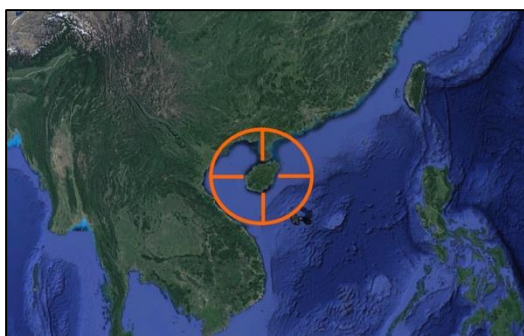


Terminal Evaluation (TE) Report

UNDP-GEF China Hainan Wetlands Project

Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan for conservation of globally significant biodiversity

November 2018



CBPF-MSL

China Biodiversity Partnership Framework - Mainstream of Life
Project 3 - Hainan Wetlands Project (GEF 4811/ UNDP PIMS 4597)

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Co-evaluators -Terminal Evaluation Team
CBPF-MSL Projects 3 (Hainan) & 4 (Anhui)

OPENING PAGE

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE:

Project Title:	UNDP-GEF CBPF-MSL Project 3: Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in <u>Hainan</u> for conservation of globally significant biodiversity.
GEF Project ID:	4811
UNDP Project ID:	4597
Country:	People's Republic of China (PRC)
Region:	Asia-Pacific (AP)
GEF-5 Focal Area:	Biodiversity (BD)
GEF-5 BD Objective:	BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area (PA) Systems.
GEF-5 BD Outcomes:	BD-1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new PAs. BD-1.2: Increased revenue for PA systems to meet total expenditures required for management.
Executing Agency:	Hainan Forestry Department (HFD)
Other Partners:	Dongzhaigang Nature Reserve
ProDoc Signature (Project Start):	28 June 2013
Operational Closing Date:	27 June 2018
Financial Closing Date:	30 Jun. 2019 (6 month extension granted to Dec 2018)
TE Timeframe:	9 July to 31 December 2018 (as specified in TE contract)
TE Team:	Steve Raaymakers, steve@eco-strategic.com Wang Yue, ywang0406@163.com

PROJECT BUDGET:

Source	At endorsement (US\$)	At Terminal Evaluation (August 2018) (US\$)
GEF Financing:	2,634,771	2,634,771
IA/EA own Financing:	700,000	¹ Not realized
Government Financing:	17,300,000	\$18,043,355
Other Financing:	-	² 96,700
Total Co-financing:	18,000,000	18,140,055
Total Project Cost:	20,634,771	20,774,826

¹Refer section 3.2.2 for explanation

²\$89,500 from Society for Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE) and \$7,200 from Paradise International Foundation. See Table 4.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
Brief Project Description	6
Evaluation Rating Table	7
Conclusions, Lessons & Recommendations	15
ACRONYMS	22
1. INTRODUCTION.....	23
1.1 TE Purpose	23
1.2 TE Scope & Methodology.....	23
1.3 Structure of the TE Report	24
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	25
2.1 Project Start & Duration	25
2.2 Problems that the Project Seeks to Address.....	27
2.3 Development Objectives.....	28
2.4 Baseline Indicators & Expected Results	29
2.5 Main Stakeholders	29
3. TERMINAL EVALUTION FINDINGS.....	33
3.1 Project Design	33
3.1.1 Analysis of the Strategic Results Framework	33
3.1.2 Assumptions and risks.....	45
3.1.3 Lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into project design	45
3.1.4 Planned stakeholder participation	46
3.1.5 Replication approach	46
3.1.6 UNDP comparative advantage	46
3.1.7 Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector	47
3.1.8 Management arrangements	47
3.2 Project Implementation	49
3.2.1 Adaptive management.....	49
3.2.2 Project finance & co-finance	53
3.2.3 Monitoring & evaluation: design at entry and implementation	57
3.2.4 UNDP implementation & partner execution.....	58
3.3 Project Results	60
3.3.1 Overall results (attainment of objectives).....	60
3.3.2 Relevance	75

3.3.3 Effectiveness	75
3.3.4 Efficiency	76
3.3.5 Mainstreaming	77
3.3.6 Sustainability	80
3.3.6 Impact	81
Annex 1: Terminal Evaluation ToR.....	82
Annex 2: Terminal Evaluation Field Mission Itinerary	89
Annex 3: List of Persons Interviewed	94
Annex 4: List of Documents Reviewed	101
Annex 5: Evaluation Consultant Agreement Forms.....	102
ANNEX 6: Signed Report Clearance Form	104
Annexed in a separate file: Audit Trail.....	105

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- Ms. Xumei ZHOU, Vice Director-General/NPD, Hainan Forestry Department.
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- Ms. Yanni MO, Director/PD, Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau.
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- Ms. Xiaofang LIANG, Interpreter
- All other key stakeholders including those who kindly and freely shared their views and perspectives about the project during TE interviews and discussions, as listed in Annex 3.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief Project Description

1. The UNDP-supported, GEF- financed, Nationally-Executed (NEX) project *Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan for conservation of globally significant biodiversity* (Hainan Wetlands Project), was carried out between 28 June 2013 and 27 June 2018 as Project No. 3 under the broader *China Biodiversity Partnership Framework - Mainstream of Life* (CBFF-MSL). It is understood that the project has been granted a six-month extension in operational closure to end of December 2018. The Project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office (CO) - China, and executed by the Hainan Forestry Department (HFD) with support from the Hainan Finance Department, several municipal and local governments and the management staff of Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve (NNR) and other wetland protected areas (WPAs) in the Province. The Project was implemented with a grant of US\$2,634,771 from GEF (5th tranche), and co-financing commitments of \$700K from UNDP and US\$17,300,000 from Chinese government sources (at Terminal Evaluation actual co-financing from government sources was reported as being \$18,043,355, nearly \$1 million more than the initial commitment, plus an additional \$96,700 from philanthropic sources that was not expected at Project design).
2. Hainan Province is a large island (33,920 km²) located off the southern coast of the Chinese mainland and hosts the largest area of tropical rainforest, mature mangrove and coral reef resources in China, constituting one of the country's most valuable areas for biodiversity conservation. Hainan is located on the edge of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and the diverse and vast wetland habitats on the island are of great significance for the protection of Asian waterfowls, including nine national second-class protected species, such as the Yellow-billed Egret, Black-faced Spoonbill and Common Spoonbill. The Hainan wetlands also have enormous socioeconomic value and provide a wide range of ecosystem services to the approximately nine million people who live in the Province, including irrigation for agriculture, flood control, fisheries production, pollution absorption and tourism and recreation.
3. However, the globally significant ecosystems of Hainan Island are fragile and under increasing threat from a number of factors, notably deforestation due to encroachment for agriculture, plantations and urban development. The main wetland areas in Hainan are coastal where pressure is most severe. Mangroves are impacted by aquaculture and coastal development, infrastructure projects and tourism facilities, significant pollution concerns, as well as intense utilization of wetland resources, alien invasive species and impacts of climate change.
4. In order to address these impacts the goal of the UNDP-GEF Hainan Wetlands Project is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Hainan Province. The project's strategic objective is to strengthen the management effectiveness of the WPA system in Hainan, in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services. The site focus was initially on Dongzhaigang NNR, which protects the largest remaining area of mangroves in Hainan, and which provided a basis for developing meaningful interventions that were replicated elsewhere in the WPA system, including demonstration activities at Wuyuanhe National Wetland Park (NWP), Hongshuwan Wetland Park (private), Xinying NWP, Xinying Bay County Nature Reserve (CNR), Haiwei NWP, Dongfang Provincial Nature Reserve (PNR) and Yinggeling NNR.
5. In accordance with UNDP-GEF monitoring and evaluation (M&E) policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP supported, GEF financed projects are required to undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) upon completion of implementation. This report presents the TE for the Hainan Wetlands Project.

Evaluation Rating Table

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
1. Monitoring & Evaluation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&E Design (at entry): 	Highly Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ProDoc and its Strategic Results Framework (SRF) included a comprehensive, well developed M&E design embracing both quantitative and qualitative indicators, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Ecosystem Health Index (EHI). Institutional Capacity Score Assessment (CSA). Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) assessment. Area coverage of Protected Areas (PAs) (with clear target). Financial sustainability of PA system (with clear target). Development of regulations, policies, management plans and guidelines (with clear target). Pre-project assessments of these indicators were conducted during project-design and included in the ProDoc, providing a very strong baseline against which to measure project progress through the periodic M&E activities. <i>Overall, the TE consultants consider that the M&E design as contained in the ProDoc is a textbook example of how a proper M&E Plan should be formulated, and can be used as a model for other similar projects, subject to some minor improvements as outlined in section 3.1.1 of this report.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&E Plan Implementation: 	Moderately Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project Management Office (PMO) adhered to the M&E Plan including reporting indicators and targets against the baselines as contained in the ProDoc / SRF. The PMO complied very well with the quarterly, annual, mid-term and terminal reporting requirements of UNDP-GEF. The Project undertook systematic training and capacity building of experts and Protected Area personnel in M&E methodologies including METT and EHI. However, there were some deficiencies in the implementation of the M&E Plan, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on 'self-assessments' by teams of people who are associated in one-way or another with the subject PA or the Project overall to undertake initial evaluations. A natural tendency for self-assessments to score overly-positive, and in some cases the supporting explanations not being fully justified or totally correct. While checking of the EHI, METT and other self-assessments by experts was conducted – these experts were not always fully independent of the Project.

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not identifying and reporting limitations in supporting data and thus weaknesses of the EHI, METT and other self-assessments, and using inappropriate and potentially unreliable sources of supporting data such as 'news reports'. ○ Not fully supporting the mainly subjective, qualitative EHI, METT and other self-assessments with more objective evaluation methods based on scientific data on quantitative parameters and indicators. • For these reasons M&E Plan implementation is rated as Moderately Satisfactory rather than Satisfactory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall quality of M&E: 	Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combining a rating of Highly Satisfactory for M&E Design (at entry) with a rating of Moderately Satisfactory for M&E Plan Implementation gives an overall rating for quality of M&E of Satisfactory. • The budget for M&E was 5% of the total budget, which is adequate to allow proper M&E without diverting disproportionate funding resources away from implementation of technical activities.
2. IA& EA Execution		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of UNDP Implementation: 	Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNDP Country Office (CO) was a highly active member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and was fully engaged and intimately involved in all aspects of the project from inception onwards, providing strong levels of support ranging from high-level strategic issues to detailed technical and administrative issues. • All stakeholders consulted, including the PMO, Hainan Forestry Department (HFD) and other provincial agencies reported very high levels of satisfaction with the level of support provided by UNDP for project implementation. • Feedback indicated that UNDP CO staff maintained an "open-door" policy whereby they could be approached for advice, assistance, guidance and support on any issue at any time. • Feedback indicated that all requests to the UNDP Country Office were responded very rapidly. • Satisfaction was also expressed with the level and quality of support provided by both the UNDP Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) and the project Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) (although there was no CTA for the last 6 months). • Satisfaction was also expressed with the various training provided by UNDP, including on project management. • It was reported that the organizational arrangements made by the UNDP CO for the MTR were highly satisfactory. The experience of this TE team was that the organizational arrangements made by the UNDP CO for the TE were outstanding, with every detail being taken care of with efficiency and effectiveness. • The TE team noted that the Project includes some activities that are relevant to the UNDP Social & Environment Standards (SES) and the ProDoc includes a social and environment screening. During project implementation negative environmental impacts from some mangrove restoration activities were not identified and reported.

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<p>The TE is of the view that greater attention could have been paid to SES compliance in standard Project progress reports (QPR, APRs, PIRs etc) and greater attention should be paid to SES in future projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant issue identified by the TE is that the UNDP commitment of a “grant” (i.e. cash) of US\$700K in co-financing has not been realized during the Project. It is recommended that greater attention should be paid to ensuring that co-financing commitments align with GEF definitions and criteria and are actually realized for future projects (refer section 3.2.2 for details). • Another significant issue identified during the TE is that reportedly, the UNDP CO had requested HFD to implement punitive actions against the Project Manager for allegedly not fully complying with relevant procurement policies and procedures (see next row below) (note that there are conflicting reports as to the originator of the punitive action). It is understood that these punitive actions included action by HFD to freeze payment of the Project Manager’s salary for some months, although it is understood that this has now been redressed. • The TE did observe some concerns about PMO procurement practices (see next row below), however the TE team is of the view that the correct response should have been “corrective” action, not “punitive” action, and should be taken in accordance with applicable rules, regulations and employee rights. • <i>If not for these last four points the quality of UNDP Implementation could have been rated as Highly Satisfactory.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Execution - Executing Agency: 	Moderately Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HFD, as Executing Agency, is fully committed to the Project right up to the highest levels, and has provided strong and constant support to the PMO, has chaired and led the PSC, and has committed significant co-financing to the project, reportedly in excess of commitments at project start, as indicated in official Provincial government financing documents. • Based on expenditure as a measure, the Project has achieved an execution rate of 83% to date – which is very high compared to similar projects. • The PMO staff and especially the Project Manager exhibited extremely high levels of enthusiasm, commitment, work ethic and management capability, efficiency and effectiveness. • Every single stakeholder that was consulted by the TE team expressed the highest levels of respect and appreciation for the efforts and effectiveness of the Project Manager and the PMO as a whole. • The PMO has developed and followed clear and detailed workplans, and project outputs have been significantly achieved, which is the most important indicator of the quality of execution. • The results of M&E activities including the MTR have been effectively taken on by the PMO and project design and implementation have been effectively adapted as required. • The PMO was extremely responsive to all requests from the TE team during the TE process, and exhibited a very high ability for adaptive management, accommodating last minute requests for schedule changes and other demands immediately, efficiently and effectively.

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While not having a scientific or technical background, the Project Manager exhibited a remarkable level of knowledge of ecological principles and best management practices relating wetland ecosystems. • Effective use has been made of experts, and very high levels of respect and appreciation were also expressed for the CTA who had served the Project previously. • The TE does have some non-trivial concerns about some aspects of the quality of execution by HFD / PMO as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It appears that the PMO awarded a number of consultancy and other contracts without clear Terms of Reference being established up-front, with in some cases with the consultant being allowed to develop the Terms of Reference, and sometimes without transparent, competitive bidding procedures. ○ It is understood that some consultancy work that was likely to exceed 200,000 Yuan (about US\$32,000), which would need to be procured through public bidding under HFD rules, were intentionally broken down into several small-sized contracts. ○ It appears that some consultants, experts, institutions and even NGOs were contracted based on professional contacts, rather than open bidding, and were allowed to develop their own Terms of Reference and frame their proposals and costings, having been told the available budget in advance, and with final price and scope of work being developed in consultation with the selected consultant / institution. This is very poor procurement practice, and raises questions about transparency and equity. ○ It appears that one consultant was engaged without proper approval and undertook significant work (approx. US\$20K worth) without a formal contract in place (and reportedly has not yet been paid for that work). ○ There was potential conflict of interest with experts on the project review committee being from an institution that was also contracted to undertake consultancy work (although the PMO claims that any such member of the review committee would not review work from its institution). ○ Arrangements were entered into with authors and a publishing house for two books produced by the Project, whereby the authors and publishing house will own copyright and benefit commercially from sale of the books – which the TE considers to be an inappropriate use of GEF funds. Copyright should rest with UNDP or HFD and there should be no commercial gain to individuals or companies from the sale of products that are developed using GEF funds – any returns should be invested back into project-related activities. • It is understood that the Project Manager and other PMO staff were provided with various training by UNDP in project, procurement and financial management procedures so they should have been aware of the correct procedures. • The quality of execution by the Executing Agency is also reduced by the totally inappropriate punitive action taken against the Project Manager as outlined above (salary freeze).

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite an otherwise outstanding performance by HFD, the PMO and the Project Manager in terms of productivity and achieving and even exceeding Project objectives and targets, which would give this component a Satisfactory rating, these non-trivial concerns downgrade the rating for the quality of execution by the Executing Agency to Moderately Satisfactory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall quality of Implementation / Execution: 	Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combining the two ratings above and on the understanding that the concerns highlighted for both components have been satisfactorily addressed by UNDP, HFD and the PMO, the TE allocates a rating of Satisfactory for the overall quality of project implementation / execution.
3. Assessment of Outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance: 	Relevant	<p>All project components, outcomes & outputs are assessed as being highly relevant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF-5 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)(2016-2020) UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) (2016-2020) Country and provincial biodiversity and wetlands conservation policies, programs, needs and priorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness: 	Moderately Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall it appears that the Project has been effective in achieving its targets as assessed by the indicators in the Project Results Framework, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement in METT, EHI etc. Reducing environmental pressures and stresses (e.g. conversion of fish ponds to mangroves). High-level of mainstreaming. Some targets are reported as significantly exceeded, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of fish ponds to mangroves (58K ha vs. 40K ha target). Increase in PA coverage through new PAs. Level of co-financing. However, some of this data need to be verified – for example the Project SRF requires that reported increases in mangrove area should be verified by GIS maps – no GIS maps were provided to the TE. Also, some activities appear to be of limited effectiveness. E.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After reviewing the English Abstracts of the numerous research studies commissioned by the Project, many of them appear to be of poor quality / low scientific rigour (however, this assessment might change if the TE had access to the full reports in English).

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several of the consultancies commissioned by the Project have not been fully applied to PA management. For example despite the Project developing and promulgating best practice guidelines on mangrove restoration, the TE observed recent (new), large-scale conversion of critical tidal mudflat wader bird habitat to hardened, raised and filled mangrove replanting areas right in the heart of Dongzhaigang NNR, which is THE primary demonstration site for the project. The database system not fully-functional and its design is not particularly user-friendly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiency: 	Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall it appears that the Project has been reasonably efficient, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging significant additional co-financing. Co-opting all relevant government agencies into wetland conservation efforts through cross-sectoral, inter-departmental arrangements. Mainstreaming through adoption of Provincial Wetlands Regulation, Policies and Plans etc. Good engagement with NGOs. Good engagement with private sector. However, some significant in-efficiencies are noted, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apparent low quality of some research reports and lack of practical application to PA management (as outlined under “effectiveness” above). While the Project has expended significant effort on education and awareness activities, these could have been much more effective and efficient, with greater return on effort and greater multiplier effect, had a more strategic, programmatic approach been taken. This could have included working through the Provincial education department to evolve a wetlands component to the Provincial curriculum, and broader training of teachers in wetlands education. Questions about copyright ownership of school textbooks developed by the Project, and selling them for commercial gain to authors and publishers, rather than providing to all schools free-of-charge) (books for primary and medium level education in China are provided free – so selling the books will naturally limit their uptake). PM and PMO staff claiming that they were not familiar with UNDP project rules and procedures, despite having been provided with training by UNDP. It seems that either the PMO staff were not sufficiently professional in the procedures or the training provided during the project implementation was not adequate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact 	Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too early to assess properly in terms of large-scale impact. At smaller scale, Project has had positive impact, as per effectiveness category above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement in METT, EHI etc.

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing environmental pressures and stresses (e.g. conversion of fish ponds to mangroves) ○ High-level of mainstreaming. ○ Increasing awareness of wetlands issues. • The Project has not been effective in halting <u>negative environmental impacts</u> through the misguided planting of mangroves on inter-tidal mud flats, which are key habitats for some critically endangered migratory water birds, including black-faced spoonbill. This includes recent (new), large-scale conversion of critical tidal mudflat wader bird habitat to hardened, raised and filled mangrove replanting areas right in the heart of Dongzhaigang NNR, which is THE primary demonstration site for the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Project Outcome Rating: 	Moderately Satisfactory to Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall it appears that the Project has achieved and in some cases exceeded its targets as assessed by the indicators in the ProDoc / SRF, which would give an Overall Project Outcome rating of Satisfactory. • However, this is affected by the limitations identified in the Outcomes sub-categories immediately above – especially in relation to Effectiveness, Efficiency and Impact. • Never-the-less, overall, the TE is if the view that ALL parties involved in the Project <u>deserve the highest commendation</u>, and that other GEF projects should look at this Project as a best-practice model, both in terms of its design and how it was implemented and executed, while also adopting the lessons relating to those few areas where there were some shortcomings (which is to be expected for any project).
4. Sustainability		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial resources: 	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reportedly there has been extremely large commitment of funds to wetlands conservation in Hainan Province by all levels of government, way in excess of original commitment in the ProDoc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-political: 	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong policy direction from Central Government. • Reported significant increase in awareness of wetlands issues (although the TE team has concerns about the rigour, representativeness and reliability of the KAP analysis).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional framework & governance: 	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong policy direction from Central Government. • Strong mainstreaming of wetlands protection into Provincial and local policies, laws, plans and procedures (e.g. new Regulation, River, Lake and Forest Chief system with wetlands-related performance indicators).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental: 	Moderately Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main risks to sustainability are <u>environmental risks</u>, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollution control, water quality and habitat impacts from continuing high-rates of tourism, urban and industrial development in surrounding catchments (although there are significant initiatives being

Component	Rating	Reasons for rating
		<p>implemented in Hainan to improve water quality and to address pollution, the sheer scale of current and planned economic development, tourism expansion, urban growth and industrialization mean that such impacts will continue to be the main environmental risk to the sustainability of wetlands in Hainan well into the future. This highlights the vital need for the Hainan Government to continue to give very high priority to improving water quality and pollution control for the long term protection of wetlands).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relatively small and scattered areas covered by the PAs, fragmentation of habitat and lack of habitat connectivity and ecological corridors linking PAs (see Figures 5A to 5C) (while the “Implementation Plan for Hainan Wetland Protection and Restoration System” seeks to increase the “number” of wetland PAs by 2020, if the size of each PA is too small, and if they are not connected ecologically, they will not be ecologically viable in the long term and biodiversity and other ecological benefits will be limited. It would be more productive and beneficial if the <i>Implementation Plan</i> focused more on expanding the size of existing PAs and on establishing ecological corridors between them, than on creating many new, but relatively small and unconnected PAs). ○ Climate change and typhoon impacts, sufficient measures to cope with extreme weather, and more skills are needed to control flood and drought.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall likelihood of sustainability: 	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The momentum generated by the project, the high-level of mainstreaming achieved, the increased level of awareness achieved and the ongoing government commitment to wetland conservation indicates a high likelihood of sustainability of the project results provided ongoing funding is assured.

Conclusions, Lessons & Recommendations

Conclusions

- **Conclusion 1:** Overall, to date, the Project has been extremely successful and effective in achieving, and in many cases exceeding, most of its objectives and targets as assessed by the indicators in the Project Strategic Results Framework. This high level of success appears to be due to a number of inter-supporting factors, including those outlined in Conclusions 2 to 13 below.
- Overall, the TE is of the view that ALL parties involved in the Project deserve the highest commendation, and that other GEF projects should look at this Project as a best-practice model, both in terms of its design and how it was implemented and executed, while also adopting the lessons relating to those few areas where there were some shortcomings (which is to be expected for any project).
- Some examples of the major achievements of the Project or supported by the Project include but are not limited to:
 - Adoption of the *Hainan Wetland Conservation Regulation* by the Provincial People's Congress in May 2018, which came into effect on 1 July 2018.
 - Formulation of the *Hainan Wetland Protection Plan (2016-2030)*.
 - Development of the *Hainan Nature Reserve System Financing Evaluation and Strategy* in 2017.
 - Approval of the *Implementation Plan for Hainan Wetland Protection and Restoration System* by the General Office of the Hainan Government in September 2017.
 - Approval of the *Haikou Wetland Protection and Restoration Master Plan* by the Haikou Municipal Government in 2017.
 - Development of *Guidelines for the Protection and Restoration of Coastal Wetlands and Coastal Shelter Belts in Hainan*, the *Hainan Forestry PA System Development Action Plan (2017-2021)* and the *Hainan Wetland Resources Monitoring Network Construction Plan*.
 - Inclusion of wetland conservation rate in the green development indicator system for Hainan Province, and inclusion of wetland area, wetland conservation rate and wetland function change status in the assessment of forestry development, including in the examination contents of party committees and governments at all levels through the policies of river chief / lake chief / (usually, the chief is the main leader of the party at each government level).
 - Reported continuous improvement in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Ecological Health Index (EHI) and Institutional Capacity Score Assessment (CSA) for all WPAs covered by the Project (although the TE has some comments on the rigour and reliability of these assessments – see section 3.2.3).
 - Exceeding the project target for conversion of fish and shrimp ponds to mangroves (58K ha achieved vs. 40K ha target).

