Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10073

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

Project Title
Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China

Countries
China,

Agency(ies)
UNDP,

Other Executing Partner(s):
Executing Partner Type

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy
Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Ceritification - International Standards, Tourism, Fisheries, Biomes, Wetlands, Mangroves, Stakeholders, Communications, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Climate Finance (Rio Markers), Climate Change Adaptation 0, Climate Change Mitigation 0, Productive Seascapes, SMEs, Beneficiaries

Duration
60
In Months

Agency Fee($)
848,580

Submission Date
11/9/2018

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1 _P1	GET	1,990,559	15,820,000
BD-2_P7	GET	6,941,861	62,380,000
Total Project Cost ($)		**8,932,420**	**78,200,000**

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To secure the conservation of endangered migratory waterbirds through the establishment of a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
1. Flyway PA network planning, expansion, [financial sustainability] and mainstreaming	Technical Assistance	Expanded and more representative PA system for migratory bird conservation – *indicated by 200,000 ha expansion of wetland PA network (marine and terrestrial sites) in demonstration provinces, improving coverage of critical breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory*	1.1 Critical sites for migratory birds added to the PA system, informed by the development of a systematic PA master plan for the breadth of the EAAF in China. 1.2 Flyway conservation strategy and business plan developed, setting out innovative funding opportunities for the expanded PA network across the EAAF in China.	GET	1,300,000	10,500,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
		birds along EAAF. Systematic and adaptive PA planning and mainstreaming at national, provincial levels and across sectors – *indicated by integration of migratory bird needs within sector plans and operations, [and increased government and private sector investment in wetland conservation.]* *Indicators and targets to be confirmed*	1.3 National and provincial policy and regulations for wetland conservation strengthened, including an adopted national regulation on wetland conservation and national management policy for wetlands of national importance. 1.4 Wetland conservation integrated into 14th Five-Year plan and subsidiary sector plans and policies, supported by adopted technical guidelines on effective wetland conservation,			

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
		during PPG phase.	management and sustainable use by different sectors. 1.5 Multi-sector coordination mechanism for EAAF in China established and operationalized with budget and work plan.			
2. Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory bird conservation	Technical Assistance	Increased management effectiveness over 296,633 ha of wetland PAs (marine and terrestrial sites) – *indicated by 30% increase in METT over baselines* Threats to migratory birds arising from	2.1 Five model PAs for migratory species established, with development of PA management plans, business plans and multi-sector landscape coordination mechanisms. 2.2 Wetland and migratory waterbird conservation strengthened	GET	6,000,000	50,580,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
		unsustainable land uses reduced over 600,000 ha – *indicated by improved fishing, maricultural, aquacultural and agricultural practices.* Stable or improved populations of globally significant migratory waterbirds – *indicated by populations of identified indicator species for each demonstration site.* *Indicators*	through capacity development, introduction of professional competence standards and provision of training modules. 2.3 Pilot interventions for effective wetland conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use demonstrated at five model PAs; critical breeding, staging and wintering sites; and surrounding landscapes. 2.4 Community engagement and adoption of sustainable land management practices, achieving			

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
		and targets to be confirmed during PPG phase.	livelihood improvement and reduction of threats to critical wetlands for migratory birds.			
3. Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E	Technical Assistance	Strong public support for wetland and migratory bird conservation – *as indicated by improvements in KAP surveys.* Effective sharing of knowledge supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership – *as indicated by the documentation and*	3.1 Standardized migratory bird monitoring techniques adopted and data collated in unified database for waterbirds and their habitats along the EAAF in China. 3.2 Public awareness on wetland and migratory bird conservation raised through targeted outreach and education campaigns. 3.3 Knowledge	GET	1,212,000	14,200,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
		dissemination of 15 project best practices and lessons learned. *Indicators and targets to be confirmed during PPG phase.*	management coordinated effectively between project sites, across China and with the EAAF Partnership. 3.4 M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming developed and implemented for adaptive project management.			
				Sub Total ($)	**8,512,000**	**75,280,000**
		Project Management Cost (PMC)		**GET**	**420,420**	**2,920,000**
		Total Project Cost ($)			**8,932,420**	**78,200,000**

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B and indicate the list of PMC among the different trust funds here:

