USD 15,000** |
| 28 | **74200. Audio visual & print production costs**.  …  **Total: USD 38,633** |
| 29 | **74500.** **Miscellaneous expenses**.  ...  **Total: USD 30,000** |
| 30 | **75700. Training, Workshop, Conference.**  …  **Total: USD 50,000** |
| **Project Management:** | |
| 31 | **71800.** **Contractual services – Implementing Partner**.  …  **Total: USD 120,000** |
| 32 | **74100.** **Professional services**.  …  **Total: USD 22,225** |

# Legal Context

**Option a. Where the country has signed the** [**Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)**](http://intra.undp.org/bdp/archive-programming-manual/docs/reference-centre/chapter6/sbaa.pdf)

1. 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 (date).   All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”
2. This project will be implemented by the **National Forestry and Grassland Administration** (“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.
3. 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.

# Risk Management

**Option a. Implementing Partner is a Government Entity (NIM)**

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:
2. 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.
3. assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner’s security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
4. 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.
5. 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>.
6. 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.
   * + 1. 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”).
       2. 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.
7. 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:
   1. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
   2. 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;
   3. 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;
   4. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
   5. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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).
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

# Mandatory Annexes

## Annex 1: GEF budget

## Annex 2: Project map and geospatial coordinates of project landscapes

## Annex 3: Multi-year work plan

## Annex 4: Monitoring plan

## Annex 5: UNDP social and environmental screening procedure (SESP)

## Annex 6: UNDP risk register

## Annex 7: Overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts

## Annex 8: Stakeholder engagement plan

## Annex 9: Stakeholder consultations during project preparation phase

## Annex 10: Gender analysis and gender action plan

## Annex 11: Baseline report on sustainable forest and land management enabling environment

## Annex 12: Baseline report on revenue and policy options for incentivizing participatory forest restoration

## Annex 13: Landscape profiles

## Annex 14: Capacity baseline assessment and proposed capacity development approaches

## Annex 15: Climate and disaster screening report

## Annex 16: COVID-19 analysis and action framework

## Annex 17: Estimations of GEF 7 Core Indicator end targets

## Annex 18: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

## Annex 19: GEF 7 taxonomy

## Annex 20: Procurement plan

## Annex 21: Partners capacity assessment tool and HACT assessment

## Annex 22: Additional agreements (cofinancing letters)

## Annex 23: UNDP project quality assurance report

## Annex 24: UNDP checklist for all projects pending GEF approval

1. A logging ban for all NFUL areas in China was imposed in 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. NFGA publication Forest Resources in China The 9th National Forest Inventory <http://www.china-ceecforestry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Forest-Resources-in-China%E2%80%94%E2%80%94The-9th-National-Forest-Inventory.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Yang Yuexian (2001) Impacts and effectiveness of logging bans in natural forests: People’s Republic of China - <http://www.fao.org/3/x6967e/x6967e06.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 mu = 1/15 ha. The average compensation for one ha of land would be CNY 225 (approx. USD 35) per ha/year. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP); Sloping Land Conversion Program (SLCP); Desertification Combating Program around Beijing and Tianjin (DCBT); Shelterbelt Network Development Program (SNDP); Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Protection Program (WCNR); and the Industrial Timberland Plantation Program (ITPP). Please see **Annex 11** for information on these individual programs. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The PPRNF outlines 20 sub-task areas related to among other 1) Improve the natural forest management and protection system, 2) Improve the natural forest restoration system 3) Establish a natural forest use control system, 4) Improve support policies and 5) Implement the supervision and regulation system for natural forest protection and restoration. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Please see **Annex 11** for descriptions of the individual programs. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. UNCCD’s LDN TPP <https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/access-capacity-policy-support-technology-tools/checklist-land> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. UNCCD 2019: Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes, Operational Guidance for Country Support <http://catalogue.unccd.int/1224_UNCCD_LDN_TPP_technical_guide_GM.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Land Degradation Neutrality: *guidelines for GEF project. A STAP document* November 2019:

    <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.STAP_.C.57.Inf_.02_Land%20Degradation%20Neutrality_Guidelines%20for%20GEF%20Projects.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. This will include a mix of indexes including, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index and Soil Health Index, based on on-the-ground recording and remote sensing (including open source) using available national and international data sources*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.wocat.net/en/about> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/best-practices-sustainable-land-management/identifying-slm-0> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/tools/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/environmental_finance/targeted-scenario-analysis.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. ECCA30 is an IUCN initiative aimed at restoring 30 million hectares of land in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, by 2030, and while China is outside the sphere of the initiative, NFGA is foreseen to provide exchange of experiences on forest landscape restoration to the ECCA30 counties. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://panorama.solutions/en> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Wang, J. (2009). Self-employment in Urban China: The Interplay of Gender, Capitalism and Labor Market. retrieved from <https://xueshu.baidu.com/usercenter/paper/show?paperid=14ad2cdd1e6f0e9e3e27e01f066a194e>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. “Women & Men in China, Facts & Figures (2019)” published by National Bureau of Statistics of China [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. See <https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information\_disclosurepolicy/ [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies\_guidelines [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Included in the cost for the Inception Workshop. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit’s participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)