- A reported 58,370ha increase in WPA coverage (exceeding the project target of 40K ha by 18,370 ha).
- A reported significant increase in central and provincial government funding for PAs, with funds available for PAs under the jurisdiction of HFD reaching US\$27.53 million in 2017, which is equal to 138% of the project target value of \$19.92 million.
- Declaration of Haikou as an International Wetlands City under the Ramsar Convention at the Ramsar meeting this September (2018).
- **Conclusion 2:** There has been very strong and constant support from the UNDP-CO, and a very high level of coordination and cooperation between UNDP as the Implementing Agency and the HFD as the Executing Agency.
- **Conclusion 3:** There has been very strong policy direction and resourcing from the highest levels of the Central Government, including directives on eco-civilization generally and national prioritization of wetlands conservation specifically, from recent Central Communist Party Congresses.
- **Conclusion 4:** There has been very strong commitment to the Project and to wetlands conservation generally from the highest levels of the Hainan Provincial Government, and especially the HFD, as manifested in the various wetlands mainstreaming initiatives implemented by the Provincial Government outlined above, supported by high levels of financial commitment (reportedly nearly \$1 million more than what was committed in the ProDoc, according to official Government funding documents).
- **Conclusion 5:** There has been extremely high levels of enthusiasm, commitment, work ethic and management capability, efficiency and effectiveness at the PMO, and especially the Project Manager.
- **Conclusion 6:** The PMO has exhibited strong capacity for flexibility and adaptive management, including effectively learning lessons and taking on (most of) the recommendations of the Mid Term review (MTR).
- **Conclusion 7:** Strong cross-sector, inter-departmental coordination and cooperation mechanisms have been established, including through the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- **Conclusion 8:** There has been a major focus on building management and technical capacity amongst PA staff.
- **Conclusion 9:** There has been some good work on ecological restoration of wetland habitats in some of the PAs, although the TE team is of the opinion that there is substantial scope to expand and replicate this work, and some of the restoration concepts and approaches are not always ecologically sound and could benefit from external scientific expert review and inputs. The Project was not able to prevent some negative environmental impact through misguided planting of mangroves on inter-tidal mud flats, which are key habitats for critically endangered migratory water birds, including black-faced spoonbill. This includes recent (new), large-scale conversion of critical tidal mudflat wader bird habitat to hardened, raised and filled mangrove replanting areas right in the heart of Dongzhaigang NNR, which is THE primary demonstration site for the project (refer Figure 6).
- **Conclusion 10:** There has been a major focus on communication, publicity and education, including effective use of mass media, which appears to have had a positive impact in raising awareness of wetland issues from top government decision makers to the general public (although the TE does note some limitations on the

efficiency of these efforts – as outlined below. There are also questions about the representativeness, rigour and reliability of the Knowledge, Attitude & Practice (KAP) survey).

- **Conclusion 11:** The Hainan project engaged very successfully with a range of environmental NGOs (see Table 3). This mainly involved commissioning (and paying) the various NGOs to undertake consultancy tasks – with the Project thereby becoming a source of funding for the NGOs. This helped to build their capacity and encouraged them to be active in wetland conservation, and those NGOs supported by the Project have developed to become the leading conservation NGOs in Hainan.
- Additionally, by commissioning various NGOs to undertake consultancy tasks, the project successfully drew the attention of both local NGOs and NGOs from other provinces to wetland conservation issues in Hainan. Resources from other funding sources were then allocated to Hainan wetlands by some of these NGOs, equating to an additional US\$96,700 (nearly \$100K) in co-financing for Project-related activities, which was not predicted in the original project design (Table 4).
- **Conclusion 12:** The Project was especially successful in engaging with the private sector, including two privately run wetland parks, and with the tourism sector, which is unusual for such projects in China. The Hongshuwan Wetland Park is integrated into a coastal real-estate development, which preserves the mangrove wetland as an asset and attraction. This provides an innovative model for other parts of Hainan, where traditionally coastal development has destroyed and displaced mangrove habitat. These efforts by the developer, which were supported by the Project, deserve special commendation. Similarly, the Changjiang Haiwei National Wetland Park has been developed by a private company as part of an integrated resort plan, and includes the restoration of large areas of wetland habitat. The Project has provided technical advice and support on wetland design and other issues. Another example of private sector involvement in wetland conservation in Hainan is at Dongzhaigang NNR, where large corporations like Coca Cola and Hyundai provide staff to work as volunteers on mangrove restoration. The level of engagement with private sector interests appears to be much higher than is typical for such projects in China, and should be looked to as a model for other projects.
- **Conclusion 13:** Overall, the momentum generated by the project, the high-level of mainstreaming achieved, the increased level of awareness achieved and the apparent strong commitment by the Central, Provincial, Municipal and local governments to wetland conservation, indicates a high likelihood of sustainability of the project results, provided that ongoing funding is assured.
- The main risks to sustainability of wetland conservation in Hainan Province are broader environmental impacts in the catchments around the WPAs, especially pollution and water quality impacts from agriculture, and continuing high-rates of urban and industrial development in surrounding catchments (although there are significant initiatives being implemented in Hainan to improve water quality and to address pollution, the sheer scale of current and planned economic development, tourism expansion, urban growth and industrialization mean that such impacts will continue to be the main environmental risk to the sustainability of wetlands in Hainan well into the future. This highlights the vital need for the Hainan Government to continue to give very high priority to improving water quality and pollution control for the long term protection of wetlands).
- The relatively small areas covered by the PAs, ecological fragmentation and a lack of habitat connectivity and ecological corridors linking PAs, is also a significant threat to their long-term ecological viability and sustainability (refer Figure 5A). Additionally, there is a lack of wetland PAs on the mid-east coast and south-west coast of Hainan, limiting the ecological representativeness of the wetland PA system (refer Figure 5A). This requires:

- urgent adoption and implementation of coordinated, integrated catchment management across the whole Province,
- significant expansion of the area of each wetland PA,
- the linking of PAs through ecological corridors; and
- the establishment of a more ecologically representative network of wetland PAs, including new wetland PAs to fill critical gaps on the mid-east coast and south-west coast of Hainan.

Lessons & recommendations

Despite the very high success rate of the Project, as with any project there are always areas for improvement, as outlined in the following lessons and recommendations.

- **Lesson 1:** The Provincial Government has demonstrated an extremely high level of commitment to wetlands conservation, including adoption of the Wetland Protection Regulation and a range of strategies and plans as outlined above. However, a review of the brief English summary of these documents indicates that some of them can be lacking in substance, and the concepts and approaches contained in these documents are not always based on the essential principles of ecological sustainability, ecosystem based management or best scientific knowledge and practice. Some of the plans appear to be ‘wish lists’ for further technical projects, and lack strategic vision and clear goals and objectives, with supporting programmatic frameworks to achieve these goals and objectives. In some cases the linkages between the various regulatory, planning and management documents are not totally clear, and there may be a certain lack of coordination and consistency, creating critical gaps and overlaps between the various documents.

Recommendation 1: *It is recommended that the regulatory, planning and management documents could benefit from external scientific expert review and inputs, and a mechanism to ensure better coordination, consistency and linkages between them. All of the regulations and plans should be highly coordinated at the Provincial level in their initial stage of formulation, aiming at a higher possibility to be practically implemented even after the project period.*

- **Lesson 2:** In their M&E self-assessments the PMO has reported continuous improvement in the key indicators of METT, EHI and CSA for all six WPAs covered by the Project. The TE team has reviewed the approach taken, and is of the view that these scores are influenced by a number of limitations, including:
 - Reliance on ‘self-assessments’ by teams of people who are associated in one-way or another with the subject PA or the Project overall to undertake the initial evaluations.
 - A natural tendency for self-assessments to score overly positive, and in some cases the supporting explanations not being fully justified or totally correct.
 - While checking of the EHI, METT and other self-assessments by experts was conducted – these experts were not always fully independent of the Project.
 - Not identifying and reporting limitations in supporting data and thus weaknesses of the EHI, METT and other self-assessments, and using inappropriate and potentially unreliable sources of supporting data such as ‘news reports’.

While these limitations have undoubtedly resulted in some of scores allocated in the METT, EHI and CSA assessments being inaccurate or inappropriate, the TE team is of the view that an overall trend of improvement in the METT, EHI and CSA scores is probably generally correct, although perhaps not at the rate of improvement reported in the self-assessments.

Recommendation 2: *It is strongly recommended that the rigour and reliability of the METT, EHI and CSA scoring could be improved by:*

- *providing additional regular training of more people in the METT, EHI and CSA scoring methods,*
 - *making greater use of external review and cross-checking of the 'self-assessed' evaluations by independent experts who are truly independent of the subject PA and of the Project, hired by UNDP or the Central Government and not the PMO, to check the validity and veracity of the evaluations, and*
 - *strengthening the process of monitoring and tracking assessment, with supervising experts hired if necessary.*
- **Lesson 3:** The TE team is of the opinion that there is substantial scope to expand and replicate wetland ecological restoration work that was developed and demonstrated during the Project. However, it appears that some of the restoration concepts and approaches applied may not have always been ecologically sound and could benefit from external scientific expert review and inputs. The Project has not been effective in preventing some negative environmental impact through misguided planting of mangroves on inter-tidal mud flats, which are key habitats for critically endangered migratory water birds, including black-faced spoonbill. This includes recent large-scale mangrove restoration on tidal mud-flats at Dongzhaigang NNR, which is THE primary demonstration site for the project (refer Figure 6).

Recommendation 3: *It is recommended that the wetland ecological restoration concepts and approaches that were developed and demonstrated during the Project should be reviewed by external scientific experts to ensure that they are ecologically sound and comply with best practice, and monitored to validate their effectiveness, and that once this is established, efforts be made to substantially expand and replicate wetland ecological restoration throughout the Province.*

- **Lesson 4:** The effectiveness of the Project has been limited by the fact that it appears that the PMO has not always followed a rigorous, transparent procurement procedures, for example:
 - It appears that the PMO awarded a number of consultancy and other contracts without clear Terms of Reference being established up-front, and in some cases with the consultant being allowed to develop the Terms of Reference, and sometimes without transparent, competitive bidding procedures.
 - It is understood that some consultancy work that was likely to exceed 200,000 Yuan (about US\$32,000), which would need to be procured through public bidding under HFD rules, were intentionally broken down into several small-sized contracts.
 - It appears that some consultants, experts, institutions and even NGOs were contracted based on professional contacts, rather than open bidding, and were allowed to develop their own Terms of Reference and frame their proposals and costings, having been told the available budget in advance, and with final price and scope of work being developed in consultation with the selected consultant / institution. This is very poor procurement practice, and raises questions about transparency and equity.
 - It appears that one consultant was engaged without proper approval and undertook significant work (approx. US\$20K worth) without a formal contract in place (and reportedly has not yet been paid for that work).
 - There was potential conflict of interest with experts on the project review committee being from an institution that was also contracted to undertake consultancy work (although the PMO claims that any such member of the review committee would not review work from its institution).

- Arrangements were entered into with authors and a publishing house for two books produced by the Project, whereby the authors and publishing house will own copyright and benefit commercially from sale of the books – which the TE considers to be an inappropriate use of GEF funds. Copyright should rest with UNDP or HFD and there should be no commercial gain to individuals or companies from the sale of products that are developed using GEF funds – any returns should be invested back into project-related activities.

Recommendation 4: *It is strongly recommended that for the remainder of the project, and for any future projects, a more rigorous and transparent procurement procedure be used that sets clear terms of reference uses competitive bidding, and assesses price along with the quality of the technical proposal and overall value for money. The PMO should be strictly required to comply with all relevant Provincial Government and UNDP procurement regulations, rules and procedures, and appropriate corrective action should be taken immediately that any departure from these is detected. . Whenever compatibility between management convenience and project quality could not be achieved, management convenience should subordinate to the quality objective.*

- **Lesson 5:** As outlined above the Project has made significant effort on communication, publicity and education. However, the TE finds that the delivery of these activities has been highly focused on relatively small and restricted audiences, and that communication efforts were quite ad hoc and could have been more strategic and broader with greater effort to achieve multiplier effect. Development of the two school books by the project was not coordinated at a strategic level with the Hainan Education Department (HED) or integrated into the Provincial education curriculum, which, combined with the fact that the books must be purchased, means that they are unlikely to be used widely in schools across the province.
- This highly focused approach achieves a very small return for effort and is not consistent with the global objectives of GEF, which is to support catalytic activities which generate much broader, strategic-level, multiplier benefits. A more strategic approach with much broader impact across a much larger audience would be to use GEF funds to work with the HED, to develop a wetlands component to the Province-wide education curriculum, together with wetlands textbooks and teaching materials. This would be followed with providing training to all relevant teachers in the Province on wetlands education (the “teach the teacher to teach” approach). This would have a much bigger multiplier effect, and achieve much greater returns and broader impact from the GEF investment.

Recommendation 5: *It is recommended that if possible for the remainder of the project, and especially as part of follow-up activities, the HFD could look at working with the HED to develop a wetlands component to the Province-wide education curriculum, together with wetlands textbooks and teaching materials. This would be followed with providing training to all relevant teachers in the Province on wetlands education (the “teach the teacher to teach” approach). This would have a much bigger multiplier effect, and achieve much greater returns and broader impact from investment in wetlands education. Considering that primary and medium education in China is free, in order to promote uptake by schools all books and other educational materials developed by the Project should be available to the Provincial education system for free.*

- **Lesson 6:** The main risks to sustainability of wetland conservation in Hainan Province are broader environmental impacts in the catchments around the WPAs, especially pollution and water quality impacts from agriculture, and continuing high-rates of urban and industrial development in surrounding catchments. The relatively small areas covered by the PAs, ecological fragmentation and lack of habitat connectivity and ecological corridors linking PAs, is also a significant threat to their long-term sustainability (refer Figure 5A).

- ***Recommendation 6a:*** *It is recommended that the Hainan Provincial Government adopt and implement coordinated, integrated catchment management across the whole Province, and wherever possible:*
 - *significantly expand the area of each wetland PA,*
 - *link PAs through ecological corridors; and*
 - *establish a more ecologically representative network of wetland PAs, including new wetland PAs to fill critical gaps on the mid-east coast and south-west coast of Hainan.*

(while the “Implementation Plan for Hainan Wetland Protection and Restoration System” seeks to increase the “number” of wetland PAs by 2020, if the size of each PA is too small, and if they are not connected ecologically, they will not be ecologically viable in the long term and biodiversity and other ecological benefits will be limited. It would be more productive and beneficial if the Implementation Plan focused more on expanding the size of existing PAs and on establishing ecological corridors between them, than on creating many new, but relatively small and unconnected PAs).

Recommendation 6b: *With abundant tourism resources and a rapidly expanding tourism industry, environmental stresses and pollution risks on wetlands in Hainan are increasing with more and more people coming from all over the world each year. Measures to determine, set and enforce tourism carrying capacity limits and visitor flow restrictions, and developing and implementing eco-friendly tourism, should be studied and implemented urgently. More studies and practices should also be applied to cope with climate change impacts and weather extremes relating to flood and drought.*

ACRONYMS

APR	Annual Project Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CAP	Conservation Action Planning
CBPF-ML	China Biodiversity Partnership Framework - Mainstream of Life
CICETE	China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges
CCF	Coca Cola Foundation
CO	Country Office (of UNDP)
CNR	County Nature Reserve
CSA	Institutional Capacity Score Assessment
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EA	Executing Agency
EAAFP	East Asia Australasian Flyway Partnership
EHI	Ecosystem Health Index
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HED	Hainan Education Department
HFD	Hainan Education Department
IA	Implementing Agency
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude, Practice
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mid Term Review
NEX	Nationally Executed
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPD	National Project Director
NWP	National Wetland Park
PA	Protected Area
PIMS	Project Information Management System
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PM	Project Manager
PMO	Project Management Office
PNR	Provisional Nature Reserve
PRC	People's Republic of China
PWGP	(Coca Cola) Partnership for Water Governance Programme
PWP	Provincial Wetland Park
RTA	Regional Technical Adviser (of UNDP)
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time-bound
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
USD	United States Dollar
WP	Wetland Park
WPA	Wetland Protected Area
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature & Natural Resources

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 TE Purpose

1. The TE was undertaken in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) contained in Annex 1, and in accordance with *UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects* (the TE Guidelines).
2. The purpose of the TE is to assess the achievement of project results, and draw lessons that can improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

1.2 TE Scope & Methodology

1. The TE was conducted using the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact, as defined and explained in the TE Guidelines. In accordance with the TE Guidelines the TE team has endeavoured to base its findings on evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.
2. The TE team undertook a mission to Beijing (UNDP-Country Office) and to Hainan Province between 22 30 July and 6 August 2018 in accordance with the itinerary contained in Annex 2 (see also Figure 2 below). The TE team followed a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA), the UNDP-CO, the Project Management Office (PMO), Hainan Government counterparts and key stakeholders, as listed in Annex 3. The TE team reviewed a comprehensive set of documentation relating to the project as listed in Annex 4.
3. Assessment of project performance was carried out based against expectations set out in the Project Strategic Results Framework (SRF), as contained in the ProDoc and revised by the Project during implementation (refer section 3.1.1), which provides Project objectives, targets and indicators with corresponding means of verification. Ratings were assigned for the prescribed Project elements of outcomes, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact, in accordance with the Rating Scales shown in Table 1, as specified in the TE Guidelines.
4. The TE assessed the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts, including whether the project has demonstrated verifiable improvements in ecological status, verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.
5. The TE assessed key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized.
6. Wherever possible, triangulation (use of multiple, cross-checked sources of information) was applied to verify and substantiate information reported and to help overcome bias that may arise from single sources of information. For example, if a stakeholder reported a certain view on an issue, views on the same issue were actively sought from other stakeholders during separate interviews, and the view was only reported as a TE finding if three or more stakeholders shared that view. When stakeholders reported views on matters that could be checked in documents – the relevant documents were subsequently checked (e.g. stakeholders expressed views on research reports commissioned by the Project – so the TE team reviewed a selection of the reports). Conversely, when a document reported certain findings, these were verified by

discussing with stakeholders involved with production and/or review of the document (e.g. the TE team held an interactive review session with relevant project personnel to systematically work through the Project's SRF to assess achievement of targets and objectives and to review indicators and supporting data).

7. It was not possible to apply triangulation for some Project parameters, due to lack of alternative data sources, for example finance and co-financing data, and reported increase in the area of Protected Areas – the reports provided by the Project on such data were accepted by the TE team at face value.

1.3 Structure of the TE Report

1. This TE report is structured in accordance with Annex F of the ToR as contained in Annex 1 of this report, and as reflected in the Table of Contents of this report.

TABLE 1: Terminal Evaluation Rating Scales (from the UNDP-GEF TE Guidelines)

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, I&E Execution	Sustainability ratings:	Relevance ratings
6: Highly Satisfactory (HS): no shortcomings	4. Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability	2. Relevant (R)
5: Satisfactory (S): minor shortcomings	3. Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks	1. Not relevant (NR)
4: Moderately Satisfactory (MS): some shortcomings	2. Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks	Impact Ratings:
3. Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): significant shortcomings	1. Unlikely (U): severe risks	3. Significant (S)
2. Unsatisfactory (U): major problems		2. Minimal (M)
1. Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe problems		1. Negligible (N)
Additional ratings where relevant: Not Applicable (N/A) Unable to Assess (U/A)		

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Start & Duration

1. The UNDP-GEF Project Document (ProDoc) for the Nationally-Executed (NEX) project *strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan for conservation of globally significant biodiversity* (Hainan Wetlands Project), was signed in June 2013 and was to close operationally in June 2018, although a six month extension has been granted to December 2019. The Hainan Wetlands Project is Project No. 3 under the broader *China Biodiversity Partnership Framework- Mainstream of Life* (CBFF-MSL).
2. The Project is implemented by the UNDP CO - China, and executed by the Hainan Forestry Department (HFP) with support from the Hainan Finance Department, several municipal and local governments and the management staff of Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve (NNR) and other wetland Nature Reserves and protected areas in the Province.
3. The Project was implemented with a grant of US\$2,634,771 from GEF (5th tranche), and co-financing commitments of \$700K from UNDP and US\$17,300,000 from Chinese government sources (at Terminal Evaluation actual co-financing from government sources was reported as being \$18,043,355, nearly \$1 million more than the initial commitment).
4. The project aims to strengthen the management effectiveness of wetland conservation systems in Hainan in response to existing and emerging threats to global significance biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.
5. The site focus was initially on Dongzhaigang NNR, which protects the largest remaining area of mangroves in Hainan, and which provided a basis for developing meaningful interventions that were replicated elsewhere in the WPA system, including demonstration activities at Hongshuwan Wetland Park (private), Xinying NWP, Xinying Bay County Nature Reserve (CNR), Haiwei NWP, Dongfang Provincial Nature Reserve (PNR) and Yinggeling NNR, amongst others (the Project undertook activities in a total of 10 WPAs (Table 2 & Figure 2).

TABLE 2: *The 10WPAs included in the Project*

1	Dongzhaigang NNR
2	Qinglangang NR
3	Xinying NWP
4-1	Sanya He NR
4-2	Qingmeigang NR
4-3	Tielugang NR
5	Dongfang NR
6	Haiwei WP
7	Yinggeling NR
8	Fanjia NR
9	Xinying Bay NR
10	Hongshuwan WP

NNR = National Nature Reserve, NR = Provincial Nature Reserve, WP= Wetland Park.



FIGURE 1: Location of Hainan Province



FIGURE 2: The 12 WPA demonstration sites under the Project. The blue arrows show the route taken by the TE team during the TE mission 30 July - 6 August 2018, visiting five of the 12 sites

2.2 Problems that the Project Seeks to Address

1. Hainan Province is a large island (33,920 km²) located off the southern coast of the Chinese mainland and hosts the largest area of tropical rainforest, mature mangrove and coral reef resources in China, constituting one of the country's most valuable areas for biodiversity conservation. Hainan is located on the edge of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and the diverse and vast wetland habitats on the island are of great significance for the protection of Asian waterfowls, including nine national second-class protected species, such as the Yellow-billed Egret, Black-faced Spoonbill and Common Spoonbill. The Hainan wetlands also have enormous socioeconomic value and provide a wide range of ecosystem services to the approximately nine million people who live in the Province, including irrigation for agriculture, flood control, fisheries production, pollution absorption and tourism and recreation.
2. However, the globally significant ecosystems of Hainan Island are fragile and under increasing threat from a number of factors. According to the ProDoc the problems that the Project seeks to address are the major threats to Hainan wetlands in general and Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs) in particular that are typical of threats to wetlands across China. Generally, these are primarily:
 - a) Unsustainable use of wetlands mainly for fisheries production.
 - b) Conversion of wetlands for other land uses, including aquaculture, agriculture and urban development, and especially coastal tourism development.
 - c) Pollution from aquaculture, agriculture, industry, urban growth, economic development and upstream land use.
 - d) Poor hydrological management.
 - e) Invasive alien species.
 - f) Climate change.
3. These threats are exacerbated by the lack of a coordinated, integrated, cross-sector and inter-governmental framework for sustainable management of wetlands based on an ecosystem approach, and an inability to effectively coordinate inter-sector interests in wetlands leading to conflicting sector objectives and conflict between conservation and exploitation of wetlands. An emerging threat is that of uncontrolled mass tourism in critical wetland areas.
4. While the central and provincial governments have been making significant efforts to addressing these problems and threats, success is hampered by three barriers identified in the ProDoc, which the Project is designed to assist in addressing:
 - a) Barrier 1: Insufficient PA coverage, operational financing and systemic and institutional financing at provincial level.
 - b) Barrier 2: Limited tools and capacities for wetland PA site management.
 - c) Barrier 3: Disconnect between wetland PA sub-system management and development planning and sector planning.

2.3 Development Objectives

1. In seeking to address the problems outlined in section 2.2 the Project is aligned with the following elements of the Biodiversity (BD) Focal Area of the 5th tranche of GEF funding (GEF-5):
 - BD Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area (PA) Systems.
 - BD Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new PAs.
 - BD Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for PA systems to meet total expenditures required for management.
2. In order to address the GEF Objective and Outcomes, the UNDP-GEF Anhui Wetlands Project has the following Project Development Goal and Strategic Objective:
 - Project Development Goal: To contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Hainan Province.
 - Strategic Objective: To strengthen the management effectiveness of the WPA system in Hainan, in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.
3. In order to achieve the Goal and Objective, the Project design in the ProDoc has three Components aligned with three matching Outcomes, with Outputs under each:
 - Component (Outcome) 1: Expansion, consolidation and strengthening of the provincial PA system:
 - Output 1.1: PA system consolidation, expansion and sustainable financing.
 - Output 1.2: Provincial guidelines for management and zoning of coastal wetland PAs
 - Output 1.3: Strengthened PA system supervisory capacity.
 - Component (Outcome) 2: Development of a Mangrove PA Network:
 - Output 2.1: Mangrove PA Network established and recognized in PA system plans.
 - Output 2.2: Professional competency standards applied to staff of Mangrove PA Network Sites.
 - Output 2.3: Ecosystem Health Index monitoring introduced for Mangrove PA Network sites, supported by applied research.
 - Output 2.4: Improved management planning and strengthened buffer zones through mangrove protection and restoration for demonstration Mangrove PA Network sites.
 - Output 2.5: Protection status of mangrove PAs strengthened through network.
 - Output 2.6: Community co-management programmes established at demonstration sites.
 - Output 2.7: Increased awareness of the values of mangrove PAs supports conservation.
 - Component (Outcome) 3: Strengthening of the PA System Management Framework:
 - Output 3.1: Capacity developed to strengthen inter-sector coordination and mainstreaming of PA system objectives into provincial development and sector planning processes
 - Output 3.2: Sector specific standards and safeguards developed to protect wetland PAs.
 - Output 3.3: Awareness raised of the economic value of mangrove wetland ecosystem services.
 - Output 3.4: Online database for Hainan wetland PA and biodiversity information.