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-finiancing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-finiancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Government	State Forest and Grassland Administration (SFGA)	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	20,000,000
Government	State Forest and Grassland Administration (SFGA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000
Private Sector	Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co.	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000
Private Sector	Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co.	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000
CSO	EAAF Partnership CSO partners; SEE Foundation etc	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	2,500,000
CSO	EAAF Partnership CSO partners; SEE Foundation etc	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,500,000
		Total Project Cost($)		**78,200,000**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

[Any budget that cannot be expected to be repeated annually into the future is considered as Investment Mobilized. Recurrent Expenditures are those at past or budget-increment levels (e.g. forming part of annual standard

government budget allocations) or that comprise part of ongoing funding allocations.] [The portion of Government of China co-financing that is Investment Mobilized represents anticipated additional budgetary provisions to the SFGA for the implementation of the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Programme and the Nature Reserve Development Programme. For co-financing from other partners, definitions have been applied conservatively. The term Recurrent Expenditure has been used to reflect existing aligned efforts/activities that are expected to continue during the project implementation timeframe. The term Investment Mobilized has been used to reflect potential increased efforts and investment that will be leveraged alongside the GEF grant. For example, initial consultations between SFGA and Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co. indicate their interest in providing funding for the protection of key flyway sites alongside project activities. The sources and amounts are indicative only at this stage and will be defined further during the PPG stage and verified in co-financing letters presented at the time of CEO Endorsement. Further sources of potential private sector funding will also be explored during the PPG phase.]

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity		8,932,420	848,580
				Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420**	**848,580**

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount ($)
200,000
PPG Agency Fee ($)
19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNDP	GET	China	Biodiversity		200,000	19,000
				Total Project Costs($)	**200,000**	**19,000**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
272,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
			100,000.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
172,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve	902683		19,200.00						
Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve	555558392		153,000.00						

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
224,433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
			100,000.00			

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
124,433.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Chongming Dongtan Birds National Nature Reserve	900673		24,155.00						
Liohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve	902689		80,000.00						
Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve	900686		20,278.00						

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
600000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
550,000.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50,000.00			

Third Party Certification

TBD during PPG phase, standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council will be explored

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	4,000			
Male	4,000			
Total	8000	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Briefly Describe

a. **The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;**
b. **The baseline scenario or any associated baseline Programs;**
c. **The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the Program;**
d. **alignmenet with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies**
e. **Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing;**
f. **global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and**
g. **Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

China constitutes a major portion of the globally significant East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) – one of the world's nine great migratory flyways and the one involving the most endangered species (see Figure 1). The EAAF contains the highest proportion of threatened species of any major flyway (see Figure 2). Thirty-three species that use the EAAF are listed by IUCN as near threatened or higher (see Table 1). Some of the key globally significant species using the EAAF are Black-faced Spoonbill (Endangered), Baer's Pochard (Critically Endangered), Far Eastern Curlew (Endangered), Scaly-sided Merganser (Endangered), Saunder's Gull (Vulnerable), Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Critically Endangered) and four species of crane (Siberian Crane – Critically Endangered; Red-crowned

Crane – Endangered; Hooded Crane – Vulnerable; White-naped Crane – Vulnerable). Each year the coastal wetlands in eastern China provide wintering, breeding and stopover habitat for millions of migratory water birds of about 250 species, accounting for 73% of 349 water bird species recorded in the EAAF. Many of these birds also overwinter in the Yangtze Valley.

The EAAF is losing many of these globally significant species at alarming rates. The rate of decline of waterbird species is in the range of 5–9% per year, and an alarming 26% annual decline for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. These are among the highest annual declines for migratory birds recorded globally.

The EAAF passes along the highly-populated eastern part of China. The 11 provinces in the east coast of China contribute over half of China's GDP. According to 2013 statistics, an estimated 43.5% of the population lived in the 11 coastal provinces, which comprose only 13% of China's total land area (128 million ha). Rapid economic growth accompanied by incompatible use of natural resource and ongoing population explosion has all but exhausted the region's coastal ecosystems, and certain coastal wetland species have economically become extinct in the wild.

The results from the Second National Wetland Inventory indicates that China lost an estimated 1,361,200 ha of near-shore and coastal wetlands from 2003 to 2013. China's annual loss of wetlands over this period was over twice the annual rate of loss over 1950-2000, showing the impact of recent economic development and growth. Wetland loss and degradation, along with declining ecosystem services, have made the coastal region of East China a section of the EAAF that is highly vulnerable to ecological threats.