2.4 Baseline Indicators & Expected Results

1. The ProDoc included a comprehensive, well developed and very clear and user-friendly Strategic Results Framework (SRF) embracing both quantitative and qualitative indicators (refer section 3.1.1 below for details), including, but not limited to:
 - a) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).
 - b) Ecosystem Health Index (EHI).
 - c) Institutional Capacity Score Assessment (CSA).
 - d) Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) assessment.
 - e) Area coverage of Protected Areas (PAs) (with clear target).
 - f) Financial sustainability of PA system (with clear target).
 - g) Development of regulations, policies, management plans and guidelines (with clear target).
2. Pre-project assessments of these indicators were conducted during project-design and included in the ProDoc, providing a very strong baseline against which to measure project progress through the periodic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities.
3. The ProDoc SRF also includes well-developed indicators and targets for the overall Strategic Objective and for each Outcome and Output, which together define the project's expected results.
4. *Overall, the TE consultants consider that the SRF and associated M&E design as contained in the ProDoc is a textbook example of how proper baseline indicators and expected results should be formulated, as part of the project SRF, and can be used as a model for other similar projects, subject to some minor improvements as outlined in section 3.1.1 below.*

2.5 Main Stakeholders

1. Significant attention has been paid to identifying key Project stakeholders, both during the initial project design as outlined in the ProDoc, and through continuous updating by the PMO during Project implementation. Table 3 lists key project stakeholders as identified by the PMO for the TE. In addition. Annex 3 to this report list key stakeholders that were interviewed during the TE mission. The PMO and HFD have made significant effort to engage and coordinate with stakeholders during the Project, including through the inter-departmental, cross-sector PSC.
2. The Hainan project engaged very successfully with a range of environmental NGOs (see Table 3). This mainly involved commissioning (and paying) the various NGOs to undertake consultancy tasks – with the Project thereby becoming a source of funding for the NGOs. This helped to build their capacity and encouraged them to be active in wetland conservation, and those NGOs supported by the Project have developed to become the leading conservation NGOs in Hainan.
3. Additionally, by commissioning various NGOs to undertake consultancy tasks, the project successfully drew the attention of both local NGOs and NGOs from other provinces to wetland conservation issues in Hainan. Resources from other funding sources were then allocated to Hainan wetlands by some of these NGOs, equating to an additional US\$96,700 (nearly \$100K) in co-financing for Project-related activities, which was not predicted in the original project design (Table 4).

The Project was especially successful in engaging with the private sector, including two privately run wetland parks, and with the tourism sector, which is unusual for such projects in China. The Hongshuwan Wetland Park is integrated into a coastal real-estate development, which preserves the mangrove wetland as an asset and attraction. This provides an innovative model for other parts of Hainan, where traditionally coastal development has destroyed and displaced mangrove habitat. These efforts by the developer, which were supported by the Project, deserve special commendation. Similarly, the Changjiang Haiwei National Wetland Park has been developed by a private company as part of an integrated resort plan, and includes the restoration of large areas of wetland habitat. The Project has provided technical advice and support on wetland design and other issues. Another example of private sector involvement in wetland conservation in Hainan is at Dongzhaigang NNR, where large corporations like Coca Cola and Hyundai provide staff to work as volunteers on mangrove restoration.

4. The level of engagement with environmental NGOs and also private sector interests appear to higher than is typical for such projects in China, and can be looked to as a model for other projects.

TABLE 3: Key project stakeholders as identified by the PMO

Stakeholders/Partners	Involvement in the Project
Government Agencies	
State Forestry Administration (including National Wetland Conservation Center)	To promote the formulation of wetland related policies at the national level and deploy wetland conservation related work to provinces.
Hainan Provincial Government	Responsible for approving and issuing the provincial wetland-related plans, implementation plans, policies, resolutions and so on.
Standing Committee of Hainan Provincial People's Congress	Responsible for approving wetland related legislation
Hainan Forestry Department at provincial and local government levels (including NR bureau and wildlife protection bureau)	Responsible for planning and managing the provincial PA system, and conservation of fauna and flora in the province, Also responsible for wetland management. HFD us the main executing agency of the project.
Hainan Department of Finance	PSC member, financial responsibility for the project, including coordinating matching fund and appropriating GEF funds
Hainan Province Development and Reform Commission	PSC member, coordination and implementation of Hainan's 13th-Five-Year Development Plan
Hainan Marine and Fishery Department	PSC member, protect marine and fishery environment, coastal aquaculture development, management of marine nature reserves
Hainan Ecology and Environment Protection Department	PSC member, PA system planning and management of specific nature reserves, coordination of environmental and pollution issues
Hainan Water Resources Department	PSC member, the leading implementing agency of the river and lake chief mechanism, sustain water availability, security and quality control, avoiding over-exploitation of water resources
Hainan Tourism Development Commission	PSC member, responsible for planning and implementing tourism development plans
Hainan Agriculture Department	PSC member, major stakeholder in terms of water use and sources of agricultural water pollution
Haikou City government	Responsible for the city administration, development planning and implementation, management of Dongzhaigang NNR, application for international wetland city accreditation
Management units of PAs (10 project PAs, including nature reserves and wetland parks)	Members of the Hainan Mangrove Wetland PA Network (HMWPAN), execution of project activities at PA level.
Research Institutes and Universities	
Ecological Environment Research Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out comprehensive evaluation of economic value of Dongzhaigang mangrove ecosystem services, study of land use in Dongzhaigang mangroves

Stakeholders/Partners	Involvement in the Project
Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out evaluation of the value of Hainan coastal Wetland ecosystem services, and research on the dominant factors and control methods in the Dongzhaigang Mangroves
Guangxi Mangrove Research Center	Inventor of the mangrove pipeline crab-raising model, invited to Dongzhaigang NNR to explore the feasibility to introduce the model and invited to attend the project expert review meetings
Xiamen University	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out Hainan west coast mangrove mollusk and crab survey, assessment of different duck raising models' impact on mangroves, assessment of ecological effects of alien mangrove species in Hainan, development of Hainan mangrove wetland restoration technical standards and the Hainan mangrove wetland restoration plan
Sun Yat-Sen University	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out study on cause of <i>Sphaeroma</i> outbreak and its mechanism of damage to mangrove
Sichuan Agricultural University	Cooperation partner, commissioned to develop management plan for Dongzhaigang NNR and Xinying NWP, community co-management Plans for Dongzhaigang NNR and Qinglangang PNR
Hainan Normal University	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out Hainan western coast mangroves survey, threat mechanism and experimental restoration for <i>Lumnitzera littorea</i> , vegetation survey in Dongzhaigang alien mangrove plantation
Hainan University	Invited to the project expert review meetings and provide on-site technical guidance and support on wetland conservation
NGOs	
Global Protected Area Friendly System	Cooperation partner, commissioned to develop Hainan NR system financing evaluation and strategy, Hainan coastal wetland and shelter belt protection and restoration guidelines, co-organizer of drone application training
Shanshui Conservation Center	Cooperation partner, commissioned to revise comprehensive management assessment method for Hainan NRs, and to facilitate the Informatization Training for PAs
Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Protection Association	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out training needs assessment for PAs, Hainan NNR and PNR staff competency standard
Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation	Cooperation partner, commissioned to facilitate PAs on wetland ecological monitoring, develop Hainan Province Coastal Wetland Ecological Monitoring Technical Standards, and to facilitate the propaganda and education training for PAs
China Mangrove Conservation Network	Cooperation partner, commissioned to elaborate Hainan mangrove guidebook, school textbook - Home in Mangrove Forest, school textbook-Village besides the Mangrove Forest awareness & education materials plan and VI design for HMWPAN, demonstrate public guided tour in wetlands
Chengdu Bird Watching Society / Sichuan Ecotourism Research Institute	Cooperation partner, commissioned to carry out community alternative livelihood planning for Xinying NWP, to develop operation guidelines for eco-tourism in PAs, and to formulate improvement suggestions on bird Hazard control measures at airports in mainland China
China Blue	Cooperation partner, commissioned to develop guidelines of Dongzhaigang sustainable fishery practices, Wetland-friendly fishery production and consumption advocacy in the Neighborhood of Dongzhaigang
Hainan Bird Watching Society	Cooperation partner, co-organizer of public awareness activities such as bird watching festival, World Wetland Day, Bird-Loving Week celebration events etc, and commissioned to carry out bird surveys in selected wetlands
Squirrel School	Cooperation partner, commissioned to conduct awareness events in Dongzhaigang communities, promote and facilitate the application of mangrove school textbook
The Nature Conservancy	Cooperation partner, invited to provide trainings on project management, HET(High Effective Team), CAP (Conservation Action Planning), moderation skills etc.
Private Sector/Enterprise	
R&F Properties Group	Managing Hongshuwan Wetland Park in Chengma, the project provides technical training, study tour and wetland management advices to the company
Hainan West Coast Country Club Co. Ltd.	Operating the Changjiang Haiwei National Wetland Park, the project provides technical training, study tour and wetland management advices to the company
Luneng Group Co., Ltd.	Prepare to establish Baolinggang Wetland Park, the project provides technical guidance

Stakeholders/Partners	Involvement in the Project
Community	
Local communities (around the project PAs)	Primary resource users, traditional managers of wetland and forest ecosystems, participants in the co-management activities as well as being beneficiaries of the livelihood support

TABLE 4: Additional resources allocated to Project-related activities by NGOs

No.	Project Title	Name of NGO	Funding Sources	Location	Duration	Objective	Amount (RMB)	USD*
1	Survey and Conservation in Huiwen Wetlands, Wenchang	Hainan Bird-Watching Society	Society for Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE) Foundation	Huiwen, Wenchang	May 2017-April 2018	Carry out survey and monitoring to understand the status quo of natural resource in Huiwen Wetland, and to create awareness on the importance of Huiwen.	143,000	20,600
2	Dream of Xinying	China Mangrove Conservation Network	SEE Foundation	Houshui Bay, Xinying,	May 2017-April 2018	Promote cooperation among relevant interest groups to foster local conservation efforts, enhance the capacity of local actors, so as to achieve more scientific and effective protection.	130,000	18,800
3	Survey and Conservation in Huiwen Wetland, Wenchang (Phase II)	Hainan Bird-Watching Society	SEE Foundation	Huiwen, Wenchang	Sept. 2018-Aug. 2019	Focus on to enhance the capacity of local rangers and build up awareness in local community, as well as continue to carry out monitoring on waterbirds, seagrass, water quality	198,000	28,500
4	Dream of Xinying (Phase II)	China Mangrove Conservation Network	SEE Foundation	Houshui Bay, Xinying	Sept. 2018-Aug. 2019	To include non-protected area in the region into monitoring plan and conservation actions, and gradually achieve systematic management and protection of Houshuiwan wetland.	150,000	21,600
Total SSE							621,000	89,500
5	Establishment of social welfare protected area	China Mangrove Conservation Network	Paradise International Foundation	Lingao	June - Nov. , 2017	Facilitate the preparatory work for the establishment of a social welfare protected area.	50,000	7,200
Total:							671,000	96,700

*Exchange rate 25 October 2018

3. TERMINAL EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1 Project Design

3.1.1 Analysis of the Strategic Results Framework

1. The SRF at project design as contained in the ProDoc is reproduced in Table 5 below. The TE team assesses that the SRF was well developed, clearly structured and user-friendly. There are logically-structured, clearly set, achievable and measurable indicators, baselines and end of project targets set for the overall project Objective and for each project Outcome and Output, supported by identification of the sources of information for verification of indicators, as well listing risks and assumptions.
2. The well-structured SRF is found to meet the essential requirement of being SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound). The baseline, targets, indicators, sources of information and risks and assumptions are highly specific and are organized to be relevant to each Project objective and outcome. The indicators are measurable and supported by clearly articulated sources of information. The targets are modest enough to be achievable but ambitious enough to have a meaningful, positive impact. All targets are time-bound (by end of the Project).
3. The TE team does make some points about the SRF as follows:
 - a) For the overall Project Objective the PMO advised that the source and bases of the baseline figure for the first indicator (Hainan's terrestrial PA system covers 285,7600 ha) is unknown and that the value is incorrect. The PMO advises that the correct value at Project inception was 338,065.57 ha. Thus the end-of-project target of 325,600 ha (an increase on the baseline of 40,000 as specified in the Indicator) is incorrect because the baseline was already higher than the end-of-project target. However, the Project has retained the 40,000 ha increase as the indicator, as this increase is in itself independent of the baseline.
 - b) For Outcomes and Outputs the indicators and targets are not clearly arranged against each Output, but grouped against the overall Outcome. While this is the standard template for UNDP-GEF projects, it is a little inconvenient when trying to assess each indicator and target against the different Outputs. In some cases the Outputs are in fact the end of project targets. The SRF could have been a little better organized had indicators and targets (with supporting baselines etc) been structured against each Output specifically, rather than just grouped against the overall Outcome. However, this would require an amendment to the overall UNDP-GEF template for SRFs.
 - c) The sources of information (for verification) for Outcomes include METT, EHI and CSA suffer from some limitations as outlined in section 3.2.5 below.
 - d) For Outcome 2 the sources of verification for wintering spoonbill populations includes "published" scientific monitoring results. While the PMO provided annual global simultaneous survey reports issued by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society from 2014 to 2017 – as far as the TE is aware these reports are not formally "published" in peer reviewed international scientific journals – which the TE interprets is meant by "published".
 - e) For Outcome 2 sources of verification for increase in mangrove area includes GIS maps – no such supporting GIS maps were made available to the TE.

4. During the Project the SRF was reviewed, revised and improved as part of the MTR process, including:

- a) Introducing a new indicator to track socio-economic improvements to livelihoods.
- b) Reviewing baselines and midterm results to check that targets are realistic.
- c) Expanding the scope of the "mangrove cover" indicator to include "other associated wetland habitats" in order to conserve mud flats important as stopovers for migratory birds.

These changes to the SRF were approved by the PSC and UNDP RTA.

5. ***Overall, the TE consultants consider that the SRF as contained in the ProDoc is a textbook example of how a proper SRF should be formulated, and can be used as a model for other similar projects, subject to some minor improvements outlined above.***

TABLE 5: The Project Strategic Results Framework (SRF) at project design as contained in the ProDoc

Project's Development Goal: To contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Hainan Province, China

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions																					
Objective To strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services	The area of ecosystems covered by Hainan’s terrestrial PA system increases by at least 40,000 ha with improved coverage of under-represented types by 2018 in line with the draft PA System Master Plan, project strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem and climate change resilience strategy.	Hainan’s terrestrial PA system covers 285,600 ha (See inset table below for baseline areas)	Hainan’s terrestrial PA system covers at least 325,600 ha by 2018 (see inset table below for targets)	Official Hainan Provincial government statistics and reports on the PA system.	<u>Risks:</u>																					
					– Lack of incentives and poor enforcement of planning priorities will hinder mainstreaming wetland PAs into sectors																					
		<u>Assumption:</u>																								
		– The national and provincial governments remains committed to strengthening the PA system and to incremental growth in their financing allocations for the protected area system																								
		<table><tr><th>Vegetation Type</th><th>Current (Km²)</th><th>Target (Km²)</th></tr><tr><td>32a⁶⁴</td><td>7.6</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>33a</td><td>9.6</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>41a</td><td>8.5</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>43c</td><td>0</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>44</td><td>36.5</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>80b</td><td>1.5</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	Vegetation Type		Current (Km²)	Target (Km²)	32a ⁶⁴	7.6	15	33a	9.6	15	41a	8.5	15	43c	0	15	44	36.5	40	80b	1.5	5		
		Vegetation Type	Current (Km²)		Target (Km²)																					
		32a ⁶⁴	7.6		15																					
		33a	9.6		15																					
41a	8.5	15																								
43c	0	15																								
44	36.5	40																								
80b	1.5	5																								
See Annex 10 for distributions																										

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target		Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services	change resilience strategy.	Vegetation Type	Current (Km²)	Target (Km²)		committed to strengthening the PA system and to incremental growth in their financing allocations for the protected area system
		32a ⁶⁴	7.6	15		
		33a	9.6	15		
		41a	8.5	15		
		43c	0	15		
		44	36.5	40		
		80b	1.5	5		
		See Annex 10 for distributions				
Strengthened management effectiveness of 7 PAs in the Hainan Mangrove PA Network indicated by METT scores:	METT Baseline scores:	METT target scores:		Project reports on METT applied at PPG, Midterm and project completion [Note: because of capacity issue, the baseline and target scores should be further defined during the inception phase and described in the Inception Report]		
Dongzhaigang NNR	43	70				
Xinying Mangrove NWP	26	50				
Qinglangang PNR	39	60				
Dongfang PNR	45	65				
Sanya City NR ⁶⁵	30	50				
Xinying Bay City NR ⁶⁶	15	50				
Huachang Bay County NR	27	50				
Planned improvement in the financial sustainability of the provincial PA system at site and system level indicated by Part II of the GEF financial sustainability	Financial scorecard baselines:	Financial scorecard targets:		Project reports on Financial Sustainability Scorecard		

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	scorecard: - Component 1 – Legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks - Component 2 – Business planning and tools for cost- effective management - Component 3 – Tools for revenue generation	31% 31% 11%	60% 56% 30%		
Outcome 1. Improved protection and management of Hainan's ecosystems through expansion, consolidation and sustainable financing of the provincial PA system	Outputs: 1.1 PA system consolidation, expansion and sustainable financing 1.2 Provincial guidelines for management and zoning of coastal wetland PAs 1.3 Strengthened PA system supervisory capacity				
	Financing Plan for the expanded PA system under Hainan Master Plan for the PA System including strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem	Master Plan for Hainan PA System awaiting approval, no financing plan	Financing Plan approved for the expanded PA system under Hainan Master Plan for the PA System including strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem	Official Hainan provincial government document indicating approval of the financing plan for the expanded PA System.	<u>Risks:</u> - Economic development such as mass tourism stimulated by the International Tourism Island Development strategy will exert more threats to the mangrove forest in Hainan Province, due to disturbance, consumption of shrimp and other seafood, encroachment of forest land by tourism facilities.
	National and provincial financing for PA system through HFD increased to close the existing annual financing gap of US\$6.69	Annual financing available for PA System: US\$ 8.06 million	Annual financing available for PA System + Projected annual financing gap for basic expenditure	PA Sustainable Financing scorecard; HFD annual financial reports	<u>Assumption:</u> – The Provincial Government

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	million for basic expenditure scenario ⁶⁷	/ year	scenario in year 2012+5: US\$19.92 million per year		continues to be committed to the extension and improved management of the PA system in the face of other demands for land and resources.
	d PA system management capacity of Hainan Forestry Department, Land Environment & Resources Department, and Marine and Fisheries Department as shown by the UNDP Capacity Scorecard	Capacity Scorecard baselines : HFD: 50% HLERD: 56% HMFD: 74%	Capacity Scorecard targets: HFD: 65% HLERD: 65% HMFD: 80%	Project reports on Capacity Scorecard	
Outcome 2. Strengthened protection, participatory management and restoration of mangrove forests through the development of a Mangrove PA Network (MPAN)	Outputs: 2.1 Mangrove PA Network established and recognized in PA system plans 2.2 Professional competency standards applied to staff of Mangrove PA Network Sites 2.3 Ecosystem Health Index monitoring introduced for Mangrove PA Network sites, supported by applied research 2.4 Improved management planning and strengthened buffer zones through mangrove protection and restoration for demonstration Mangrove PA Network sites 2.5 Protection status of mangrove PAs strengthened through network 2.6 Community co-management programmes established at demonstration sites 2.7 Increased awareness of the values of mangrove PAs supports conservation				
	Operational MPAN is evident through: i) Official recognition of Mangrove PA Network in Hainan PA system plans. ii) Network coordination centre and training base established at	Mangrove PAs are not networked, lack of common management methods and standards, limited	Operational MPAN evident through: i) Official recognition of Mangrove PA Network in Hainan PA	Official HFD statements, plans and reports on the Hainan PA system; project reports.	Risks: - Major economic development projects (e.g. coastal reclamation, port development, tourism development, infrastructure, etc) take precedence over

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	Dongzhaigang NNR iii) All MPAN sites upload and update required site information to MPAN database according to agreed protocols	information exchange	system plans. ii) Network coordination centre and training base established at Dongzhaigang NNR iii) All MPAN sites upload and update required site information to MPAN database according to agreed protocols		mangrove conservation. - Severity of climate change impacts (including sea level change, bleaching of corals and increased incidence and duration of extreme weather (e.g., floods and drought) may undermine conservation efforts promoted by the project through changes in mangrove distribution and changes in community resource use
	Improved ecosystem health status of the selected Hainan mangrove PA network sites, indicated by the improvement in the MSL's Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) *EHI baselines & targets to be established in Year 1 for other sites: Dongfang PNR, Sanya City NR, Xinying Bay City NR, Huachang Bay County NR	EHI baselines for selected sites*: Dongzhaigang NNR: 0.468 Qinglangang PNR: 0.444 Xinying mangrove NWP: 0.441	EHI targets for selected sites*: Dongzhaigang NNR: 0.600 Qinglangang PNR: 0.600 Xinying mangrove NWP: 0.600	Project reports on EHI monitoring at PPG, Midterm and Project completion	<u>Assumption:</u> - National, provincial and local agencies responsible for mangrove conservation are receptive to a networking approach to mangrove PA management and agree to provide their full cooperation.
	Increased protection status of selected wetland related reserves, taking full account of access and benefit sharing rights of indigenous / minority ethnic group stakeholders.	1. Yinggeling PNR** (50,464 ha); 2. Fanjia PNR (>5,000 ha); 3. Haiwei Prov. Wetland Park (c.300 ha)	1. Yinggeling PNR becomes NNR; 2. Fanjia PNR becomes the demonstration area of PNR; 3. Haiwei County Wetland Park	Official government documents required for upgrading of the selected provincial level PAs to National level PAs; dates of submission to State Council; official State Council approval announcements.	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	**Yingdeling is a forested catchment area for Haikou area	4. Sanya City NR (728ha)	becomes PWP. 4. Sanya City NR becomes the demonstration area of NR		
	Increase in the number of wintering Black-faced Spoonbills <i>Platalea minor</i> in Hainan	Wintering population of 46 BF Spoonbills	Wintering population of 76 BF Spoonbills with a stable or increasing trend	Scientific monitoring results published in relation to implementation of the CMS International Single Species Action Plan for the BF Spoonbill; project reports	
	Viable alternative options are demonstrated for target communities impacting mangrove resources at Dongzhaigang and Qinglangang that result in more sustainable resource use and include the equitable representation and involvement of women.	No assistance available from PA system to help local communities with economic opportunities	New co-management structures are established that support and strengthen alternative livelihood options for target communities, including equitable representation and involvement of women.	Co-management agreements, site management plans and project progress reports	
	Increased area of mangrove cover within and adjacent to project demonstration reserves through replanting activities in unproductive aquaculture ponds and other suitable areas	See table inset below for baseline area of mangrove cover and area of existing replanting efforts at selected sites	1,000 ha of mangrove wetland consisting of wetland park and bird habitats.	Project reports on mangrove re-forestation activities supported by GIS maps	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	Site Replanting) Dongzhaigang NNR Qinglangang PNR Xinying NWP Dongfang PNR Sanya CNR Total	Mangrove Area 1578 ha 1233 ha 150 ha 250 ha 60 ha 3271 ha	Existing Replanted Area 60 ha 0 ha <10 ha <15 ha 10 ha <95 ha	Project Target Area (Additional) 600 ha 300 ha <10 ha 50 ha 50 ha 1000+ ha	
Outcome 3. Improved integration of wetland conservation into development and sectoral planning and practices through a strengthened PA System Management Framework including economic valuation of ecosystem services	Outputs: 3.1 Capacity developed to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and mainstreaming PA system objectives into provincial development and sectoral planning processes 3.2 Sector specific standards and safeguards developed to protect wetland PAs 3.3 Awareness raised of the economic value of mangrove wetland ecosystem services 3.4. Online database for wetland PA and biodiversity information				
	Sector specific standards for tourism and coastal fisheries are consistent with international standards for responsible ecotourism and fishery practices	Existing plans and practices for key sectors including tourism and fishery development do not adequately address key issues for wetland PAs	Approval and demonstrated voluntary uptake of sector specific standards for tourism by 20 companies (based on ecotourism category of the ASEAN Tourism Standards ⁶⁸) and coastal fisheries by 2 villages (based on the FAO Code of Conduct for	Official government documents endorsed by provincial tourism and fisheries agencies	Risks: - Mainstreaming wetland PAs into sectoral policies will be hindered by lack of incentives for other sectors and poor enforcement of agreed priorities and plans that may be incompatible with larger tourism development, land conversion or other development programmes. Assumption:

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
			Responsible Fisheries ⁶⁹ and related guidelines)		- Sectors are receptive towards collaboration and interested in contributing towards sustainable development and conservation of wetlands
	Key development and sectoral plans such as the 13th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for key sectors include explicit reference to conservation of the Mangrove PA Network	12 th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for tourism, fisheries, water resources and other key sectors do not adequately address wetland conservation	13 th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for tourism (including the Hainan International Tourism Island Master Plan), fisheries, water resources and other key sectors include explicit reference to conservation of the Mangrove PA Network	Official government documents endorsed by the respective provincial government agencies	
	Establishment of a suitable cross-sectoral body at provincial level to facilitate mainstreaming of wetland conservation into sectoral policies, plans and practices	Coordination between wetland PA subsystem management and development planning and sectoral planning	A permanent cross-sectoral body is established at provincial level, formally recognized by all sectors and	Project reports, minutes of provincial government agency meetings, TOR and membership of the cross-sectoral body, minutes of meetings.	

Raaymakers & Wang. Terminal Evaluation (TE) Report, November 2018: FINAL
UNDP-GEF CBPF-MSL Project 3: Hainan Wetlands Project (PIMS 4597)

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	Improved data sharing platform for Hainan's wetland PAs is established, regularly updated and in frequent use by a range of data providers and target audiences	Data on Hainan's wetland PAs are dispersed, largely unavailable online, and not regularly updated	A centralized database on Hainan's wetland PAs is accessible to online users, updated on a monthly basis and registers at least 100 hits per month	Project reports on data sharing platform; automated website usage statistics (e.g. google analytics).	

Abbreviation	Full Name
Dongzhaigang	Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve
Xinying NWP	Hainan Xinying Mangrove National Wetland Park
Dongfang	Hainan Dongfang Black-faced Spoonbill Provincial Nature Reserve
Sanya	Sanyan River, Tielugang, and Yalongwan Qingmeigang City Nature Reserve
Qinglangang	Qinglangang Provincial Nature Reserve
Xinying Bay	Xinying Bay Mangrove City Nature Reserve
Huachang Bay	Huachang Bay County Mangrove Nature Reserve
Lingao	Lingao Xinying Mangrove City Nature Reserve

3.1.2 Assumptions and risks

1. The SRF in Table 5 above contains very clear assumptions and risks aligned against the overall project Objective and against each Outcome. The assumptions and risks as applied to the project design appear to be appropriate, relevant, logical and practical.
2. The TE team assesses that during Project implementation the PMO has managed project-level risks well, and that overall, risks relating to mainstreaming and inter-departmental coordination have decreased over time, especially due to a clearly increased commitment to and mainstreaming of wetlands issues in the Provincial Government, backed by very strong policy directives and funding support for wetland conservation and national “eco-civilization” goals from the Central Government. However, inter-sector coordination mechanisms are focused almost solely on government agencies, and private sector and civil-society sectors need to be integrated into these mechanisms, to reduce these risks further.
3. The main remaining risks, including post-project, are beyond the direct control of the Project. These are external environmental impacts on WPAs from the broader catchments (pollution, hydrological flow etc.), and the relatively small size of the WPAs and lack of ecological connectivity between WPAs, which threatens their ecological viability in the longer term. The TE team assesses these risks to be higher now than at project inception, mainly due to the extremely high rates of economic development, expansion of the tourism industry, urbanization and industrialization in Hainan (refer Conclusion 13, Lesson 6 and Recommendations 6a and 6b).
4. The potential long-term effects of climate change could also be severe for the Hainan wetlands. Climate change has continued to accelerate since project inception and the TE team assesses these risks to be higher now than at project inception. In addition to the vital need for global action to address climate change, at the Provincial and local levels it is also vital to build the resilience of wetlands to climate change, by strengthening and protecting their ecological health through on-the ground action, as promoted by the Project.

3.1.3 Lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into project design

1. Compared to many other similar projects it appears that for this project, significant effort was made during the project design to incorporate lessons from previous and other relevant projects, which has been a significant positive factor in ensuring that the project design is sensible, logical and practical, and which has assisted greatly in the successful implementation of the Project.
2. The project was designed following the experiences of several other GEF biodiversity projects in China –in Qinghai and Gansu and an earlier GEF wetlands program, as well as the recently closed large-scale EU funded EU-China Biodiversity Program (ECBP).
3. Learning lessons from these earlier projects, the design departed from the earlier designs in that each of the provincial projects is a stand-alone full project managed by its own National Project Director (NPD) and PMO, largely funded from provincial sources and not dependent on fund transfers from a national coordinating project.
4. The rationale was to give the local agencies a greater sense of ownership as well as to speed up planning, actions and payments locally. The design also tries to tackle wetland issues at provincial and landscape levels

rather than being strictly focused on one demonstration site, and with a greater focus on mainstreaming wetland issues into all sectors.

3.1.4 Planned stakeholder participation

1. The project design as outlined in the ProDoc includes both a comprehensive Stakeholder Analysis (in Part I of the ProDoc) and plans to develop a Stakeholder Involvement (Plan IV of the ProDoc), which was to be prepared upon project inception as an identified workplan activity.
2. The TE team has not seen a copy of any specific Stakeholder Involvement Plan developed upon project inception. However, it was clear to the TE team that effective cross-sector / inter-departmental coordination mechanisms have been established including the PSC at Province level and at local government levels, and the Project has established very effective participation by NGOs and private sector stakeholders. Overall, the TE assesses that stakeholder participation has been much more comprehensive and successful for this project than for many similar projects, and that this is due in large part to the energy, drive, commitment and relationship building skills of the Project Manager.

3.1.5 Replication approach

1. The project design as outlined in the ProDoc includes provisions for sustainability and replicability under Part II – Strategy. The project's outcomes are replicable as the barriers it addresses are largely shared by other provinces, and the approaches used are transferable to strengthen the management effectiveness of PA systems across China. Upscaling of the Hainan mangrove PA network to include mainland mangrove PAs is a logical next step, depending on the receptivity of adjacent provincial forestry departments.
2. As an integral part of the national CBPF-MSL programme, the project's outcomes will contribute directly towards larger national policy, regulatory, fiscal, data management and communications goals in support of wetland biodiversity conservation and an effectively managed national wetland PA system. This includes informing national policy development on issues such as mainstreaming PA system and biodiversity conservation objectives into related sectors, valuation of wetland ecosystem services, eco-compensation scheme mechanisms to support PA management costs, monitoring ecosystem health, and community co-management approaches. The project implementation arrangements include a direct link between the project steering committee and the CBPF-MSL national project to assist in realizing this replication.
3. The TE assesses that the Project made good very progress on replication within the Province, including expanding the initial six WPAs covered by the Project to 10 (or 12 if the three linked WPAs in Sanyahe are counted separately). However, it is not clear if the replication goal of upscaling the Hainan mangrove PA network to include mainland mangrove Pas has made much progress – although this would be a very useful follow-up activity post-project.

3.1.6 UNDP comparative advantage

1. The comparative advantage of UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency for this Project is based on the long-standing physical presence of the UNDP-CO in Beijing, with a long history of UN support to the Government of China on sustainable development issues. The UNDP-CO has well established and effective working relationships with relevant Central and Provincial Government agencies, including in-depth understanding of Chinese Government laws, policies and procedures, as well as international experience with capacity development programs, and an ability to access international expertise on wetland and biodiversity

conservation issues. The UNDP-CO is also effectively supported on GEF-BD projects through the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) located in Bangkok, adding to the agency's comparative advantage.

3.1.7 Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

1. An important element in the design of such projects is to seek effective links and cooperative partnerships with other relevant programs and projects in the subject area, including those undertaken by government, external donors, environmental NGOs and the private sector. Such partnering is a useful way to create synergistic benefits between projects, multiply positive impacts and even secure additional co-financing.
2. Unfortunately it appears that the project design as outlined in the ProDoc did not contain any specific provisions relating to linkages and meaningful partnerships with other relevant programs and projects in the subject area. The Project has shared knowledge and experiences with the other five "sister" UNDP-GEF wetland projects undertaken in China under the *China Biodiversity Partnership Framework- Mainstream of Life* (CBPF-ML). While this sharing has been beneficial to all projects, they are all part of the same initiative, undertaken in different Provinces under similar designs, and does not generate the same synergistic, "on-ground" benefits as partnering with other relevant programs and projects within the Province itself.
3. As far as could be ascertained during the TE the Project has partnered very effectively with a broad range of organizations including research institutes, NGOs and the private sector, as outlined in section 2.5. By cooperating with partners the project secured nearly \$100K in additional co-financing for Project-related activities, which was not predicted in the original project design. ***The level of engagement with environmental NGOs and also private sector interests appear to higher than is typical for such projects in China, and can be looked to as a model for other projects.***
4. The Project has also been very effective at linking with international partners, including assisting Haikou to be designated an International Wetlands City under the Ramsar Convention at the Ramsar meeting in Dubai this September (2018), and assisting the Dongfeng Blackfaced Spoonbill PNR to join the East Asia Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) which will announced at an international EAAFP meeting to be held at Dongfeng in December 2018.

3.1.8 Management arrangements

1. The Project is implemented by the UNDP-CO and executed by the HFP with support from the Hainan Finance Department, several municipal and local governments and the management staff of DongzhaigangNNR and other WPAs in the Province.
2. The project is implemented nationwide in accordance with the *Standard Basic Assistance Agreement* and the *Country Project Action Plan* (CPAP) signed between UNDP and the Chinese Government.
3. An indication of the project-specific management arrangements are shown in Figure 3, and include:
 - a) National Project Director (NPD): Senior official in HFD with overall responsibility for day-to-day oversight of project implementation and management.
 - b) Project Management Office (PMO): Based at Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Conservation Bureau within HFD, carries out the day-to-day administration of the project. The PMO is now comprised of PMO Director, Project Manager, Coordinator, Communication Specialist, Project Senior Assistant

and Project Assistant (recruited since June 2018). The PMO Director is the Director of Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Conservation Bureau, who is not paid from the project funds.

- c) Project Steering Committee (PSC): This was formed to provide overall direction and guidance for the implementation of the project. It has representatives from all relevant organizations, including UNDP, the Central Government Ministry of Finance and State Forestry Administration, HFD, Hainan Finance Department, the Provincial Development and Reform Commission, the Provincial Environmental Protection Department, the Provincial Agricultural Committee and the Provincial Water Resources Department. Missing from the PSC are NGO and private sector representatives, which is a limitation as achieving integrated, cross-sector wetlands management is one of the main objectives of the project.
 - d) Chief Technical Adviser (CTA): Provided on a part-time basis from the National MSL office to provide scientific and technical advice and support to the Project.
- 4. Overall the TE finds the project coordination arrangements to be a little too complex and therefore not optimally efficient. There are too many “supervisory” positions and unclear lines of reporting and duplicated lines of reporting. The complex coordination arrangements appear to introduce too many layers of administration, which reportedly caused delays with decision making, hampering timely conduct of activities. This would have also increased transaction and administration costs.
 - 5. For a relatively small project like this one (circa \$2.6 million of GEF funds), a much simpler, flatter and direct coordination structure would be more appropriate.

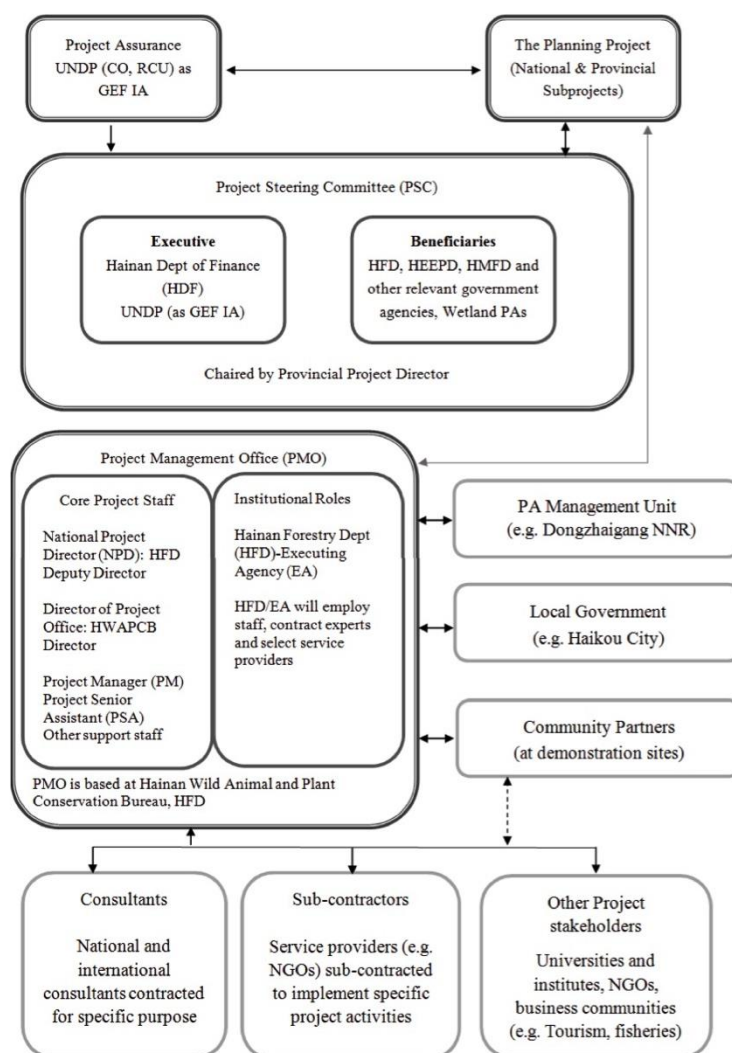


FIGURE 3: Coordination arrangements for the UNDP-GEF Hainan Wetlands Project – which in the view of the TE are unnecessarily complex for a project of this scale and therefore not optimally efficient

3.2 Project Implementation

3.2.1 Adaptive management

1. The PMO has exhibited strong capacity for flexibility and adaptive management, including effectively learning lessons and taking on the recommendations of the MTR by making adjustments to the Project from 2016 to 2018 as outlined in Table 6. This included reviewing, revising and improving the SRF.
2. However, some important items remain to be addressed, as highlighted in the “blue” TE comments in Table 6.

TABLE 6: Changes made to the Project in response to the MTR recommendations (TE comments in blue)

No.	Recommendation	Description	Response Measure	Status
1.	Fine-tune the Results Framework (project indicator, baseline, target line, support documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce a new indicator to track socio-economic improvements to livelihoods. - Review baselines and midterm results to check that targets are realistic. - Expand scope of "mangrove cover" indicator to include "other associated wetland habitats" in order to conserve mud flats important as stopovers for migratory birds. 	1) CTA revise the new results framework 2) Report to PSC for approval	Relevant indicators have been revised and approved by UNDP Asia Pacific Office
2.	Tracking tool (METT Capacity Assessment Scorecard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timely inspection and verification 	UNDP should hire domestic expert for completing tracking tool assessment three months earlier before terminal evaluation.	PMO already hire the domestic expert for the tracking tool assessment. TE comment: See comments on METT, EHO etc. in section 3.2.3.
3.	1.2 Guidelines for managing and zoning coastal wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deliberate whether or not to proceed 	To be more involved in the process of drafting the Wetland Conservation Regulation and provide expertise on technical issues.	Hainan Wetland Protection Regulation has been issued by Hainan People's Congress; the Guidelines for the Protection and Restoration of Coastal Wetlands and Coastal Shelter Belts in Hainan Province are being revised. TE comment: Important to track and report actual application and use of the Regulation and Guidelines in coming years.
4.	Monitoring and mangrove restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive monitoring plan for several demonstration PAs, which will inform the preparation of a wetland biodiversity and environmental monitoring manual. - Preparation of guidelines on mangrove restoration, supported by training workshops. 	1) support three demonstration reserves for ecological monitoring (executing) 2) preparation of guidelines on mangrove restoration	The Technical Standards for Hainan Coastal Wetland Ecological Monitoring and the Mangrove Ecological Restoration Technical Manual have been completed and relevant trainings have been held. TE comment: Important to track and report actual application and use of the Technical Standards and Technical Manual in coming years.
5.	Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen collaboration with tourism sector and proactively agree to set up some model demonstrations. (Note: Tourism sector needs to be represented on PSC.) 	Tourism Dept. will be invited to join PSC. PMO already started and activity will be continued	The Tourism Department has become a member of the Project Steering Committee; community-based ecotourism demonstration is supported by the project in Xinying NWP. TE comment: Would be useful to replicate beyond Xinying.
6.	Communication Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a Communications Strategy as a matter of priority, not only to meet stakeholder interests but also to provide clear direction on where to invest human and media resources to maximize impacts 	1) Carry out various publicity activities to promote wetland protection concepts and share wetland knowledge	The project further carried out a variety of publicity activities, and the results of the KAP survey showed that the project impacts were remarkable. TE Comment: "Carrying out various publicity activities" is not the same as preparing a Communications Strategy as recommended by the MTR. This has not been addressed properly.

No.	Recommendation	Description	Response Measure	Status
7.	Project fund	- The budget for 2016 should be accomplished as much as possible	Prepare mangrove restoration manual (executing)	In February 2018, the PMO developed the remaining funds use plan and updated the annual plan accordingly. The main activities of the project will be basically completed before the end of June, and all subcontracts will be completed and accepted in August and September. TE Comment: It is understood that a six month extension to the Project has been granted to allow completion of all remaining activities.
8.	"polluter pays" principle	- Potential impact of the project would be much greater if it included a new dimension: to work with government to introduce (or enforce, if already introduced) the "polluter pays" principle to Hainan's aquaculture industry and, at the same time, to work with the industry to show how to "improve" such farming and make it environmentally sustainable.	1) Meet with Hainan land Environment & resource Department and Hainan Marine & Fisheries Department 2) Determine activities for following up	The project had contacted Hainan Ecology and Environment Protection Department and Hainan Marine & Fisheries Department. Both replied that the "Polluter Pays" policy is hard to implement. On one hand the law enforcement on pollution control need to be strengthened in the first place, and on the other hand, the high percentage of fish ponds run by community households without permission is also a huge challenge for government. TE Comment: Because pollution and water quality impacts are one of the significant threats to Hainan wetlands this should be a high priority area for follow-up. The claim that PPP is "hard to implement" is a poor excuse. It is implemented very successfully in many jurisdictions around the world. There is no reason why it cannot be applied China where there is strong government system.
9.	These three interlinked strategies and plans, Master Plan for Hainan PA System (awaiting approval), Provincial Wetland PAs Strategy, Action Plan & Climate Resilience Plan (drafted) and Financing Plan for Hainan PA System (drafted)	- Coherently linked with each other, approved or endorsed at an appropriately high level within provincial government and then, in the case of the Wetland PAs Strategy, mainstreamed across other sectors by a suitable coordinating body using an appropriate "multiple planning integration" modality as advocated by Provincial Government.	Re-formulate work plans and identify new subcontracts for key tasks	Relevant content of climate change adaptation has been included in the Hainan Wetland Protection Plan; the Hainan Provincial Wetland Protection and Restoration System Implementation Plan issued by the provincial government adopts financing development strategy recommendations. TE comment: The TE finds that in some cases the linkages between the various regulatory, planning and management documents are not totally clear, and there may be a certain lack of coordination and consistency, creating critical gaps and overlaps between the various documents. It is recommended that a mechanism to ensure better coordination, consistency and linkages between them.
10.	Competency standards for nature reserve	- Senior expert should be hire for competency standards - Once Yinggeling has completed the competency standards these can be applied to other wetland PAs.	Trail competency standard in Yinggeling NNR	Trial application of the competency standard was carried out in Yinggeling NNR. TE comment: Would be useful to replicate beyond Yinggeling.

No.	Recommendation	Description	Response Measure	Status
11.	Mangrove Research Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transform the Mangrove Research Working Group into a Mangrove Technical Advisory Group - set up an information and news sharing platform on a website for use by network membership and related experts 	1) Established Hainan Wetland Protection Consulting Expert Group (completed) 2) Establish an information and news sharing network platform (first study feasibility and then decide) 3) Promote the establishment of the Mangrove Research Center in cooperation with universities, research institutes and social organizations in the province	"Hainan Wetland Protection Expert Group" has been established and play a very active role in supporting wetland protection in Hainan. TE comment: Would be useful to replicate beyond Hainan to include mainland mangrove areas.
12.	CTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 3 months (66 days) of CTA support should be provided annually to the project. - recruiting a full-time national Technical Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •recruiting a full-time national Technical Advisor (depend on budget) 	Not recruited. TE comment: This is a deficiency.
13.	PSC changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least twice meetings - No more than 20 people - total membership should not exceed 20; - reduce HFD members from 5 to 3 and HDF from 2 to 1 member; - invite HDRC, Tourism Commission and HAD to join PSC; - maintain MWPN membership at 6-7, each representing a different PA; at least 2 members should be female; 2 members should be PA directors and the other 4-5 should reflect a range of expertise; 	Drafting Steering Committee member adjustment plan is reported to the project steering committee for review and approval	Hainan Development and Reform Commission, Hainan Tourism Development Commission, and Hainan Agriculture Department had joined the PSC since 2017; PSC meeting is held once a year. TE comment: NGOs and private sector should be on the PSC towards more complete cross-sector integration.
14.	Quarter & annual work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplify the structure of the report 	UNDP simplify quarterly and annual work reports (completed)	Quarterly and annual reports have been modified and simplified with reference to PIR
15.	Alternative livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of the term alternative livelihoods should be used more cautiously, improve livelihood is more reality 	Demonstrate sustainable fisheries practices and promote sustainable fisheries through value chains and markets	A wetland-friendly fishery production and consumption advocacy project was launched in Dongzhaigang to promote sustainable fisheries via market end. TE comment: Would be useful to replicate beyond Dongzhaigang.

3.2.2 Project finance & co-finance

1. It should be noted that the TE team are not accountants or financial auditors, and are not in a position to verify the financial management processes, nor the financial data that has been provided by the Project or by the HFD – all such data has simply been accepted at face value. It is understood that the Project finances are subject to “double audit” by UNDP and the Hainan Finance Department.
2. It is understood that the Project is subject to the provisions of *UNDP-GEF Country Management Manual* and the *Financial Management Measures for the Project for Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Wetland Protected Area System in Hainan with the GEF Grant*, jointly issued by the Hainan Finance and Forestry Departments (note that the TE team has not reviewed this document).
3. A five-year budget and work plan is included in the ProDoc at project inception. During the project implementation period, at the beginning of each year, the PMO developed a Two-Year Work Plan, which was jointly approved and signed by the country project director and the UNDP project leader before becoming effective. Quarterly work plans were also prepared, and the funds approved by UNDP transferred to the project account in the Hainan Finance Department. The PMO staff then submit applications for appropriation to the Hainan Finance Department, who transfer funds into the project account set up at HFD. At the end of each quarter, the project office submits a quarterly financial statements (FACE) to UNDP; and at the end of each fiscal year, there is an annual comprehensive executive report (CDR).
4. By end of June 2018, the total expenditure was reported as US\$2,209,040.92 with the delivery of 83.8% as shown in Table 7. This is considered a high project implementation rate compared to many similar projects. Table 8 shows budget and expenditures up to the TE. The balance is \$425,730.08. 75% of the remaining funds are to-be-settled contract payment as well as PMO staff salary. None-contracted funds are US\$97,708.10.
5. With regard to co-financing, the Project Identification Form (PIF) identifies a total commitment of US\$ 18 million, comprising \$17.3 million from Government sources and a \$700K grant (cash) commitment from UNDP.
6. The PMO reports that at June 2018, actual co-financing from Government sources had reached US\$18,043,355, nearly \$1 million (\$743,355) more than the original commitment of \$7.3 million. Most of the additional co-financing came from the Central Government Ministry of Finance to support the WPAs under new Central Government prioritization of wetlands and broader eco-civilization policy directions. Table 9 shows the reported Government co-financing sources.
7. In addition, as reported in section 2.5 and shown in Table 4, by cooperating with partners the Project secured nearly \$100K (\$96,700) in additional co-financing for Project-related activities, which was not predicted in the original project design. This comprised \$89,500 from the Society for Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE) and \$7,200 from the Paradise International Foundation.
8. Unfortunately, the commitment of a \$700K “grant” (which means “cash” under GEF co-financing guidelines) from UNDP has not been realized. The UNDP-CO advised that these funds were to be sourced from the Coca-Cola Foundation (CCF) under the multi-year (2007-2018 to date) *Coca Cola Partnership for Water Governance Programme (PWGP)*. The PWGP is a partnership between CCF, the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) and UNDP and is focused on supporting government efforts to improve water resources management and drinking water safety in rural parts of China (the PWGP is not focused on wetland PA management). The TE has identified some issues with this allocation, as follows:

- a) Firstly, given that the funds were actually provided by the CCF and not UNDP, it was erroneous for UNDP to identify itself as the source of this potential co-financing on the PIF and subsequent project-related documents. The CCF should have been identified as the co-financing source. For UNDP to identify itself as the source of this co-financing is analogous to UNDP identifying itself as the source of the GEF grant - it is factually incorrect. To be listed as co-financing from UNDP, especially if it is identified as a “grant”, the funding would need to be genuinely sourced from UNDP’s own budget / funding sources, not from another donor.
- b) Secondly, throughout the Hainan GEF Project duration (2014-2018) the PWGP has not supported a single activity in Hainan Province. The PWGP has focused primarily on north-east China (e.g. Yellow River region) and some other Provinces, but not on Hainan, and has not focused on improving PA management. The GEF definition of “co-financing” is “*financing that is additional to GEF project financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project and the achievement of its objective(s).”* The PWGP has done nothing at all to support implementation of the Hainan Wetlands Project, nor the achievement of its objectives – which are all focused on Hainan Province and on improving the wetland PA system. It therefore does not meet the GEF definition of co-financing with regard to the Hainan GEF Project.
9. The \$700K commitment of grant co-financing by UNDP has therefore not been realized during the Project. ***It is recommended that greater attention should be paid to ensuring that co-financing commitments in the PIF and ProDoc align with GEF definitions and criteria and are actually realized for future projects.***
10. Combining the additional \$743,355 of co-financing provided by government with the additional \$96,700 of co-financing secured from SSE and the Paradise International Foundation, and subtracting the \$700K UNDP commitment that has not been realized, gives a total co-financing figure of \$18,140,055, or \$140,055 more than the original commitment. This represents a ratio of total co-financing (\$18,140,055) to GEF financing (\$2,634,771) of nearly 7 to 1 (6.89 to 1), well in excess of the GEF-5 upper guideline of 6 to 1.