Apart from being vital habitat for the survival of millions of birds of more than a hundred species, intertidal habitat is critical as nesting beaches for sea turtles, breeding areas for Asia's seals, spawning grounds for important economic fisheries, and home for thousands of species of invertebrates. Many species that rely on intertidal habitats in East China are at risk; for example, five species of intertidal sea grasses are globally threatened and the eastern Taiwan Strait population of the estuarine Indo-Pacific White Dolphin is critically endangered.

China's inland and coastal wetlands deliver a wealth of benefits in the form of ecosystem services. Intertidal flats, the narrow band of habitat between marine, freshwater and land environments, are characterized by regular tidal

inundation, low slopes and muddy deposits. They provide ecosystem services such as food, shoreline stabilization, protection from storm events, maintenance of biodiversity and are often at the centre of social activities. The total value of such ecosystem services is immense. Globally, these have been calculated to be in the order of $125 trillion per annum. The following global averages indicate the relative scale of wetland ecosystem service values: tidal marshes/mangroves $193,843 per ha per year; swamps/floodplains $25,681 per ha per year; rivers/lakes $12,512 per ha per year; marine estuaries $28,916 per ha per year (compared with forest $3,800; croplands $5,567 and urban $6,661 respectively). China's dependence on ecosystem services for water and flood control is very high. National efforts to determine the value of ecosystem services in China suggest they must be at least worth several times the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the pace and nature of China's economic growth and development are damaging the health of those ecosystems. This will limit China's aspirations to achieve an ecological civilization – and risk the conservation of a wide range of globally significant species, including migratory birds – unless these threats are effectively addressed.

Figure 1 Map of major global flyways, in which the red line is the EAAF

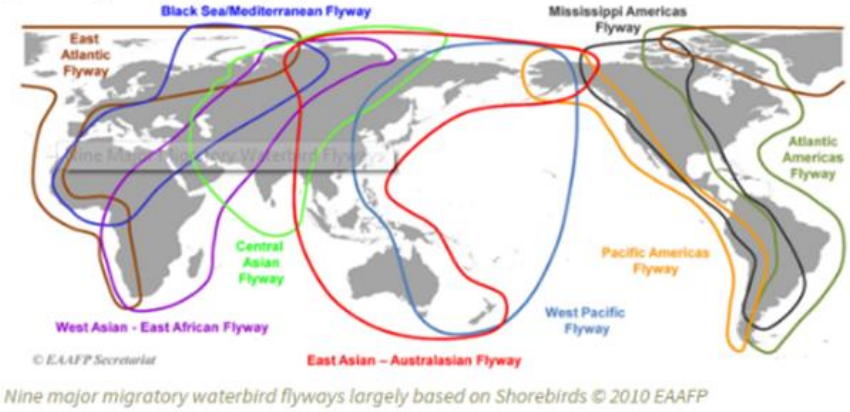

Figure 2 Histogram of numbers of endangered species by flyway. The EAAF is the highest column on the right.