TABLE 7: Expenditure overview to June 2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	SUB-TOTAL	Budget in PD	Delivery %
ACTIVITY 1		22,719.50	48,415.10	12,427.11	113,717.56	45,108.10	242,387.37	380,000	63.8%
ACTIVITY 2	8,371.25	213,271.10	367,719.52	482,070.57	352,551.32	115,503.07	1,539,486.83	1,729,271	89.0%
ACTIVITY 3		293.21	132,091.30	76,233.09	55,976.00	34,034.07	298,627.67	400,000	74.7%
ACTIVITY 4	10,027.59	28,146.58	16,794.25	20,272.48	22,220.92	8,361.57	105,823.39	125,500	84.3%
GAIN & LOSS	-8.45	-408.07	10,024.67	17,803.95	-10,762.58	6,066.14	22,715.66		
TOTAL	18,390.39	264,022.32	575,044.84	608,807.20	533,703.22	209,072.95	2,209,040.92	2,634,771	83.8%

TABLE 8: Project budget and expenditures up to the TE

Outcome	Atlas Budgetary ACCT Code	Atlas Budget Description	Original amount (USD)	Adjusted amount (USD)	Changes (USD)
<u>Outcome 1</u> Improved protection and management of Hainan's ecosystems through expansion, consolidation and sustainable financing of the provincial PA system	71200	International Consultants	19,250.00	20,200.00	950.00
	71300	Local Consultants	26,300.00	16,692.61	-9,607.39
	71600	Travel	40,000.00	30,829.46	-9,170.54
	71800	PMO Staff	-	14,418.21	14,418.21
	72100	Contractual Services	238,400.00	236,822.61	-1,577.39
	74200	Audio-visual and printing production	45,000.00	50,042.89	5,042.89
	74500	Miscellaneous	1,050.00	2,646.53	1,596.53
	75700	Training, meeting, and workshop	10,000.00	1,200.00	-8,800.00
	76100	Realized Gain	-	7,041.37	7,041.37
	64000	Services to projects	-	106.32	106.32
		Sub-total	380,000.00	380,000.00	
<u>Outcome 2</u> Strengthened protection, participatory management and restoration of mangrove forests through the development of a Mangrove PA Network (MPAN)	71200	International Consultants	109,250.00	75,903.62	-33,346.38
	71300	Local Consultants	195,000.00	27,634.24	-167,365.76
	71600	Travel	160,000.00	113,814.24	-46,185.76
	71800	PMO Staff	-	198,323.58	198,323.58
	72100	Contractual Services	876,000.00	916,508.88	40,508.88
	72200	Equipment	225,000.00	187,521.11	-37,478.89
	74100	Audit	-	17,218.07	17,218.07
	74200	Audio-visual and printing production	150,000.00	103,017.50	-46,982.50
	74500	Miscellaneous	4,021.00	5,655.78	1,634.78
	75700	Training, meeting, and workshop	10,000.00	83,672.21	73,672.21
	76100	Realized Gain	-	1.77	1.77
		Sub-total	1,729,271.00	1,729,271.00	
<u>Outcome 3</u> Improved integration of wetland conservation into development and sectoral planning and practices through a strengthened PA System Management Framework including economic valuation of ecosystem services.	71200	International Consultants	41,250.00	23,143.50	-18,106.50
	71300	Local Consultants	25,000.00	-	-25,000.00
	71600	Travel	40,000.00	24,217.32	-15,782.68
	71800	PMO Staff	-	22,959.12	22,959.12
	72100	Contractual Services	230,000.00	295,448.90	65,448.90
	72800	Information Technology Equipment	20,000.00	-	-20,000.00
	74200	Audio-visual and printing production	34,000.00	28,012.50	-5,987.50
	74500	Miscellaneous	-	4,958.17	4,958.17
	75700	Training, meeting, and workshop	9,750.00	1,260.49	-8,489.51
	76100	Gain/Loss	-	-	-
		Sub-total	400,000.00	400,000.00	

Outcome	Atlas Budgetary ACCT Code	Atlas Budget Description	Original amount (USD)	Adjusted amount (USD)	Changes (USD)
Project Management	71300	Local Consultants	85,000.00	23,502.09	-61,497.91
	71600	Travel	10,000.00	11,831.80	1,831.80
	71800	PMO Staff	-	59,112.68	59,112.68
	72200	Equipment	12,300.00	12,732.39	432.39
	74500	UNDP cost recovery charge	2,859.00	2,411.84	-447.16
	74500	Miscellaneous	15,341.00	6,301.04	-9,039.96
	76100	Gain/Loss	-	9,608.15	9,608.15
		Sub-total	125,500.00	125,499.99	-0.01
		Total	2,634,771.00	2,634,770.99	-0.01

TABLE 9: Reported co-financing from government sources for the Hainan Wetlands Project

Year	Source	PAs	Amount USD	Subtotal USD
2013	Provincial - NR upgrading fund	Yinggeling	196,947	196,947
2014	National - Wetland conservation and restoration	Dongzhaigang	651,572	4,463,268
		Qinglangang	488,679	
		Dongfang	325,786	
	Provincial-Greening island	Dongzhaigang	1,466,037	
		Dongfang	977,358	
		Fanjia	65,157	
		Xinying NWP	488,679	
2015	National - Wetland conservation and restoration	Dongzhaigang	625,586	9,227,401
		Fanjia	469,190	
	National -Wetland conservation reward	Qinglangang	781,983	
		Dongfang	781,983	
	Provincial-Greening island	Dongzhaigang	344,073	
		Qinglangang	1,908,039	
		Fanjia	1,345,011	
		Sanya	1,094,776	
		Dongfang	938,380	
		Xinying NWP	938,380	
2016	National - Wetland conservation and restoration	Dongzhaigang	724,113	2,780,594
		Qinglangang	434,468	
		Xinying NWP	724,113	
	National -Wetland conservation reward	Lingshui WP	724,113	

Year	Source	PAs	Amount USD	Subtotal USD
	Provincial-Greening island	Xinying Bay	173,787	
2017	National - Wetland conservation and restoration	Dongzhaigang, Meishehe NWP	211,576	1,375,246
		Sanya	75,563	
		Xinying Bay	272,027	
		Qinglangang	211,576	
		Dongfang	151,126	
		Lingshui WP	453,378	
			Total	18,043,455

3.2.3 Monitoring & evaluation: design at entry and implementation

- The ProDoc and SRF included a comprehensive, well developed M&E design embracing both quantitative and qualitative indicators, including, but not limited to:
 - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).
 - Ecosystem Health Index (EHI).
 - Institutional Capacity Score Assessment (CSA).
 - Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) assessment.
 - Area coverage of Protected Areas (PAs) (with clear target).
 - Financial sustainability of PA system (with clear target).
 - Development of regulations, policies, management plans and guidelines (with clear target).
- Pre-project assessments of these indicators were conducted during project-design and included in the ProDoc, providing a very strong baseline against which to measure project progress through the periodic M&E activities.
- Overall, the TE consultants consider that the M&E design as contained in the ProDoc is a textbook example of how a proper M&E Plan should be formulated, and can be used as a model for other similar projects, subject to some minor improvements as outlined in section 3.1.1 of this report.
- The PMO adhered to the M&E Plan including reporting indicators and targets against the baselines as contained in the ProDoc / SRF. The PMO complied very well with the quarterly, annual, mid-term and terminal reporting requirements of UNDP-GEF, and also developed a Self-assessment report for the TE, which was innovative and extremely useful to the TE team.
- The Project undertook systematic training and capacity building of experts and Protected Area personnel in M&E methodologies, including METT and EHI.
- However, there were some deficiencies in the implementation of the M&E Plan, including but not limited to:
 - Reliance on 'self-assessments' by teams of people who are associated in one-way or another with the subject PA or the Project overall to undertake evaluations.

- b) A natural tendency for self-assessments to score overly-positive, and in some cases the supporting explanations not being fully justified or totally correct.
- c) While checking of the EHI, METT and other self-assessments by experts was conducted – these experts were not always fully independent of the Project.
- d) Not identifying and reporting limitations in supporting data and thus weaknesses of evaluation findings.

3.2.4 UNDP implementation & partner execution

1. The UNDP CO was a highly active member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and was fully engaged and intimately involved in all aspects of the project from design and inception onwards, providing strong levels of support ranging from high-level strategic issues to detailed technical and administrative issues.
 2. All stakeholders consulted, including the PMO, AFD and other provincial agencies reported very high levels of satisfaction with the level of support provided by UNDP for project implementation. Feedback was also that UNDP CO staff maintained an “open-door” policy whereby they could be approached for advice, assistance, guidance and support on any issue at any time. Feedback was that all requests to the UNDP Country Office were responded to very rapidly.
 3. Satisfaction was also expressed with the level and quality of support provided by both the UNDP RTA and the project Chief Technical Adviser CTA who had previously served the Project.
 4. Satisfaction was also expressed with the various training provided by UNDP, including on project management.
 5. It was reported that the organizational arrangements made by the UNDP CO for the MTR were highly satisfactory. The experience of this TE team was that the organizational arrangements made by the UNDP CO for the TE were outstanding, with every detail being taken care of with efficiency and effectiveness.
 6. The TE team noted that the Project includes some activities that are relevant to the UNDP Social & Environment Standards (SES) and the ProDoc includes a social and environment screening. During project implementation negative environmental impacts from some mangrove restoration activities were not identified and reported. The TE is of the view that greater attention could have been paid to SES compliance in standard Project progress reports (QPR, APRs, PIRs etc) and greater attention should be paid to SES in future projects.
- A significant issue identified during the TE is that reportedly, the UNDP CO had requested HFD to implement punitive actions against the Project Manager for allegedly not fully complying with relevant procurement policies and procedures (note that there are conflicting reports as to the originator of the punitive action). It is understood that these punitive actions included action by HFD to freeze payment of the Project Manager’s salary for some months, although it is understood that this has now been redressed.
 - The TE did observe some concerns about PMO procurement practices (see below), however the TE team is of the view that the correct response should have been “corrective” action, not “punitive” action, and should be taken in accordance with applicable rules, regulations and employee rights.

7. With regard to partner execution, the HFD, as Executing Agency, is fully committed to the Project right up to the highest levels, and has provided strong and constant support to the PMO, has chaired and led the PSC, and has committed significant co-financing to the project, reportedly well in excess of commitments at project start (almost \$1 million more).
8. Based on expenditure as a measure, the Project has achieved an execution rate of 83.8 % to date – which is very high compared to similar projects.
9. The PMO staff and especially the Project Manager exhibited extremely high levels of enthusiasm, commitment, work ethic and management capability, efficiency and effectiveness. Every single stakeholder that was consulted by the TE team expressed the highest levels of respect and appreciated for the efforts and effectiveness of the Project Manager and the PMO as a whole.
10. The PMO has developed and followed clear and detailed workplans, and most project outputs and targets have been significantly achieved, and in many cases well exceeded, which is the most important indicator of the quality of execution.
11. The results of M&E activities including the MTR have been effectively taken on by the PMO and project design and implementation have been effectively adapted as required.
12. The PMO was extremely responsive to all requests from the TE team during the TE process, and exhibited a very high ability for adaptive management, accommodating last minute requests for schedule changes and other demands immediately, efficiently and effectively.
13. While not having a scientific or technical background, the Project Manager exhibited a remarkable level of the knowledge of ecological principles and best management practices relating wetland ecosystems. Effective use has been made of experts, and very high levels of respect and appreciation were also expressed for the CTA who had served the Project previously.
14. The TE does have some non-trivial concerns about some aspects of the quality of execution by HFD / PMO as follows:
 - a) It appears that the PMO awarded a number of consultancy and other contracts without clear Terms of Reference being established up-front, and in some cases with the consultant being allowed to develop the Terms of Reference, and sometimes without transparent, competitive bidding procedures.
 - b) It is understood that some consultancy work that was likely to exceed 200,000 Yuan (about US\$32,000), which would need to be procured through public bidding under HFD rules, were somewhat intentionally broken down into several small-sized contracts.
 - c) It appears that some consultants, experts, institutions and even NGOs were contracted based merely on professional contacts, rather than open bidding, and were allowed to develop their own Terms of Reference and frame their proposals and costings, having been told the available budget in advance, and with final price and scope of work being developed in consultation with the selected consultant / institution. This is very poor procurement practice, and raises questions about transparency and equity.

- d) It appears that one consultant was engaged without proper approval and undertook significant work (approx. US\$20K worth) without a formal contract in place (and reportedly has not yet been paid for that work).
 - e) There was potential conflict of interest with experts on the project review committee being from an institution that was also contracted to undertake consultancy work (although the PMO claims that any such member of the review committee would not review work from its institution).
 - f) Arrangements were entered into with authors and a publishing house for two books produced by the Project, whereby the authors and publishing house will own copyright and benefit commercially from sale of the books – which the TE considers to be an inappropriate use of GEF funds. Copyright should rest with UNDP or HFD and there should be no commercial gain to individuals or companies from the sale of products that are developed using GEF funds – any returns should be invested back into project-related activities.
15. It is understood that the Project Manager and other PMO staff were provided with various training by UNDP in project and financial management procedures so they should have been aware of the correct procedures.
16. The quality of execution by the Executing Agency was also reduced by the totally inappropriate punitive action taken against the Project Manager as outlined above (salary freeze for several months).
17. There are some other areas where the quality of execution could be improved, and these are described in sections 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 below.

3.3 Project Results

3.3.1 Overall results (attainment of objectives)

1. Overall, the Project has achieved or exceeded the objective and most of the outcomes and targets as assessed by the indicators in the Project SRF as shown in Table 10 (with some comments from the TE in “blue”).

TABLE 10: Overall Project results at July 2018 (TE period) (based on the Project SRF) (TE comments in BLUE)

Objective

To strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
The area of ecosystems covered by Hainan's terrestrial PA system increases by at least 40,000 ha with improved coverage of under-represented types by 2018 in line with the draft PA System Master Plan, project strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem and climate change resilience strategy.	Hainan's terrestrial PA system covers 285,600 ha Vegetation Type Current (Km²) 32a 7.6 33a 9.6 41a 8.5 43c 0 44 36.5 80b 1.5	(not set or not applicable)	Hainan's terrestrial PA system covers at least 325,600 ha by 2018 Vegetation Type Target (Km²) 32a 15 33a 15 41a 15 43c 15 44 40 80b 5	Achieved (in fact, over-achieved by 18,370 ha) Vegetation Type Target (Km²) Achieved Coverage 32a 15 192.88 33a 15 68.09 41a 15 17.97 43c 15 19.12 44 40 45.39 80b 5 46.16 By June 2018, Hainan's terrestrial PA system covers 343,970 ha with an increase of 58,370 ha. Since 2013, Hainan has established 25 new PAs, including 14 forest parks (1 national and 13 provincial), 9 wetland parks (4 national and 5 provincial) and 2 geoparks (1 provincial and 1 national). In addition, a new PA, E'Xianling Provincial Nature Reserve with an area of 6,681 ha, is expected to be approved by the government before end of 2018 which will cover 2 under-representative vegetation types(32a+43c, also located to a reservoir, so that it's wetland related). Regarding the coverage of under-represented types, the actual increase will be much higher, once the boundary maps of new PAs is fully completed (2 new national wetland parks and 2 geoparks are still to added - , due to the conversion of different coordinate systems).
Strengthened management effectiveness of 7 PAs in the Hainan Mangrove PA Network indicated by METT scores: Dongzhaigang NNR Xinying Mangrove NWP Qinglangang PNR Dongfang PNR Sanya City NR Xinying Bay City NR Huachang Bay County NR	METT Baseline scores: 43 26 39 45 30 15 27	(not set or not applicable)	METT target scores: 70 50 60 65 50 50 50	Achieved (TE comment: Note observed limitations with these scores outlined in section 3.2.3 however TE accepts that overall trend is positive) The end of project METT result(July 2018) is as followed: Dongzhaigang 75 Xinying WP 67 Qinglangang 60 Dongfang 68 Sanya 54 Xinying Bay 50 Hongshuwan 52

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
				<p>5 of the 7 PAs exceeded the target, and the remaining 2 met the target. The average score is 61, which is higher than the average target of 56.</p> <p>The project major outcome related to this indicator are as followed:</p> <p>1) In 2014-2015, the professional competency standard for Hainan NRs' staff was developed by the project, passed expert review, applied on a trial basis in Yinggeling NNR, reviewed further to incorporate IUCN standard and then will be introduced to other PAs through training workshop in Sept. 2018.</p> <p>2) An action plan for Hainan Forestry PA system management is developed and will be finalized in Aug. 2018. The plan aims to improve the management capacity of the system over the next 5 years.</p> <p>3) To date, the project has organized 22 training events for PAs in Hainan covering various topics relevant to PA management, participated by 832 person-times including 141 female-times. In addition, 5 study tours to other provinces were organized to exchange experiences. 58 person-times participated in these tours.</p>
<p>Planned improvement in the financial sustainability of the provincial PA system at site and system level indicated by Part II of the GEF financial sustainability scorecard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 1 – Legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks - Component 2 – Business planning and tools for cost- effective management - Component 3 – Tools for revenue generation 	<p>Financial scorecard baselines:</p> <p>31%</p> <p>31%</p> <p>11%</p>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>Financial scorecard targets:</p> <p>60%</p> <p>56%</p> <p>30%</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>(TE comment: Note observed limitations with these scores outlined in section 3.2.3 however TE accepts that overall trend is positive)</p> <p>According to the finalized financial scorecard assessment, The end-of-project results are:</p> <p>1) 60%</p> <p>2) 56%</p> <p>3) 37%.</p> <p>The major achievements related Component 1&2 met the targets, and component 3 exceeded the target.</p> <p>to this indicator are following:</p> <p>In 2016, the project developed the Hainan Nature Reserve System Financing Evaluation and Strategy. This endeavor laid the first stone of introducing business plans to protected area planning framework, and informed development of the Regulation of Wetland Protection in Hainan and the Master Plan for Hainan Wetland Conservation.</p> <p>The Regulations of Wetland Protection in Hainan was passed on May 29, 2018, and it will come into effect on July 1, 2018. According to the regulation, the provincial and county government shall establish a diversified mechanism for investing</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in “blue”)
				in the protection and restoration of wetlands, and form a multi-input system with government investment as the guide, social investment as the main body, and financial support as the auxiliary. Thus the legal framework for a multi-input system is established. A business plan was developed for the Xinying National WP by the project and adopted and applied by the Xinying NWP since beginning of 2018. (with eco-tourism as the main revenue generator) Business plans are not yet developed for other PAs.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Achieved		
Outcome 1				
Improved protection and management of Hainan’s ecosystems through expansion, consolidation and sustainable financing of the provincial PA system				
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start
Financing Plan for the expanded PA system under Hainan Master Plan for the PA System including strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem	Master Plan for Hainan PA System awaiting approval, no financing plan	(not set or not applicable)	Financing Plan for an expanded PA system approved by HFD and incorporated into Hainan Master Plan for the PA System, including a strategy and action plan for the wetland PA system. [TARGET REVISED according to MTR; it used to be 'Financing Plan approved for the expanded PA system under Hainan Master Plan for the PA System including strategy and action plan for the wetland PA subsystem']	Achieved for the wetland PA sub-system. (TE comment: Actual implementation and real levels of financing need to be tracked) A Master Plan for the Hainan PA System generally has not been developed as the project has focused on wetland PAs. The Master Plan for Hainan Wetland Conservation, including financing mechanisms, was developed by HWAPPB within HFD with technical support from the Project and adopted by HWAPPB in 2017, meeting the target for an action plan for the wetland PA system. Additionally, in 2016, the project developed the Hainan Nature Reserve System Financing Evaluation and Strategy, which informed development of the Regulation of Wetland Protection in Hainan and the Master Plan for Hainan Wetland Conservation. At a broader provisional level, the Hainan Ecological Environment Protection Department(HEEPD) is developing an overall Development Plan for Hainan Nature Reserves, which will include financing mechanisms. The Project has provided its Hainan Nature Reserve System Financing Evaluation and Strategy to HEEP D to inform this process. In addition, in Sept. 2017, the Hainan Provincial Government Office officially issued the Hainan Wetland Conservation and Restoration System Implementation Plan drafted by the Hainan Forestry Department, facilitated by the Project. Overall targets for wetland conservation and restoration are clearly set in the plan. A list of proposed wetland PAs were included into the plan.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in “blue”)
				According to the Hainan Wetland Conservation and Restoration System Implementation Plan the Hainan Finance Department, together with other relevant departments will guide social and financial capital to participate in wetland conservation and restoration through financial interest subsidy, explore the use of government and social capital cooperation (PPP) models, and form a multi-channel investment mechanisms, such as government investment, social financing, and private investment.
National and provincial financing for PA system through HFD increased to close the existing annual financing gap of US\$6.69 million for basic expenditure scenario	Annual financing available for PA System: US\$ 8.06 million / year	(not set or not applicable)	Annual financing available for PA System + Projected annual financing gap for basic expenditure scenario in year 2012+5: US\$19.92 million per year	Achieved (in fact exceeded by US\$7.61 million for 2017) In 2017, the national and provincial financing for PA system through HFD increased to US\$ 27.53million.
Improved PA system management capacity of Hainan Forestry Department, Land Environment & Resources Department, and Marine and Fisheries Department as shown by the UNDP Capacity Scorecard	Capacity Scorecard baselines : HFD: 50% HLERD: 56% HMFD: 74%	(not set or not applicable)	Capacity Scorecard targets: HFD: 65% HEEPD (formerly HLERD): 60% [REVISED] HMFD: 80% [TARGET REVISED for HEEPDP according to MTR; HLERD has been split into two departments. The target for HLERD was originally 65%. This has been updated to set a realistic target for HEEPDP, Hainan Ecological Environment Protection Department which is in charge of PAs]	Achieved. (TE comment: Note observed limitations with these scores outlined in section 3.2.3 however TE accepts that overall trend is positive) The final capacity scorecard results is as followed: HFD: 71% HEEPD:73% HMFD: 80.2% In 2017 central govt. (South China Inspection Sub-centre) undertook inspection and audit of all aspects of environment protection (including PA management) in Hainan and identified significant issues, gaps and needs, which stimulated all PAs to improve their management capacity. In 2017, the project supported the revision of the comprehensive management assessment methodology for nature reserves in Hainan with involvement of HFD, HEEPDP, HMFD in order to better supervise the management effectiveness of all nature reserves under respective departments. In July 2017, the finalized assessment methodology were provided to HEEPDP for further application, as HEEPDP is the responsible authority for administration of all nature reserves in Hainan.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Achieved		
Outcome 2				
Strengthened protection, participatory management and restoration of mangrove forests through the development of a Mangrove PA Network (MPAN)				
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
Operational MPAN is evident through: i) Official recognition of Mangrove PA Network in Hainan PA system plans. ii) Network coordination centre and training base established at Dongzhaigang NNR iii) All MPAN sites upload and update required site information to MPAN database according to agreed protocols	Mangrove PAs are not networked, lack of common management methods and standards, limited information exchange	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Operational MPAN evident through: i) Official recognition of Mangrove PA Network in Hainan PA system plans. ii) Network coordination centre and training base established at Dongzhaigang NNR iii) All MPAN sites upload and update required site information to MPAN database according to agreed protocols	Achieved. 1) Established and officially recognized in HFD/WAPPB written notification to all wetland PAs in Dec. 2014. The Network has held 4 annual meetings. The number of network members has increased from an initial 10 (including 8 mangrove PA and 2 'non-mangrove' PAs) to 15 (including 12 mangrove PA and 3 'non-mangrove' PAs) in 2018. Through public events, training events, workshops and study tours that were organized by the project within or with the Network, learning from each other and collaboration has proved to be very helpful to enhance the overall management of the PAs. 2) A training center was established in Dongzhaigang and the network coordination centre is in the HWAPPB (Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau). As the training center and the model for wetland management, Dongzhaigang hosts training events and receives visits from other members every year. HWAPPB, which is in charge of wetlands and forestry PAs in Hainan, had recognized the network and will act as the coordinating agency for the network after the project ends. 3) The database in Dongzhaigang NNR and Xinying NWP is in normal operation and the monitoring data is already uploaded. All network sites information including the monitoring data are reported and shared during the network meeting. The HFD's Forestry Resources Information Platform (Phase II) Project, which is planned to link all wetland PAs, is extended to be completed in 2018 due to the slow design process.
Improved ecosystem health status of the selected Hainan mangrove PA network sites, indicated by the improvement in the MSL's Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) *EHI baselines & targets to be established in Year 1 for other sites: Dongfang PNR, Sanya City NR, Xinying Bay City NR, Huachang Bay County NR	EHI baselines for selected sites*: Dongzhaigang NNR: 0.468 Qinglangang PNR: 0.444 Xinying mangrove NWP: 0.441 Sanya He NR 0.53 Qingmeigang NR 0.49 Tielugang NR 0.33 Dongfang NR 0.53 Haiwei WP 0.53 Yinggelang NR 0.71	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	EHI targets for selected sites*: Dongzhaigang NNR: 0.600 Qinglangang PNR: 0.600 Xinying mangrove NWP: 0.600 Sanya He NR 0.60 QingmeigangNR 0.60 Tielugang NR 0.55 Dongfang NR 0.65 Haiwei WP 0.62 Yinggelang NR 0.80 Fanjia NR 0.72 XinyingBay NR 0.55 Hongshuwan WP 0.60	Undertaken March-April 2018 On track. (TE comment: Note observed limitations with these scores outlined in section 3.2.3 however TE accepts that overall trend is positive) Name of PA 2018 score Dongzhaigang NNR 0.62 QinglangangNR 0.55 XinyingNWP 0.69 Sanya He NR 0.61 QingmeigangNR 0.62 TielugangNR 0.43 DongfangNR 0.65 HaiweiWP 0.67 YinggelangNR 0.81 FanjiaNR 0.71