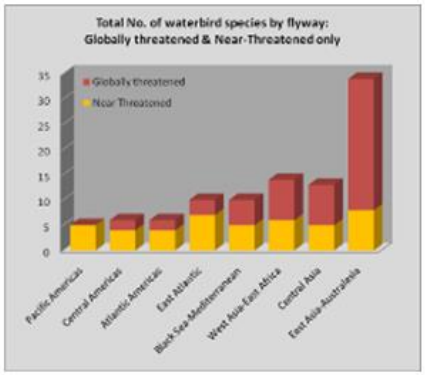

Table 1. Endangered Water birds of EAAF in China

Species	Scientific name	IUCN Status
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	NT
Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	NT
Great Knot	*Calidris tenuirostris*	EN
Asian Dowitcher	*Limnodromus semipalmatus*	NT
Far Eastern Curlew	*Numenius madagascariensis*	EN
Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	NT
Black-tailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	NT
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*	CR
Spotted Greenshank	*Tringa guttifer*	EN
Wood Snipe	*Gallinago nemoricola*	VU
Baer's Pochard	*Aythya baeri*	CR
Scaly-sided Merganser	*Mergus squamatus*	EN
Swan Goose	*Anser cygnoides*	VU
Lesser White-fronted Goose	*Anser erythropus*	VU
Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*	VU
Steller's Eider	*Polysticta stelleri*	VU
Oriental Stork	*Ciconia boyciana*	EN
Greater Adjutant	*Leptoptilos dubius*	EN
Siberian Crane	*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*	CR
Red-crowned Crane	*Grus japonensis*	EN
Hooded Crane	*Grus monacha*	VU
White-naped Crane	*Grus vipio*	VU
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelecanus crispus*	VU
Chinese Crested Tern	*Sterna bernsteini*	CR
Black-bellied Tern	*Sterna acuticauda*	EN
Relict Gull	*Larus relictus*	VU
Saunders's Gull	*Larus saundersi*	VU
Black-faced Spoonbill	*Platalea minor*	EN
Japanese Night-heron	*Gorsachius goisagi*	EN
White-eared Night-heron	*Gorsachius magnificus*	EN
Chinese Egret	*Egretta eulophotes*	VU
Swinhoe's Rail	*Coturnicops exquisitus*	VU
Masked Finfoot	*Heliopais personatus*	EN

Source: Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China, Science Press of China, 2017

Threats to migratory waterbirds and their habitats in China include:

Loss/degradation of habitat: Wetland ecosystems in China are facing agricultural/land reclamation and fragmentation, threatening migratory waterbirds in key life cycle habitats for breeding, stopover and wintering grounds. The second China wetland resources survey shows that wetland area is decreasing along with deterioration of ecological functions – and that the loss of waterbird habitat and degradation has not yet been arrested. In its 'Situation Analysis on East and Southeast Asian Intertidal Habitats, with Particular Reference to the Yellow Sea (Including the Bohai Sea)' IUCN concluded that habitat alteration and degradation in the EAAF had contributed to the decline in population size of waterbirds using the flyway – so much so that two wading species, the Great Knot and Far Eastern Curlew were recently upgraded to Near Threatened from their former status of Least Concern.

The quick development of the coastal industry is further threatening refuges for waterbirds along the EAAF. The destruction of Asia's intertidal zone constitutes one of the fastest losses of biodiversity globally. The clearest evidence of the number of globally threatened species dependent on these habitats is seen among avifauna, and particularly waterbirds, with most globally threatened species among the waders, but also waterfowl, spoonbills, cranes, seabirds and pelicans. The intertidal zone with its sand and mud bars, beaches, and mangroves delivers a great list of valuable ecological services that are being discarded in favour of short-term economic development. Although the total area involved is relatively small, it is very fragile and it is vanishing fast.

Hunting, utilization and trade of wildlife: Many wildlife species in China have been reduced by unsustainable levels of hunting and fishing to very low population numbers. Continuing harvesting pressure, whether legal or illegal, remains a threat to surviving populations in some areas. Overfishing of both freshwater and marine species remains at concerning levels. The hunting of birds, including many protected water birds, with traps, nets and poisoned bait still exists in some locations.

Mariculture/aquaculture: The decline in natural freshwater and marine fisheries due to overfishing in parallel with the economic boom boom in seafood and high-value fish, crabs and prawns has led to a rapid increase in mariculture and aquaculture. Huge areas of the coastline and inland wetlands have been converted to various forms of fish ponds or netted fish-raising compartments, further reducing the amount of open natural habitat for migratory birds.

Climate change: Climate change is expected to result in the redistribution of major ecological zones across China with associated adjustments in species distribution, migration patterns and seasonality. Sea level rise will threaten many coastal habitats. There are already observations of more extreme weather events such as drought, flood, heat waves and cold snaps. For example, the frequency and intensity of typhoons reaching China has doubled over the past 30 years. Climate change will impact habitat condition and the seasonality of food availability for migrating species leading to mismatch of migration times and food availability at stopover sites. These changes may mean that some PAs are unable to protect the species for which they were established and increased attention will need to be paid to connectivity to allow species to shift and adapt as habitats change.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS): With such dynamic changes to the landscape, changing climate, changing agricultural practices, extensive reforestation and massive global trade, China is particularly susceptible to the threat of invasive alien species (IAS). Such species already cause large financial losses and are a growing threat within PAs. Of particular concern to migrating coastal birds is the spread of American cordgrasses. Smooth Cordgrass and Common Cordgrass have invaded 290,000 hectares of China's coastal wetlands already and threaten another 695,000 hectares.