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
	<p>Fanjia NR 0.60 XinyingBay NR 0.41 Hongshuwan WP 0.41</p> <p>[BASELINES UPDATED according to MTR; originally only the baselines for the first three sites were listed]</p>		[TARGETS UPDATED according to MTR; originally only the targets for the first three sites were listed]	<p>XinyingWanNR 0.61 HongshuwanWP 0.63</p> <p>EHI scores for all 12 sites have made significant advance over the 4 years of the project. Though 3 PAs are a little below the target, many have exceeded the target. The overall average score is 0.63, which is 0.01 more than the target average. The main areas for improvement are in the form of improved legal status and enforcement and are derived from revisions and new legislation for protection of wetlands at both national and provincial levels and in some cases the legal status of individual sites has been upgraded during the project lifetime.</p> <p>The average increase in EHI is 30% over the 2014 baseline. This is satisfactory in terms of the target set in the PD.</p>
<p>Increased protection status of selected wetland related reserves, taking full account of access and benefit sharing rights of indigenous / minority ethnic group stakeholders.</p> <p>**Yinggeling is a forested catchment area for Haikou area</p>	<p>1. Yinggeling PNR** (50,464 ha);</p> <p>2. Fanjia PNR (>5,000 ha);</p> <p>3. Haiwei Prov. Wetland Park (c.300 ha)</p> <p>4. Sanya City NR (728ha)</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>1. Yinggeling PNR becomes NNR;</p> <p>2. Fanjia PNR becomes NNR;</p> <p>3. Haiwei Prov. Wetland Park becomes NWP.</p> <p>4. Sanya City NR becomes PNR.</p>	<p>On track. (TE comment: Needs follow up)</p> <p>1. Yinggeling NR was upgraded to become a National Nature Reserve in 2014.</p> <p>2. Fanjia is included into the proposed national park, called "Hainan Tropical Forest National Park". The provincial government is now doing its best to plan the establishment of a national park, which is the first one in Hainan. The application will be submitted to the national government by end of 2018.</p> <p>3. Haiwei Wetland Park was approved at the end of 2017 by SFA to become a National Wetland Park (Pilot).</p> <p>4. A national wetland park is established in connection to Sanya CNR. Thus both the upper and lower reaches of the Sanya River are included into the PA system and are better protected. Furthermore, in the beginning of 2018, through evaluation, Sanya CNR and Qinglangang PNR is designated as the demonstration wetland PAs of Hainan by Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau.</p>
<p>Increase in the number of wintering Black-faced Spoonbills Platalea minor in Hainan</p>	<p>Wintering population of 46 BF Spoonbills</p> <p>[BASELINE CORRECTED according to MTR; it was incorrectly showing '76' in the PIR system]</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Wintering population of 76 BF Spoonbills with a stable or increasing trend</p> <p>[TARGET CORRECTED according to MTR; it was incorrectly showing '100' in the PIR system]</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>According to the results of the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census in counted every January, the numbers in Hainan from 2014 to 2017 is respectively 56(2014), 54(2015), 77(2016), 66(2017) and 79(2018). In general, the increase is remarkable, though with a little fluctuation.</p> <p>In 2018 of the 79 black-faced spoonbills recorded, 36 were at Dongfang, 13 were at Xinying Bay, 30 were at Xinying, which are all wetland PAs supported by the project, located on the west coast of Hainan.</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
				Dongfang PNR was established in 2006 specifically to protect spoonbill habitat, after Black-faced spoonbills were observed there in 2004. The project supported the PNR to apply for membership of the EAAF Partnership in 2016, this has been accepted and will be formally announced at an EAAFP meeting nearly Dongfang in Dec. 2018. At Xinying Bay CNR a masterplan is being developed to support upgrading to a PNR with a high priority given to Black-faced Spoonbill habitat by increasing the area of mudflats protected by the PA.
Viable alternative options are demonstrated for target communities impacting mangrove resources at Dongzhaigang and Qinglangang that result in more sustainable resource use and include the equitable representation and involvement of women.	No assistance available from PA system to help local communities with economic opportunities	(not set or not applicable)	New co-management structures are established that support and strengthen alternative livelihood options for target communities, including equitable representation and involvement of women.	Achieved. The two 3-year community co-management plans for Dongzhaigang and Qinglangang NRs, were developed in 2016 through participatory approach. While these plans end in 2018, co-management activities will continue at both PAs with support from HFD especially related to conversion of fish ponds to wetlands. Co-management structures in demonstration villages were established. Bee-keeping is demonstrated and sustainable fishery practices is promoted through development of a guideline and awareness events. In addition, during this report period, the project also strives to promote and demonstrate community-based eco-tourism in the Xinying NWP communities with good progress. In 2017, the villagers received 184 visitors and provided them food and accommodation, which was the very first experience that the community gets income from eco-tourism. Preferential selection were given to women from the communities to participate in training and provide services such as transportation, guiding and catering the visitors during project activities.
Increased area of mangrove cover and associated wetland habitats (including estuarine and coastal mudflats), in unproductive aquaculture ponds and other suitable areas within and adjacent to project demonstration reserves through restoration of hydrological regimes and natural regeneration of the vegetation or, only where necessary, replanting a representative diversity of native mangrove species. [INDICATOR REVISED according to MTR; it used to be 'Increased area of mangrove cover within and	See table inset below for baseline area of mangrove cover and area of existing replanting efforts at selected sites Site Mangrove Area Existing Replanted Area Dongzhaigang NNR 1578 ha 60 ha	(not set or not applicable)	1,000 ha of mangrove forest and associated wetland habitats (including estuarine and coastal mudflats) restored in terms of hydrological regimes and natural regeneration of the vegetation or, only where necessary, replanting a representative diversity of native mangrove species [TARGET REVISED according to MTR; it used to set an individual target for each site as follows '1,000 ha of mangrove forest replanted with native species at selected sites, Dongzhaigang NNR 600	Achieved (exceeded by 71.71ha). (TE comment: Some mangrove restoration has caused negative impacts - planting mangroves on tidal mud-flats alters wader bird habitat including for spoon bills which are critical species) The increase in restored mangrove forest and mangrove-associated wetland habitats in the selected PAs were as follows: Dongzhaigang NNR 188.91 ha, Qinglangang PNR 320.73 ha, Xinying NWP 16.8 ha, Dongfang PNR 81.93ha, Sanya CNR 67.67 ha,

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in “blue”)
adjacent to project demonstration reserves through replanting activities in unproductive aquaculture ponds and other suitable areas']	Qinglangang PNR 1233 ha 0 ha Xinying NWP 150 ha Dongfang PNR 250 ha Sanya CNR 60 ha 10 ha Total 3271 ha		ha, Qinglangang PNR 300 ha, Xinying NWP 10 ha, Dongfang PNR 50 ha, Sanya CNR 50 ha]	Dongfang 61.73 ha, Lingshui NWP 333.93 ha. Total 1071.71ha. Furthermore, an implementation plan to convert aquaculture ponds into mangrove wetlands was officially issued by the provincial government in Feb. 2018. The target is to convert 666.67ha of ponds to mangroves by end of 2019.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		On track		
Outcome 3 Improved integration of wetland conservation into development and sectoral planning and practices through a strengthened PA System Management Framework including economic valuation of ecosystem services				
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Cumulative progress since project start
Sector specific standards for tourism and coastal fisheries are consistent with international standards for responsible ecotourism and fishery practices	Existing plans and practices for key sectors including tourism and fishery development do not adequately address key issues for wetland PAs	(not set or not applicable)	Demonstrated voluntary uptake of community-based ecotourism guidelines with international standards (based on ecotourism category of the ASEAN Tourism Standards) by 20 tourism-related agencies, and uptake of community-based Guidelines for Sustainable Fisheries (based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related guidelines) by 2 villages. [TARGET REVISED according to MTR; it used to be 'Approval and demonstrated voluntary uptake of sector specific standards for tourism by 20 companies (based on ecotourism category of the ASEAN Tourism Standards) and coastal fisheries by 2 villages (based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related guidelines)']	Achieved. A guideline on community-based eco-tourism in and around PAs was develop, based on its demonstration and practices in Xinying National Wetland Park and with reference to ASEAN Association standards for ecotourism. In March, the guideline was introduced to tourism-related agencies during a specialized workshop and received very positive response for application. To date 23 tourism-related agencies (travel agencies and NGOs which conduct tours in PAs) have signed a statement agreeing to follow the community-based ecotourism guidelines. A guideline for sustainable fisheries, a booklet of common seafood in Dongzhaigang, with seafood consumption advice and information on minimum catchable size of commonly caught species, as well as a poster of prohibited illegal fishing gear were produced to promote environmental friendly fisheries in the surrounding communities in Dongzhaigang. A specialized community promotion event was organized in Dongzhaigang in May 2018.The booklets and posters were distributed and posted which arouses good attention from both the communities and Haikou citizens, who consume most of the seafood from Dongzhaigang. 2 villages agree to uptake the sustainable fisheries guidelines

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
Key development and sectoral plans such as the 13th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for key sectors include explicit reference to conservation of the Mangrove PA Network	12th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for tourism, fisheries, water resources and other key sectors do not adequately address wetland conservation	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	13th 5-year plan and subsidiary plans for tourism (including the Hainan International Tourism Island Master Plan), fisheries, water resources and other key sectors include explicit reference to conservation of the Mangrove PA Network	<p>Achieved. (TE comment: Need to ensure greater linkages, coordination and consistency between the various layers of plans) Wetland conservation is being integrated into relevant sectoral plans.</p> <p>The Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of Hainan clearly defines the existing 320,000 hectares of wetland as the total control target, and lists the wetland restoration and protection project as one of the ten priority projects for ecological protection. The "13th Five-Year Plan for Water Development in Hainan Province" formulated by the Water Resources Department incorporates the ecological restoration of coastal and riverside wetland and the protection and restoration of coastal mangroves into the water ecological restoration project in the West and North of Hainan. In the "Hainan Tourism Development Master Plan (2017-2030)" formulated by the Tourism Development Commission, the wetland park belongs to forest ecotourism resources, and specifically proposes to protect the original ecology of the wetland environmental landscape, and to retain and expand the proportion of wetland ecological space as much as possible. In the Hainan Provincial Marine Thematic Functional Area Plan formulated by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, PAs members of Hainan Mangrove Wetland PA Network, Dongzhaigang, Qinglangang and Dongfang Black-faced Spoonbill NRs, were included in the marine forbidden development zone; the region also specifically mentions the need to focus on the protection of marine ecosystems such as marine nature reserves, coastal wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs.</p> <p>On Sept. 17, 2017, Hainan Provincial Government Office officially issued the Hainan Wetland Conservation and Restoration System Implementation Plan. Overall targets for wetland conservation and restoration are clearly set in the plan.</p> <p>Five days later, the decision to further strengthen the construction of ecological civilization and write a beautiful Chinese Hainan chapter was passed by the CPC Hainan Provincial Party Committee. To need to fully restore wetland and specially mangrove ecosystem was specifically mentioned in the document. In March 2018, the Marine Main Functional Area Plan of Hainan Province was officially issued by the provincial government. Mangroves PAs were listed into the marine prohibited development area.</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
				In the draft 'Full-Implementation Work Plan of River and Lake Chief System' by the Water Resources Department, which is to be issued in a few months, wetland conservation targets are also listed in accordance with the above mentioned Wetland Conservation and Restoration System Implementation Plan .
Cross-sectoral coordinating body established at provincial level to mainstream wetland conservation. [INDICATOR REVISED according to MTR; it used to be 'Establishment of a suitable cross-sector body at provincial level to facilitate mainstreaming of wetland conservation into sectoral policies, plans and practices']	Coordination between wetland PA subsystem management and development planning and sector planning occurs but is largely responsive and ad hoc	(not set or not applicable)	Cross-sector body institutionalised and reports annually to provincial government on status of policy and regulatory provisions for wetland conservation in other sectors, notably agriculture, fisheries, tourism etc. [TARGET REVISED according to MTR; it used to be 'A permanent cross-sector body is established at provincial level, formally recognized by all sectors and proactively promoting and facilitating strategic inter-sector coordination on wetland conservation']	Achieved. The new Regulation of Wetland Conservation in Hainan Article 6 mandates the establishment and operation of provincial, municipal and county cross-sector, inter-departmental coordination mechanisms for the protection and management of wetland. In addition, there is an existing permanent cross-sector coordination mechanism through the called Provincial, Municipal, County and Township River Chief Offices. There are 17 member departments including all wetland-related sectors and the wetland conservation target is included in the river and lake chief system work plan, this leading group also plays the role of inter-sector coordination on wetland issues. The leading group will continue to be in operation and hold meetings after the project ends.
Awareness of the value of Hainan's mangrove ecosystem services is increased across a cross-section of provincial audiences (the end-of-project assessment will include gender disaggregated data)	(See inset table below for baseline scores and Annex 6 for details Audiences / Full scores / Scores attained / % of full scores Officials / 49 / 27.0 / 55 Enterprise / 45 / 22.5 / 50 NGO / 36 / 19.4 / 54 Media / 46 / 26.6 / 58 Student / 40 / 19.4 / 49 Rural / 49 / 15.1 / 31 Urban / 49 / 24.1 / 49 Sub-total / 314 / 154.1 / 49	(not set or not applicable)	Baseline + 50% increase in awareness levels using the same methodology in the final year of the project (see inset table below) Audience / Target % of full scores Officials / 82 Enterprise / 75 NGO / 81 Media / 87 Student / 73 Rural / 46 Urban / 73 Sub-total / 73	Achieved. (TE comment: There are concerns about the rigour, representativeness and reliability of the KAP survey – these reported results should be treated with caution) The KAP survey was carried out in mid of June. The result is as follows: Audience / % of full scores : Officials / 83 Enterprise / 76 NGO / 82 Media / 87 Student / 75 Rural / 56 Urban / 74 Sub-total / 76 According to the KAP expert, the KAP scores show that throughout the project period, the knowledge, attitudes, and practices on wetland conservation have been significantly enhanced, especially in the Practice part. All the target groups especially appreciated the information, the activities, the workshops, and the technical support provided by the project. In order to promote awareness of the value of Hainan's mangrove and wetland ecosystem among various target group, the project

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Status at 30 June 2018 (status as listed is endorsed by TE team as assessed during the TE. Any additional comments added in "blue")
				designed and organized very diverse events or activities targeted at different groups during the project phase. By far, 20 public events have been organized with more than 14,500 participants from the general public and rural communities. 16 lectures were given to students, citizens and officials with more than 2,000 audience. In addition, the project produced extensive awareness materials including leaflets, booklets, schools textbooks, films, picture exhibitions covering various topics related to mangroves and wetlands.
Improved data sharing platform for Hainan's wetland PAs is established, regularly updated and in frequent use by a range of data providers and target audiences	Data on Hainan's wetland PAs are dispersed, largely unavailable online, and not regularly updated	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	A centralized database on Hainan's wetland PAs is accessible to online users, updated on a monthly basis and registers at least 100 hits per month	On track. (TE comment: TE team is not convinced that this is on track, nor whether are actually useful / designed properly) The database in Dongzhaigang NNR and Xinying NWP is in regular operation and the monitoring data is already uploaded. As for the monitoring data of other project PAs, this was reported on a yearly basis. At present, the 3 PAs database is being uploaded to the "Smart Forestry Integrated Management Platform", and authorized users can access the data online via internet. By end of the year, the target of 100 hits per month could be reached In addition, the project supported the design of the structure and content of the HMWPAN information platform in 2017, as a centralized database on Hainan's wetland PAs. This platform is to be integrated into the HFD's Forestry Resources Information Platform. Furthermore, a nature reserves and wildlife management system is to be established by Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau in 2018. This on-line system is open to all management bodies of the PA system. By far, the bidding process was completed and the contractor was selected. The work has started.
The progress of the objective can be described as:			On track	

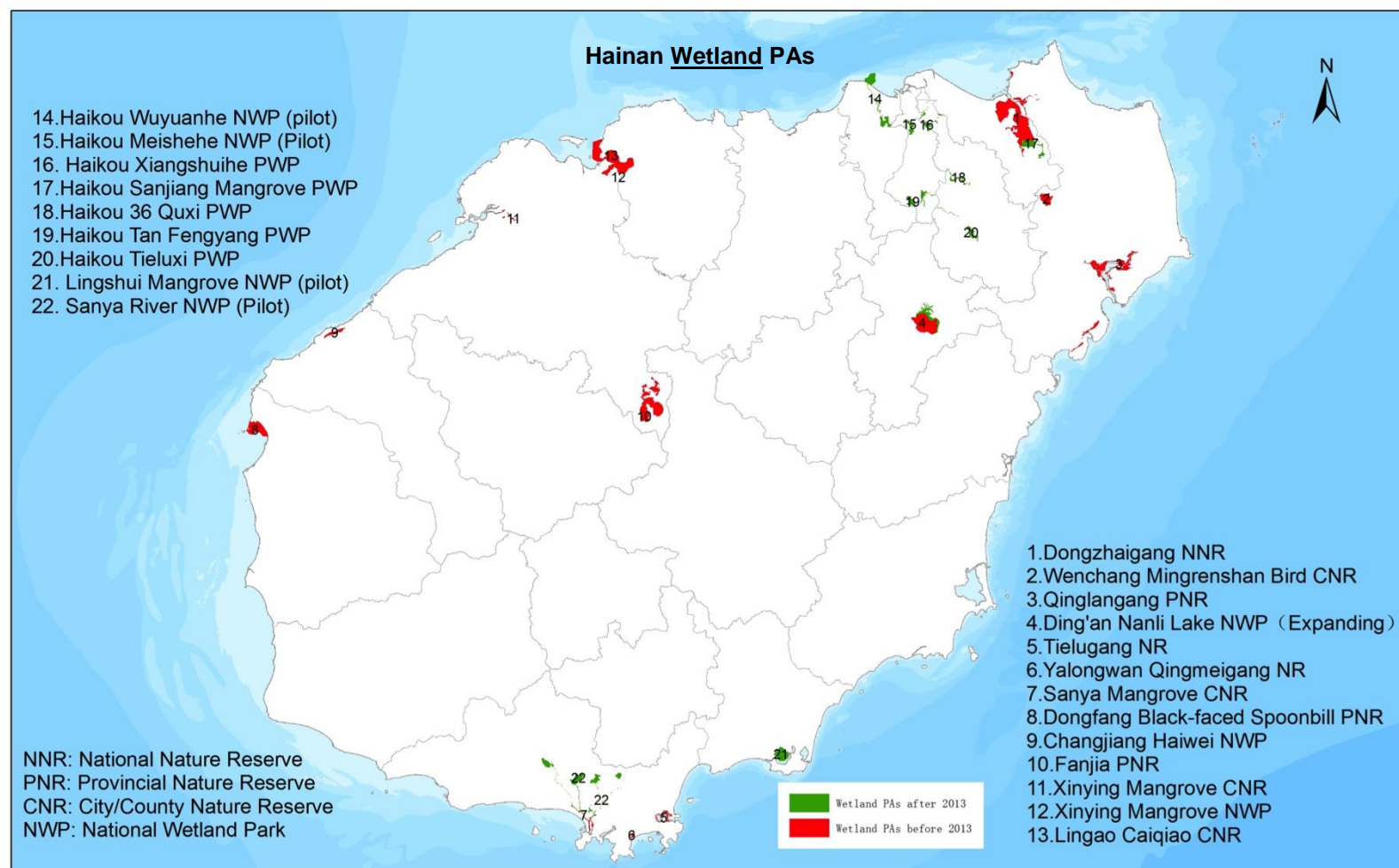


FIGURE 5A: Expansion of Hainan **Wetland PAs** during the Project period (source: PMO)

Red = existing PAs at Project Inception / **Green** = new PAs since Project inception

(note the extremely small size of the new wetland PAs and the lack of ecological connections between PAs which limits long-term ecological viability)
 (also note the total lack of wetland PAs on the mid east coast and the south west coast – which limits the ecological representativeness of the PA system)

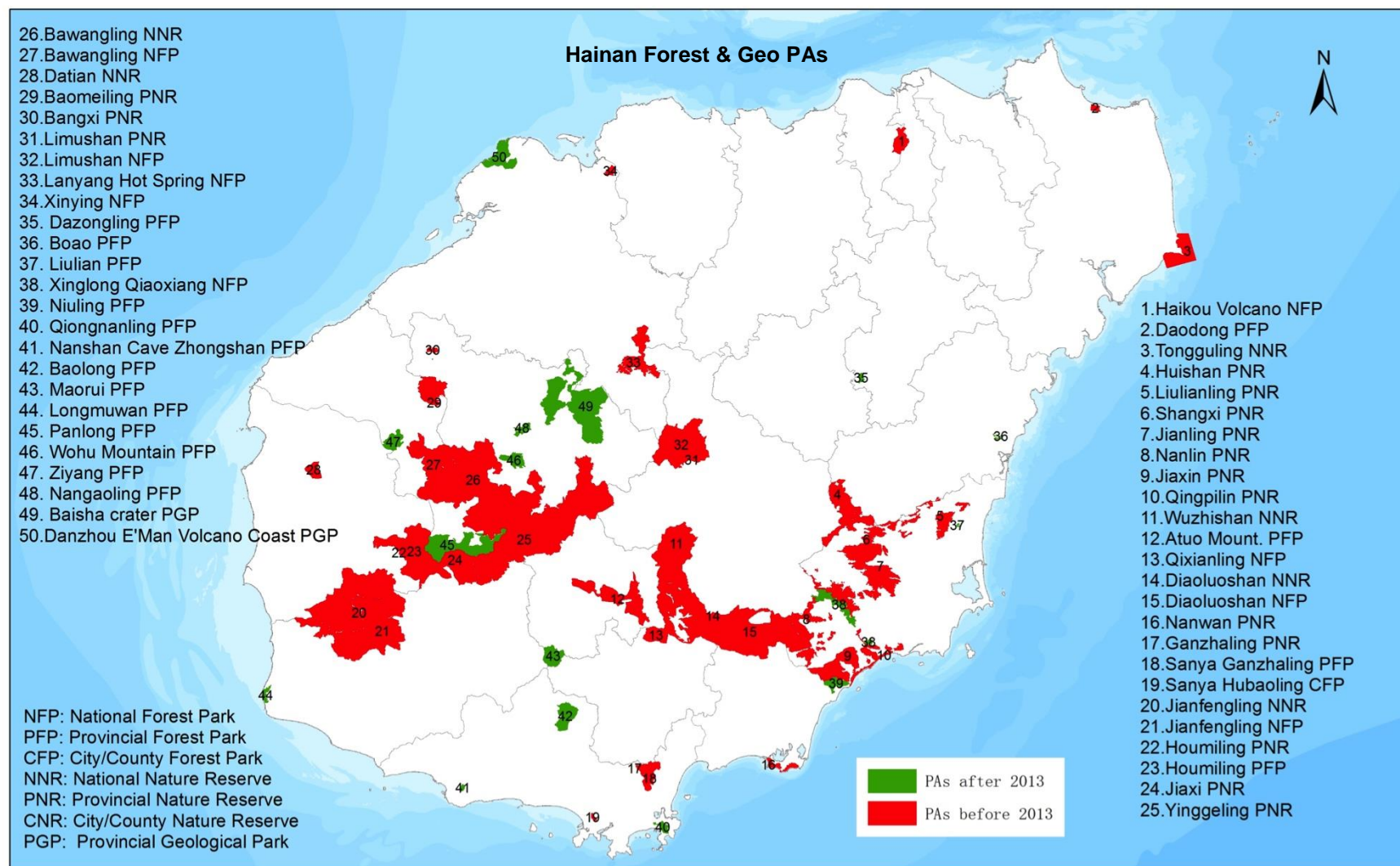


FIGURE 5B: Expansion of Hainan **Forest & Geo PAs** during the Project period (source: PMO)

Red = existing PAs at Project Inception / **Green** = new PAs since Project inception

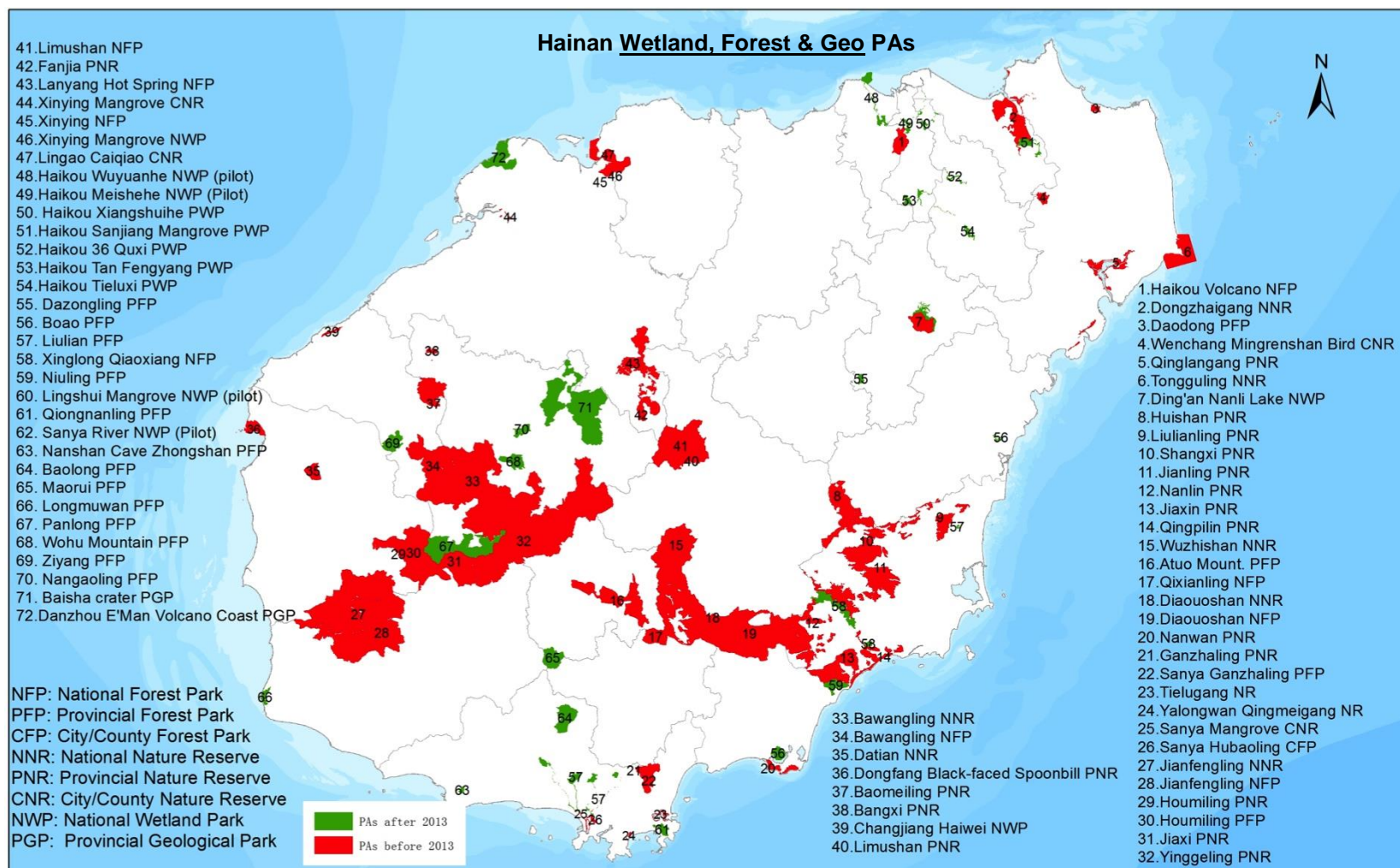


FIGURE 5C: Expansion of all Hainan Forest, Geo & Wetland PAs during the Project period (source: PMO)

Red = existing PAs at Project Inception / Green = new PAs since Project inception

3.3.2 Relevance

1. All Project components, outcomes & outputs are assessed as being highly relevant to:
 - a) GEF-5.
 - b) United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)(2016-20).
 - c) UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) (2016-20).
 - d) Country and provincial biodiversity and wetlands conservation policies, programs, needs and priorities.

3.3.3 Effectiveness

1. Overall it appears that the Project has been effective in achieving, and in many cases exceeding, the objective and most of the outcomes and targets as assessed by the indicators in the Project SRF, e.g.:
 - a) Continuous improvement in METT, EHI etc.
 - b) Reducing environmental pressures and stresses (e.g. exceeding the project target for conversion of fish and shrimp ponds to mangroves (58K ha achieved vs. 40K ha target).
 - c) A reported 58,370 ha increase in WPA coverage (exceeding the project target of 40K ha by 18,370 ha).
 - d) A reported significant increase in central and provincial government funding for PAs, with funds available for PAs under the jurisdiction of HFD reaching US\$27.53 million in 2017, which is equal to 138% of the project target value of \$19.92 million.
 - e) Level of co-financing (> \$1 million more than the original commitment).
 - f) High-level of mainstreaming, as manifested in Provincial Wetlands Regulation and adoption of a wide range of strategies, management plans and technical guidelines, and effective operation and expansion of the PSC to include additional critical sectors.
 - g) Declaration of Haikou as an International Wetlands City under the Ramsar Convention at the Ramsar meeting this September (2018).
2. The TE team reviewed the approach taken to METT, EHI etc. While the limitations listed in section 3.2.5 have undoubtedly resulted in many of the scores allocated in the METT, EHI and CSA assessments being inaccurate or inappropriate, as a result of the review session the TE team is of the view that an overall trend of improvement in the METT, EHI and CSA scores is probably generally correct, although perhaps not at the rate of improvement reported in the self-assessments.
3. Also, some activities appear to be of limited effectiveness., e.g.:
 - a) After reviewing the English Abstracts of the numerous research studies commissioned by the Project, many of them appear to be of poor quality / low scientific rigour (however, this assessment might change if the TE had access to the full reports in English).
 - b) Several of the consultancies commissioned by the Project have not been fully applied to PA management. For example despite the Project developing and promulgating best practice guidelines on mangrove restoration, the TE observed recent, large-scale conversion of critical tidal mudflat wader bird habitat to hardened, raised and filled mangrove replanting areas right in the heart of Dongzhaigang NNR, which is THE Project demonstration site (Figure 6).
 - c) The database system not fully-functional and its design is not particularly user-friendly.

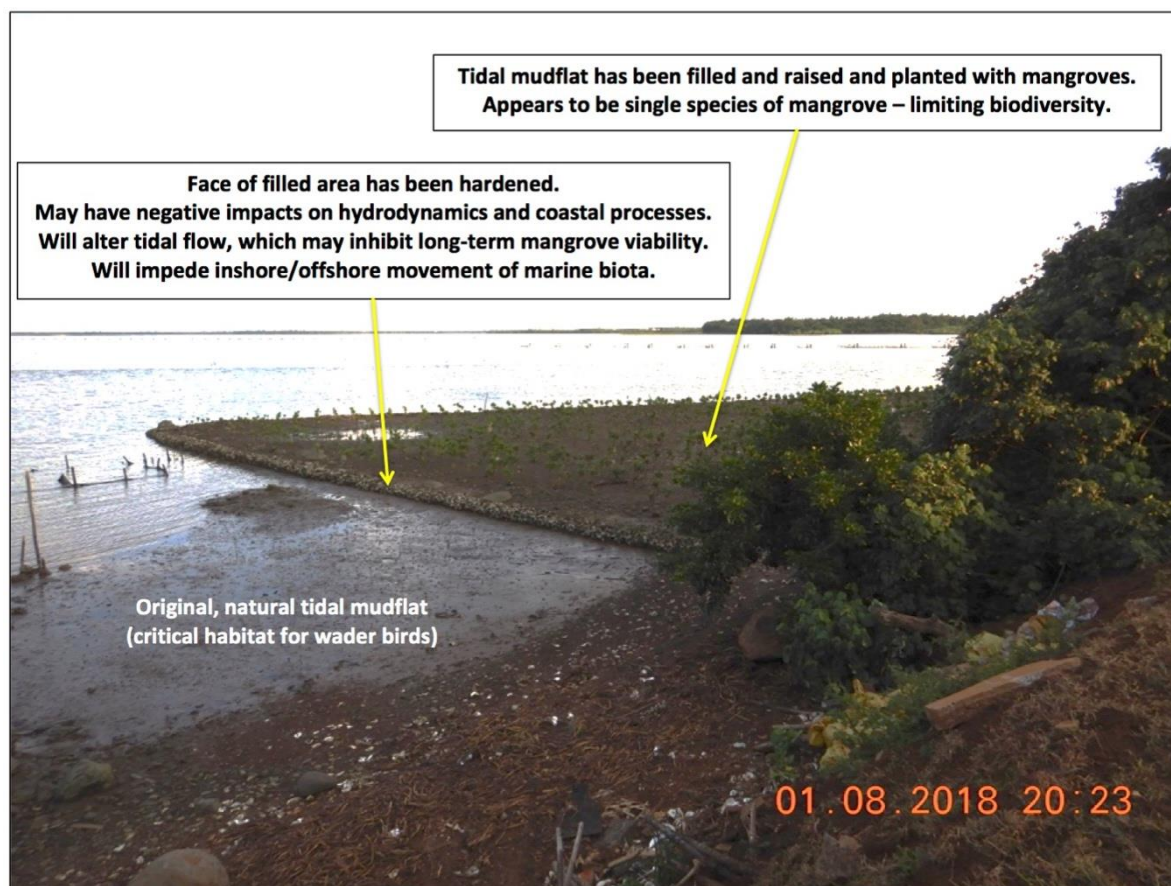


FIGURE 6: Conversion of tidal mudflats to mangroves in Dongzhaigang NNR, which is the primary demonstration site of the Project. The promulgation of best-practice mangrove restoration guidelines by the Project has not altered this practice (source: Raaymakers)






3.3.4 Efficiency



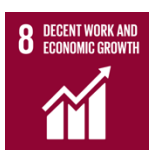






1. Overall it appears that the Project has been reasonably efficient, including:
 - a) Achieving non-trivial savings on many activities, allowing funds to be used for additional efforts.
 - b) Reportedly leveraging significant additional co-financing (although the TE team is not in a position to verify such reports).
 - c) Co-opting all relevant government agencies into wetland conservation efforts through cross-sector, inter-departmental arrangements.
 - d) Mainstreaming through adoption of Provincial Wetlands Regulation, Policies and Plans etc.
 - e) Very effective engagement with NGOs and private sector.
2. However, some significant in-efficiencies are noted, e.g.:
 - a) Low quality of some research reports and lack of practical application to PA management
 - b) Highly focused delivery of education and awareness activities (lectures to individual classrooms which are given very small return for effort compared to “teach the teacher to teach” / making more strategic wetland input to Provincial education curriculum – which would have a much bigger multiplier effect).




3.3.5 Mainstreaming

1. UNDP supported GEF financed projects are key components in UNDP country programming, as well as regional and global programmes. The TE therefore assesses the extent to which the Project was successfully mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities, including poverty alleviation, improved governance, the prevention and recovery from natural disasters and gender. Each of these is considered as follows:
 - a) Poverty alleviation: The Project is not explicitly designed to address poverty alleviation. The Project has supported the conversion of aquaculture fish and shrimp ponds to mangrove habitat, which could actually contribute to increasing poverty if alternative sustainable livelihoods are not provided for displaced aquaculture operators. However, the Project has supported trials of alternative sustainable livelihoods such as bee-keeping and home-stay tourism.
 - b) Improved governance: The Project has supported significant improvements in governance relating to WPAs including strong mainstreaming of wetlands protection into Provincial and local policies, laws, plans and procedures (e.g. new Regulation, River and Lake Chief system with wetlands-related performance indicators on individual positions), and significantly improved inter-departmental and cross-sectoral communication and coordination arrangements.
 - c) Natural disasters: The Project is not explicitly designed to address prevention and recovery from natural disasters, however by supporting improved management of wetlands the Project has supported improved resilience to natural disasters relating to floods and droughts and coastal inundation. The improved governance arrangements supported by the Project have also contributed to improved disaster prevention, preparedness and response, through significantly improved inter-departmental and cross-sectoral communication and coordination arrangements.
 - d) Gender: While the ProDoc does not contain an explicit component on gender it does provide that gender balance should be emphasized as an integral aspect of all Project activities. The ProDoc also required that capacity development at the community level should be gender inclusive, especially in regards to livelihood training that may have a disproportionate impact on women. The Project progress reports (APRs, PIRs etc) explicitly include reporting on these gender aspects and indicate strong gender balance and even in-balance towards greater involvement of females than males in many Project activities. The TE mission observed good gender balance during all TE activities, with females playing leadership roles on many aspects.
2. Overall, the TE assesses that the Project is well mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities. In addition, while not required by the TE ToR, an assessment of how the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are relevant to and mainstreamed by the Project is presented below in Table 11. This finds that nearly all SDGs are relevant to highly relevant and have been effectively mainstreamed in the Project.

TABLE 11: *Relevance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the Project*

SDG	General relevance to UNDP-GEF Anhui Wetlands Project
 1. NO POVERTY	<p>Partially relevant:</p> <p>The Project is not explicitly designed to address poverty alleviation. The Project has supported the conversion of aquaculture fish and shrimp ponds to mangrove habitat, which could actually contribute to increasing poverty if alternative livelihoods are not provided for displaced aquaculture operators. However, the Project has supported trials of alternative sustainable livelihoods such as bee-keeping and home-stay tourism.</p>
 2. ZERO HUNGER	<p>Partially relevant:</p> <p>As per SDG 1.</p>
 3. GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING	<p>Highly relevant:</p> <p>Good health and wellbeing are dependent on many factors including clean, healthy environments and ecosystems, including wetland ecosystems.</p> <p>Project efforts to improve the ecological health of wetlands will also promote good health and wellbeing of adjacent human populations.</p> <p>The Project has reported continuous improvement in the Ecological Health Index (EHI) at all wetland demonstration sites.</p>
 4. QUALITY EDUCATION	<p>Highly relevant:</p> <p>Effective protection and management of wetlands requires broad-based awareness and understanding amongst the general population about the importance and values of wetlands, which can only be achieved through education.</p> <p>Healthy wetlands also present useful sites and resources for practical educational activities.</p> <p>Achieving and maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems requires the application of knowledge-based management and scientific research and monitoring, which requires high-levels of education of wetlands management professionals.</p> <p>The Project has expended significant effort on education and awareness activities, however the TE assesses that these could have been much more effective and efficient, with greater return on effort and greater multiplier effect, had a more strategic, programmatic approach been taken. This could have included working through the Provincial education department to evolve a wetlands component to the Provincial curriculum, and broader training of teachers in wetlands education.</p>
 5. GENDER EQUALITY	<p>Relevant:</p> <p>Both men and women have key and equal parts to play in achieving and maintaining healthy wetlands.</p> <p>While the ProDoc does not contain an explicit component on gender it does provide that gender balance should be emphasized as an integral aspect of all Project activities. The ProDoc also required that capacity development at the community level should be gender inclusive, especially in regards to livelihood training that may have a disproportionate impact on women.</p> <p>The Project progress reports (APRs, PIRs etc) explicitly include reporting on these gender aspects and indicate strong gender balance and even in-balance towards greater involvement of females than males in many Project activities.</p> <p>The TE mission observed good gender balance during all TE activities, with females playing leadership roles on many aspects.</p>

SDG	General relevance to UNDP-GEF Anhui Wetlands Project
 6. CLEAN WATER & SANITATION	<p>Highly relevant:</p> <p>Pollution from surrounding catchments including sewage and wastewater discharges are one of the more significant threats to healthy wetlands in Hainan Province, and achieving good sanitation including proper sewage and wastewater treatment is fundamental to addressing this.</p> <p>Wetlands can also play a vital in biological treatment of wastewater, and in maintaining the health of drinking water supply catchments.</p>
 7. AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY	<p>Not relevant.</p>
 8. DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH	<p>Relevant</p> <p>As per SDG 1.</p> <p>Moving forward WPA's also present opportunities for decent work and economic growth through the development of appropriately designed and managed, nature-based, low-impact eco-tourism, although this is currently prohibited in NNR's under Chinese law.</p>
 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>Relevant</p> <p>Innovation and infrastructure are important tools for restoring, maintaining and protecting the ecological health of wetlands.</p> <p>However, careful assessment of potential impacts must be carried out to ensure that the application of innovation and infrastructure is ecologically appropriate and does not cause net negative impacts.</p>
 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES	<p>Relevant</p> <p>As per SDGs 1 & 5.</p>
 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>As per SDG 3.</p>
 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION	<p>Relevant</p> <p>As per SDG 6.</p>
 13. CLIMATE ACTION	<p>Highly relevant</p> <p>Climate change is one of the most significant environmental threats to the long-term sustainability of Hainan wetlands.</p> <p>Achieving this SDG is fundamental to maintaining and protecting the ecological health of wetlands.</p>
 14. LIFE BELOW WATER	<p>Highly relevant.</p> <p>The wetlands of Hainan Province provide critical habitat for a wide range of aquatic life including but not limited to a range of migratory water-bird species and in the case of mangroves, a wide range of marine life.</p>

SDG	General relevance to UNDP-GEF Anhui Wetlands Project
 15. LIFE ON LAND	<p>Highly relevant.</p> <p>Terrestrial and wetland ecosystems are intimately connected; requiring a holistic, integrated catchment management approach to natural resource management, which recognizes land-wetland connections and inter-dependence.</p>
 16. PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS	<p>Highly relevant.</p> <p>Achieving healthy wetlands requires strong legal, regulatory and administrative frameworks and systems.</p> <p>The Project has made significant achievements on this SDG, including strong mainstreaming of wetlands protection into Provincial and local policies, laws, plans and procedures.</p>
 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	<p>Highly relevant.</p> <p>Healthy wetlands cannot be achieved and maintained without a broad range of partnerships across and between many scales, including multi-lateral organizations, between national governments, within national governments and with and between civil society and the private sector.</p> <p>Building such partnerships has been a significant achievement of the Project, including an exceptional level of engagement with the private sector and NGOs, which is a model for other projects.</p> <p>Further work is required to expand and strengthen effective partnerships at the whole-of-catchment scale, with a view towards more integrated linkages between WPA's across the Province.</p>

3.3.6 Sustainability

3.3.6.1 Financial sustainability

- Overall, the TE assesses that there are very strong prospects for financial sustainability of Project-related activities post-Project. Reportedly there has been extremely large commitment of funds to wetlands conservation in Hainan Province by all levels of government, \$1 million more than the original commitment in the ProDoc. This is driven by increasing Central Government support for WPAs under new Central Government prioritization of wetlands and broader eco-civilization policy directions.

3.3.6.2 Socio-political sustainability

- Overall, the TE assesses that there are very strong prospects for socio-political sustainability of Project-related activities post-Project. Reportedly there has been a significant increase in awareness of wetlands issues throughout society and the political/ governance system in Hainan Province (although the TE team has concerns about the rigour, representativeness and reliability of the KAP analysis).
- The positive picture relating to financial sustainability is strongly correlated with socio-political sustainability.

3.3.6.3 Institutional & governance framework

- Overall, the TE assesses that there are very strong prospects for sustainability of wetlands-related institutional and governance frameworks post-Project. There has been strong mainstreaming of wetlands protection into Provincial and local policies, laws, plans and procedures (e.g. new Regulation, River and Lake

Chief system with wetlands-related performance indicators on individual positions, several Provincial wetlands strategies and action plans), and significantly improved inter-departmental and cross-sectoral communication and coordination arrangements.

2. The positive picture relating to financial sustainability is strongly correlated with the sustainability of wetlands-related institutional and governance frameworks.

3.3.6.4 Environmental sustainability

1. The TE assesses that the main risk to the sustainability of wetlands in Hainan Province is environmental, including:
 - a) Pollution control and water quality impacts from agriculture and continuing high-rates of urban and industrial development in surrounding catchments.
 - b) Relatively small and scattered areas covered by the PAs, habitat fragmentation and lack of habitat connectivity and ecological corridors linking PAs.
 - c) Climate change impacts, extreme weather and flood and drought.
2. While significant efforts are being made by all levels of Government to address these and other environmental threats to wetlands in Hainan Province, the sheer scale of agriculture and urban and industrial development in surrounding catchments, relative to the very small size of the WPAs, and the global nature of climate change impacts, mean that these threats will most likely continue and possible increase in coming years. This serves to highlight the urgent need to continue with concerted efforts to maintain and further strengthen the ecological health and resilience of wetland habitats in Hainan Province.

3.3.6.5 Overall assessment of sustainability

1. The momentum generated by the project, the high-level of mainstreaming achieved, the increased level of awareness achieved and the ongoing government commitment to wetland conservation indicates a high likelihood of sustainability of the project results, provided that ongoing funding is assured.

3.3.6 Impact

1. The TE assesses that it is too early to assess whether the Project will have large-scale, long-term impact. However, at a smaller scale, Project has had positive impact, as per section 3.3.3 above, including:
 - a) Continuous improvement in METT, EHI etc.
 - b) High-level of mainstreaming.
 - c) Increasing awareness of wetlands issues.

Annex 1: Terminal Evaluation ToR

Terminal evaluation terms of reference: UNDP-GEF China Hainan & Anhui wetlands projects

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP support GEF financed projects are required to undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation. These terms of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for a *Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the two sister projects under the same CBPF-MSL (China Biodiversity Partnership Framework-Mainstream of Life) programme, they are: Project 3 (Hainan Project, PIMS 4597), Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Wetland Protected Area System in Hainan for Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity; Project 4 (Anhui Project, PIMS 4868), Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Anhui Province.*

The essentials of the project to be evaluated are as follows:

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE

Project 3:

Project Title:	Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Wetland Protected Area System in Hainan for Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity			
GEF Project ID:	84186		<u>at endorsement (US\$)</u>	<u>at completion (US\$)</u>
UNDP Project ID:	4597	GEF financing:	2,634,771	
Country:	China	IA/EA own:	700,000	
Region:	AP	Government:	17,300,000	
Focal Area:	BD	Other:		
FA Objectives, (OP/SP):		Total co-financing:	18,000,000	
Executing Agency:	Hainan Forestry Department (HFD)	Total Project Cost:	20,634,771	
Other Partners involved:	Dongzhaigang Nature Reserve	ProDoc Signature (date project began):		June 28, 2013
		(Operational) Closing Date:	Proposed: June 27, 2018	Actual:

Project 4:

Project Title:	Strengthening the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Anhui Province			
GEF Project ID:	85732		<u>at endorsement (US\$)</u>	<u>at completion (US\$)</u>
UNDP Project ID:	4868	GEF financing:	2,654,771	
Country:	China	IA/EA own:	700,000	
Region:	AP	Government:	17,447,255	
Focal Area:	BD	Other:		
FA Objectives, (OP/SP):		Total co-financing:	18,147,255	
Executing Agency:	Forestry Department of Anhui Province	Total Project Cost:	20,802,026	
Other Partners involved:		ProDoc Signature (date project began):		Dec. 31, 2013
		(Operational) Closing Date:	Dec. 30, 2018	Actual:

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The project was designed to:

Project 3: The project goal is: to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Hainan Province, China. The project objective is: to strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Hainan in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services. The focus of the project is to strengthen Hainan's PA system to ensure the protection of a representative sample of its exceptionally rich and unique biodiversity and to more effectively manage the wetland PA subsystem.

Outcome 1: Improved protection and management of Hainan's ecosystems through expansion, consolidation and sustainable financing of the provincial PA system

Outcome 2: Strengthened protection, participatory management and restoration of mangrove forests through the development of a Mangrove PA Network.

Outcome 3: Improved integration of wetland conservation into development and sectoral planning and practices through a strengthened PA System Management Framework including economic valuation of wetland ecosystem services.

Project 4: The project's goal is: to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Anhui Province, China. The project strategic objective is to strengthen the management effectiveness of the wetland protected area system in Anhui in response to existing and emerging threats to the globally significant biodiversity and essential ecosystem services. The site focus is on Shengjin Lake NNR that will provide a basis for developing meaningful interventions that can be replicated elsewhere in the WPA system.

Outcome 1: Enhanced provincial capacities for WPA system management

Outcome 2: Strengthened basin-level coordination and implementation of integrated management ensures sustainability of WPA system

Outcome 3: On-site threats to biodiversity at the Shengjin Lake NNR and adjacent WPAs are reduced.

The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects.

The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD

An overall approach and method¹ for conducting project terminal evaluations of UNDP supported GEF financed projects has developed over time. The evaluator is expected to frame the evaluation effort using the criteria of **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact**, as defined and explained in the [UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects](#). A set of questions covering each of these criteria have been drafted and are included with this TOR (*fill in [Annex C](#)*). The evaluator is expected to amend, complete and submit this matrix as part of an evaluation inception report, and shall include it as an annex to the final report.

The evaluation must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The evaluator is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, in particular the GEF operational focal point, UNDP Country Office, project team, UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and key stakeholders. The evaluator is expected to conduct a field mission to *China*, including the following project sites *including Hainan and Anhui Provinces*. Interviews will be

¹ For additional information on methods, see the [Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results](#), Chapter 7, pg. 163

held with the following organizations and individuals at a minimum: (UNDP, SFA, Forestry Departments in Anhui and Hainan Provinces).

The evaluator will review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, midterm review, progress reports, GEF focal area tracking tools, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the evaluator considers useful for this evidence-based assessment. A list of documents that the project team will provide to the evaluator for review is included in [Annex B](#) of this Terms of Reference.

EVALUATION CRITERIA & RATINGS

An assessment of project performance will be carried out, based against expectations set out in the Project Logical Framework/Results Framework (see [Annex A](#)), which provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The evaluation will at a minimum cover the criteria of: **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact**. Ratings must be provided on the following performance criteria. The completed table must be included in the evaluation executive summary. The obligatory rating scales are included in [Annex D](#).

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	rating	2. IA& EA Execution	rating
M&E design at entry		Quality of UNDP Implementation	
M&E Plan Implementation		Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	
Overall quality of M&E		Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	rating	4. Sustainability	rating
Relevance		Financial resources:	
Effectiveness		Socio-political:	
Efficiency		Institutional framework and governance:	
Overall Project Outcome Rating		Environmental :	
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	

PROJECT FINANCE / COFINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. Project cost and funding data will be required, including annual expenditures. Variances between planned and actual expenditures will need to be assessed and explained. Results from recent financial audits, as available, should be taken into consideration. The evaluator(s) will receive assistance from the Country Office (CO) and Project Team to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which will be included in the terminal evaluation report.

Co-financing (type/source)	UNDP own financing (mill. US\$)		Government (mill. US\$)		Partner Agency (mill. US\$)		Total (mill. US\$)	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Actual	Actual
Grants								
Loans/Concessions								
• In-kind support								
• Other								
Totals								

MAINSTREAMING

UNDP supported GEF financed projects are key components in UNDP country programming, as well as regional and global programmes. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project was successfully mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities, including poverty alleviation, improved governance, the prevention and recovery from natural disasters, and gender.

IMPACT

The evaluators will assess the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.²

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report must include a chapter providing a set of **conclusions, recommendations** and **lessons**.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the UNDP CO in *(include Country name)*. The UNDP CO will contract the evaluators and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country for the evaluation team. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluators team to set up stakeholder interviews, arrange field visits, coordinate with the Government etc.

EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the evaluation will be 52 days according to the following plan:

Activity	Timing	Completion Date
Preparation	6 days	July 15,
Evaluation Mission	20 days	August 10
Draft Evaluation Report	22 days	Sep. 5
Final Report	4 days	Sep. 20

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Timing	Responsibilities
Inception Report	Evaluator provides clarifications on timing and method	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission.	Evaluator submits to UNDP CO
Presentation	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission	To project management, UNDP CO
Draft Final Report	Full report, (per annexed template) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission	Sent to CO, reviewed by RTA, PCU, GEF OFPs
Final Report*	Revised report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft	Sent to CO for uploading to UNDP ERC.

*When submitting the final evaluation report, the evaluator is required also to provide an 'audit trail', detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final evaluation report.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation team will be composed of *1 international and 1 national evaluators*. The consultants shall have prior experience in evaluating similar projects. Experience with GEF financed projects is an advantage. *The international evaluator will be designated as the team leader and will be responsible for finalizing the report.* The evaluators selected should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities.

²A useful tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROTI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office: [ROTI Handbook 2009](#)

The Team members must present the following qualifications:

Competencies

- Strategic technical and intellectual skills in the substantive area with global dynamic perspectives;
- Leadership, innovation, facilitation, advocacy and coordination skills;
- Ability to manage technical teams and engage in long term strategic partnership;
- Entrepreneurial abilities and ability to work in an independent manner;
- Ability to work effectively in a team, with good relationship management skills ;
- Strong managerial and coordination skills, including ability to coordinate the development of large, complex projects;
- Demonstrated ability to operate effectively in a highly complex organizational context;
- Ability to maintain high standards despite pressing deadlines;
- Excellent communication (both oral and written) and partnership building skills with multi-dimension partners and people, skill for conflict resolution and negotiation;
- Excellent writing skills, especially in the preparation of official documents and reports;
- Good knowledge of China's environmental and socio-economic context.

Required Skills and Experience

Education

- An advanced degree in conservation, natural resources management, environmental science or related fields, preferably in PA conservation and management.

Experience

- Minimum 3 years of relevant professional experience including Project development, implementation and evaluation
- Knowledge of UNDP and GEF, such as GEF policy and practices, GEF project requirements;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted focal area(s) including biodiversity conservation, agriculture, natural resources co-management, integrated planning, etc.
- Expertise in economic and social development issues
- Good communications and writing skills in English
- Professional experiences in working in China and with Chinese counterparts would be an advantage.
- Working experiences in high altitude areas

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English is required;
- Good knowledge of Chinese is an asset.

IT Skills:

- Good IT skills.

EVALUATOR ETHICS

Evaluation consultants will be held to the highest ethical standards and are required to sign a Code of Conduct (Annex E) upon acceptance of the assignment. UNDP evaluations are conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the [UNEP 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations'](#)

PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

(this payment schedule is indicative, to be filled in by the CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based on their standard procurement procedures)

%	Milestone
10%	At contract signing
40%	Following submission and approval of the 1ST draft terminal evaluation report
50%	Following submission and approval (UNDP-CO and UNDP RTA) of the final terminal evaluation report

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are requested to apply online (<http://jobs.undp.org>, etc.) by June 15, 2018. Individual consultants are invited to submit applications together with their CV for these positions. The application should contain a current and complete C.V. in English with indication of the e-mail and phone contact. Shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit a price offer indicating the total cost of the assignment (including daily fee, per diem and travel costs).

Annex 2: Terminal Evaluation Field Mission Itinerary

Date	Time	Theme	Venue	Participants	Remarks
Day 1: Arrival of TE experts					
2018-7-30 (Mon.)	15:00	Arrival in Haikou (Hefei-Haikou, HU7336, 12:15-15:00)	Meilan Airport	PMO	Airport pick-up
	16:00	Airport to hotel	Hainan Hotel	PMO	Hotel check-in
	18:00	Dinner		/	/
Day 2: Kick-off meeting; interview government departments(GDs), subcontractors and PAs					
2018-7-31 (Tue.)	09:00-10:00	TE kick-off meeting: 1) Introduction of TE consultants and the mission; 2) Project summary video (15min.) 3) Introduction to the project and overall progress.	Hainan Hotel	HFD, PD, PSC member GDs, PMO	Meeting: presentation, Q&A
	10:00-12:00	Interview with PSC member GDs (Dept. of Finance, Marine and Fisheries, Evironment Protection, Water Resources, Tourism etc.)		5 PSC member GDs	Group interview
	12:00-14:30	Lunch and break		All participants	PMO
	14:30-16:30	Interview with project PAs and county/city forest bureaus		4 PAs + 2 bureaus	Small group interview

Date	Time	Theme	Venue	Participants	Remarks
	16:30-18:00	Interview with subcontractors (Xiamen University, Hainan Normal University, South-China Normal University)		3 Subcontractors	Small group interview
	18:30	Dinner		PMO	PMO
Day 3: Interview media, PMO; visit to Dongzhaigang NNR					
2018-8-1 (Wed.)	08:30-09:30	Interview with media	HFD	Hainan Daily, Haikou Daily	Small group interview
	09:30-10:30	Interview with project manager		PMO	Individual interviews
	10:30-13:30	Haikou to Dongzhaigang and field visit in Dongzhaigang	Dongzhai-gang	Dongzhaigang NNR, PMO, subcontractors	Field visit and 3 individual or small group interviews
	13:30-14:30	Lunch			
	14:45-18:45	Interview with Dongzhaigang staff, community, primary school			
	17:45-18:30	Dinner			PMO
Day 4: Visit to Hongshuwan WP, Xinying Mangrove NWP, Haiwei NWP (private-owned)					
2018-8-2 (Thu.)	08:30-9:30	Haikou to Hongshuwan WP	Hongshuwan WP	Hongshuwan WP PMO	/
	09:30-10:30	Field visit in Hongshuwan WP			Field visit
	10:30-11:00	Hongshuwan to Xinying NWP	Xinying NWP	Xinying NWP Community PMO	/
	11:00-12:30	Interview with Xinying Deputy Director			Individual interview

Date	Time	Theme	Venue	Participants	Remarks
	12:30-13:30	Field visit in the Xinying NWP		Community PMO	Field visit
	12:40-14:00	Lunch (in Dunji village)			/
	14:00-15:00	Interview with villagers			Small group interview
	15:00-16:30	Interview with Xinying NWP staff and rangers			
	16:30-17:30	Xinying to Haiwei NWP	Haiwei NWP	Haiwei NWP PMO	/
	17:30-18:30	Field visit in the Haiwei NWP			Field visit
	18:30	Dinner			/
Day 5: Visit to Haiwei NWP, Yinggeling NNR					
2018-8-3 (Fri.)	08:30-09:00	Field visit in the Haiwei NWP	Haiwei NWP	Haiwei NWP PMO	/
	09:00-10:30	Interview with Haiwei NWP staff			Small group interview
	10:30-12:00	Haiwei - Baisha			/
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	Yinpo	Yinggeling NNR Community PMO	/
	13:00-14:00	Interview with Yinggeling Director			Individual interview
	14:00-15:00	Baisha - Yinpo Village (Li ethnic group)			/
	15:00-16:00	Field visit in the village and interview with villagers and rangers			Field visit and small group interview
	16:00-17:30	Interview with 3 staff of PMO			Individual interview

Date	Time	Theme	Venue	Participants	Remarks
	17:30-20:30	Dinner (in the village)			/
	20:30-21:00	Yinpo Village - Yinggezui Station			/
Day 6: Filed visit in Yinggeling NNR					
2018-8-4 (Sat.)	08:30-10:30	Interview with Yinggeling NNR staff	Yinggezui	Yinggeling NNR PMO	small group interviews
	10:30-12:30	Field visit to Yinggeliling NNR			Field visit
	12:30-13:30	Lunch			/
	13:30-17:00	Yinggezui - Haikou	Haikou	PMO	/
	18:00	Dinner			/
Day 7: interview with Haikou Wetland Center, visit to Haikou wetlands; interview with NGOs, Hainan Wetland Conservation Consultant Group					
2018-8-5 (Sun.)	09:00-10:00	Interview with Haikou Wetland Center	Haikou	Haikou Wetland Center PMO	Small group interview
	10:00-10:40	Field visit to Wuyuanhe NWP			Field visit
	10:40-12:00	Field visit to Yangshan Wetlands			
	12:00-13:30	Lunch			
	13:30-14:30	Interview with 1 staff of PMO	HFD		Individual interview
	14:30-16:00	Meeting with NGOs (Squirrel school, China Blue, Hainan Bird-Watching Society)		3 NGOs	Small group interview
	16:00-17:00	Meeting with Hainan Wetland Conservation Consultantation Expert Group		Liu Qiang	Individual interview

Date	Time	Theme	Venue	Participants	Remarks
	17:00-18:00	Meeting with NPD, PD, former NPD		NPD, PD, former NPD	Small group Interview
	18:00	Dinner		NPD, PD, PMO	/
Day 8: Review strategic results framework and primary TE result debriefing; departure					
2018-8-6 (Mon.)	09:00-11:30	Meeting with PMOs on strategic results framework	HFD	PMO	Meeting
	11:30-12:00	Primary TE result briefing with Mr. Xia, director of HFD		HFD Director General, PD, PMO	Meeting
	12:00-14:30	Meeting with PMOs on on strategic results framework		PD, PMO	Meeting
	14:30	Hotel to airport (Haikou-Beijing, HU7081, 16:35-20:15)	/	PMO	Airport drop-off

Annex 3: List of Persons Interviewed

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
2018.07.31 AM - Kick-off Meeting					
Xia Fei	M	Director General	Hainan Forestry Department	Director General of HFD	0898-6533 3158
Mo Yanni	F	Director	Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau	Project Director	moyanni@163.com
Wang Guangqun	F	Deputy Division Director	Hainan Department of Finance	PSC Member	wanggq9168@163.com
Cai Xingjin	M	Officer	Hainan Ecology and Environment Protection Department	PSC Member	hnrosa@126.com
Guo Yansheng	M	Director	Hainan Marine & Fisheries Department	PSC Member	0898-65337270
Liao Jun	M	Deputy Division Director	Hainan Water Resources Department	PSC Member	1255680349@qq.com
Huang Shenggao	M	Officer	Hainan Tourism Development Committee	PSC Member	0898-6520 0620
Guo Tao	M	Division Director	Hainan Agriculture Department	PSC Member	0898-65331052
Wu Qingfei	F	Officer	Qinglan PNR	Key contact person in project PA	317593121@qq.com
Guan Yihua	M	Technics	Dongfang Black-faced Spoonbill PNR	Key contact person in project PA	18689836663
Zhou Xianfu	M	Officer	Danzhou Forest Bureau	Responsible person in project PA	273094747@qq.com
Xie Linshun	M	General Manager	Fanjia PNR	Responsible person in project PA	83024241@qq.com
Lin Guisheng	M	Officer	Sanya Mangrove CNR	Responsible person in project PA	1455029739@qq.com
Wu Tingzhuang	M	Administrative supervisor	Hong Shuwan WP	Responsible person in project PA	15298966286
Zhou Zhiqin	F	Project Manager	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	zhouzhiqin@gefwetland.com
Lu Gang	M	Communication, Education and Awareness Specialist	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	lugang@gefwetland.com

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
Shen Youxiao	M	Network Coordinator	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	shenyouxiao@gefwetland.com
Zhao Yingjie	F	Project Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	neomy@qq.com
Wang Ying	F	Project senior Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	wangying@gefwetland.com
2018.7.31 PM - Group interview with PA members					
Wu Qingfei	F	Officer	Qinglan PNR	Key contact person in project PA	317593121@qq.com
Guan Yihua	M	Technician	Dongfang Black-faced Spoonbill PNR	Key contact person in project PA	18689836663
Zhou Xianfu	M	Officer	DanzhouXinying Bay Mangrove PNR	Responsible person in project PA	273094747@qq.com
Xie Linshun	M	General Manager	Fanjia PNR	Responsible person in project PA	83024241@qq.com
Lin Guisheng	M	Officer	Sanya Mangrove CNR	Responsible person in project PA	1455029739@qq.com
Wu Tingzhuang	M	Administrative supervisor	Hongshuwan WP	Responsible person in project PA	15298966286
2018.7.31 PM - Interview with subcontractor experts					
Wang Wenqing	M	Professor	Xiamen University	Subcontractor	mangroves@xmu.edu.cn
Xin Kun	F	Professor	Hainan Normal University	Subcontractor	xin_kun@126.com
Lin Siliang	M	Dotor Special-Term Associate Research Fellow	South China Normal University	Subcontractor	lslsnow@126.com
2018.8.1 AM - Interview with journalist					
Fu Wenqian	F	Journalist	Hainan Daily	Key journalist	948272689@qq.com
Zhou Xiaomeng	F	Journalist	Hainan Daily	Key journalist	13215776229@163.com
Long Yiqiang	F	Journalist	Hainan Daily	Key journalist	<u>291402769@qq.com</u>

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
2018.8.1 PM - Field visit in Dongzhaigang NNR					
Li Hualiang	M	Section Chief	Dongzhaigang NNR	Project PA representative	liboyue2002@aliyun.com
Wang Shan	M	Ranger	Dongzhaigang NNR	Project PA representative	13647577102
2018.8.1 PM - Interview with Yanfeng Primary School Representative					
Liang Zhenbin	M	Director	Yanfeng Central School	Demonstration Wetland School	13976872332
2018.8.1 PM - Interview with Dongzhaigang NNR representatives					
Li Hualiang	M	Section Chief	Dongzhaigang NNR	Project PA representative	liboyue2002@aliyun.com
Zhong Cairong	M	Deputy Section Chief	Dongzhaigang NNR	Project PA representative	crzhong169@163.com
Feng Erhui	M	Officer	Dongzhaigang NNR	Project PA representative	onlyonefengerhui@163.com
2018.8.1 PM - Interview with Dongzhaigang NNR Community representatives					
Song Mingjun	M	Villager	Sanjiang Town Supply and Marketing Cooperative	Beekeeping demonstration villager	15120949333
Huang Yang	M	Hostel owner	Lianlizhi Hostel	Sustainable fishery demonstration village representative	18808961083
2018.8.2 AM - Field visit in Hongshuwang WP					
Chen Jianling	F	Manager	Hong Shuwan WP	Responsible person in project PA	13208937020
Wu Tingzhuang	M	Supervisor	Hong Shuwan WP	Key contact person in project PA	15298966286
2018.8.2 AM - Individual interview with Xinying NWP					
Liu Jiewen	M	Deputy Director General	Xinying NWP	Responsible person in project PA	13807596216

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
2018.8.2 PM - Group Interview with Xinying NWP management representatives					
Wang Guoqiang	M	Wetland Office Director	Xinying NWP	Key contact person in project PA	13976481860
Yang Fajun	M	Station Director	Dongchang Village	Key Representative of project PA	13936586956
2018.8.2 PM - Group interview with Xinying NWP ranger representatives					
Luo Lixiang	M	Ranger	Xinying NWP	Key Ranger	2867130980@qq.com
Zhong Qixing	M	Ranger	Xinying NWP	Key Ranger	13976446355
2018.8.2 PM - Group interview with Xinying NWP community villagers					
Wu Kaide	M	Villager	Dunji Village	Eco-tourism demenstration villager	18789293829
Wu Shenhui	M	Villager	Dunji Village	Eco-tourism demenstration villager	15203037621
Fu XiaoSu	F	Villager	Dongchang Village	Eco-tourism demenstration villager	13976446355
Chen Guifen	F	Village Head	Dongchang Village	Eco-tourism demenstration villager	13976802036
2018.8.3 AM - Group interview with Haiwei NWP representatvies					
Zhang Lu	F	General Manager Assistant	Haiwei NWP	PA System Member	18689757333
Lu Qingbin	M	Supervisor	Haiwei NWP	PA System Member	18501560530
2018.8.3 PM - Individual interview with Yinggeling NNR Director					
Liu Lei	M	Manager	Yinggeling NNR	Responsible person in project PA	13976140630
2018.8.3 PM - Field visit to Yinggeling NNR community					

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
Fu Guohua	M	villager	Yingpo village	Community representative	18889118073
Li Jinfeng	F	villager	Yingpo village	Community representative	13976720321
Zhu Yanai	F	villager	Yingpo village	Community representative	18708919179
Fu Guoqiong	M	villager	Yingpo village	Community representative	1397637189
2018.8.3 PM - Individual interview with PMO staff					
Lu Gang	M	Communication, Education and Awareness Specialist	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	lugang@gefvetland.com
Zhao Yingjie	F	Project Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	neomy@qq.com
Wang Ying	F	Project senior Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	wangying@gefvetland.com
2018.8.4 AM- Group interview with Yinggeling NNR staff					
Zhou Wei	F	Section Chief	Yinggeling NNR	Key contact person in project PA	13976402943
Xue Huangwa	F	officer	Yinggeling NNR	Key contact person in project PA	13637601053
2018.8.5 AM - Group interview with Haikou Protection and Wetland Management Center representatives					
Chen Song	M	Director	Haikou Protection and Wetland Management Center	Responsible of the Center	447052262@qq.com
He Song	M	Director	Haikou Protection and Wetland Management Center	Key contract person of the Center	447052262@qq.com
2018.8.5 PM - Individual interview with PMO staff					
Shen Youxiao	M	Network Coordinator	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	shenyouxiao@gefvetland.com
2018.8.5 PM - Group interview with NGOs representatives					

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
Gao Honsong	F	Founder	Squirrel School	Key cooperation NGO responsible	mynachan@126.com
Yun Hong	F	Manager	China Blue Sustainability Institute	Key cooperation NGO responsible	yun.hong@chinabluesustainability.org
Li Le	F	Manager	Hainan Bird Watching Society	Key cooperation NGO responsible	331800974@qq.com
2018.8.5 PM - Individual interview with Wetland Conservation Advisory Expert Group representative					
Liu Qiang	M	Professor	Hainan Normal University	Advisory group expert	hnsylq@163.com
2018.8.5 PM - Group interview with NPD and PD					
Liu Yanling	F	Director General	Hainan Planning Commission	Former National Project Director	13389892500@189.cn
Zhou Xumei	F	Director General	Hainan Forestry Department	National Project Director	
Mo Yanni	F	Director	Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau	Project Director	moyanni@163.com
2018.8.5 AM - Group discussion with PMO staff on SRF progress					
Zhou Zhiqin	F	Project Manager	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	zhouzhiqin@gefwetland.com
Lu Gang	M	Communication, Education and Awareness Specialist	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	lugang@gefwetland.com
Shen Youxiao	M	Network Coordinator	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	shenyouxiao@gefwetland.com
Zhao Yingjie	F	Project Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	neomy@qq.com
Wang Ying	F	Project senior Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	wangying@gefwetland.com
2018.8.5 AM - TE primary finding debriefing to Hainan Forestry Department					
Xia Fei	M	Director General	Hainan Forestry Department (HFD)	Director General of HFD	0898-6533 3158
Mo Yanni	F	Director	Hainan Wild Animal and Plant Protection Bureau	Project Director	moyanni@163.com

Name	G.	Position	Organization	Role in project	E-mail / Phone
Zhou Zhiqin	F	Project Manager	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	zhouzhiqin@gefwetland.com
Lu Gang	M	Communication, Education and Awareness Specialist	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	lugang@gefwetland.com
Shen Youxiao	M	Network Coordinator	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	shenyouxiao@gefwetland.com
Zhao Yingjie	F	Project Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	neomy@qq.com
Wang Ying	F	Project senior Assistant	GEF Hainan PMO	PMO staff	wangying@gefwetland.com

Annex 4: List of Documents Reviewed

Folder	Name	Language
A	GEF Project Identification Form (PIF)	EN
B	Project Document	EN
C	Project Inception Report	EN
D	Implementing/executing partner arrangements	EN
<i>D-1</i>	<i>Organigram of Hainan Project</i>	<i>EN</i>
<i>D-2</i>	<i>Management Rules</i>	<i>CN</i>
E	List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, etc	EN
F	MTE report	EN
G	Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR)	EN
H	APRs	EN
I	QPRs	EN
J	Project expenditure by years and outcomes and total budget revision	EN
K	Two year workplans (TYWPs)	EN
L	GEF Project BD-1 Tracking Tool	EN
M	Financial Data	EN
<i>M-1</i>	<i>Combined Delivery Reports (CDR)</i>	<i>EN</i>
<i>M-2</i>	<i>Matching fund statistics and supporting documents</i>	<i>CN & EN</i>
N	sample of project communications materials	EN
<i>N-1</i>	<i>List of communication materials</i>	<i>CN & EN</i>
<i>N-2</i>	<i>samples of communication materials</i>	<i>CN</i>
O	Subcontract delivery	CN & EN
<i>O-1</i>	<i>List of subcontracts and status</i>	<i>EN</i>
<i>O-2</i>	<i>Subcontract reports and abstract</i>	<i>CN & EN</i>
P	TE Self-assessment report	CN & EN
Q	Progress and supporting document for Strategic Results Framework	CN & EN
<i>Q-1</i>	<i>Project progress in Strategic Results Framework</i>	<i>EN</i>
<i>Q-2</i>	<i>Supporting document for Strategic Results Framework</i>	<i>CN & EN</i>
R	NGO and Private Sector List	EN

Annex 5: Evaluation Consultant Agreement Forms

Annex 5A: TE Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement Form - Raaymakers

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form³

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: Steve Raaymakers

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): EcoStrategic Consultants

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *Cairns, Australia* on *13 July 2018*

Signature:



³www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct

Annex 5B: TE Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement Form - Wang

Annex 5B: TE Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement Form - Wang

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form⁴

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: Ms Wang Yue

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant):

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at on Oct, 2018

Signature:



⁴www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct

ANNEX 6: Signed Report Clearance Form

(to be completed by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and included in the final document)

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared by

UNDP Country Office

Name: MA Chaode

Signature:



Date: 30 Nov. 2018

UNDP GEF RTA

Name: Lisa Farroway

Signature:



Date: 03 Dec. 2018

Annexed in a separate file: Audit Trail