The root causes and drivers of these threats can be summarised as a combination of intense and fast economic development pursued by local governments and local developers, combined with weak and inefficient mechanisms for the protection of important ecological and biological sites and resources. In total, these changes have drastically reduced the area, connectivity and quality of habitat suitable for migratory birds and other significant wildlife, causing dramatic drops in the numbers and population viability of many species, and ultimately resulting in the high proportion of species now listed as endangered.

Long-term vision and barriers to achieving it:

The long-term vision is of a connected, resilient and ecologically effective wetland PA system across the EAAF in China that supports globally significant species of migratory shorebirds and provides ecosystem services that support resilience, livelihoods and economy. The barriers preventing the achievement of this vision are:

Barrier 1: Absence of a whole-of-landscape approach to migratory bird conservation, with poor quality, connectivity and resilience of wetland habitats and insufficient protection of critical staging and wintering sites in the PA system

China’s PA system has been built up gradually since 1956. It now comprises some 2,740 nature reserves, covering an area of about 1.42 million km² or almost 15% of China's land area. There are a wide range of protected area categories, overlapping in nature and not corresponding to international criteria. This is being addressed through the protected area reform and national park establishment underway in China, with the support of the GEF-6 China’s protected area reform (C-PAR) program.

China's PA system has evolved on an ad hoc basis without benefit of gap analysis, systematic planning or considerations of landscape connectivity, ecological needs or resilience to climate change. The result is an unbalanced system with many coverage gaps. This is particularly evident when the ecological needs of migratory birds are considered. There is a much lower ecosystem coverage in the east and marine and coastal areas, including in key habitats of the EAAF, and the existing PA system for migratory birds of the EAAF is clearly inadequate.

The lack of key stopover estuaries under protection along the coastal route is ‘like a ladder with many rungs missing’. As gaps become wider and larger, populations fail to obtain the food they need to complete their migrations. The ‘Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China’ jointly supported by the China Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Paulson Institute identifies 107 important waterbird stopover sites that are still lacking protection, with 11 sites highlighted as priorities for urgent protection.

As coastlines change, lakes dry up and water flows change flexibility becomes essential for migratory waterbirds. Sites that may have been suitable or adequate for passing or wintering migrants in the past may no longer suffice. New suitable sites may emerge but lack protection. Matching the conservation, sustainable management and protection of adequate habitat to changing circumstances provides a serious challenge. What is needed is a connected network of appropriately-managed sites with sufficient flexibility and resilience to cope with climatic and other changes. Formally protected PAs will provide the core of this network and form a key PA sub-system in the national PA system, but this needs to be bolstered by other sites outside of the PA network.

It is clear that ideal habitat for migratory waterbirds does not necessarily need fully-protected sites. Protection may only be required for a few months of winter, and moreover, many farmed, fished, or otherwise man-modified habitats are often preferred habitats for many of the species that use the EAAF. New models are needed for the protection of critical sites for migratory birds that consider a range of mechanisms for permanent and temporary protection, using formal and informal mechanisms. This will be based upon key PAs for migratory waterbirds along the EAAF as the core of this network, but will need wetland-compatible management and sustainable use along key sites outside of the PA network along the length of the EAAF in China via a flyway-wide approach.

Barrier 2: Limited integration of wetland conservation and needs into the policies, plans and operations of other sectors, and a lack of effective technical mechanisms and skills to allow for wetland-compatible harmonious co-management at a site level.

China's policies on nature conservation and environmental protection are relatively comprehensive. There are dozens of laws and regulations issued by departments at different levels. Separate laws cover wildlife protection, forestry, marine conservation, wetlands conservation and environmental impact assessment (EIA). China has adopted the policy of establishing a national system of PAs to protect species and ecosystems. National policy on protected areas is enshrined in several key documents and regulations of the state, as outlined in Table 2, however these have been under the mandate of a range of agencies which has hampered planning integration and coordinated approach to wetland conservation. In March 2018, the Chinese central government implemented institutional restructuring, according to which all the PAs in China are put under the administration of SFGA. This provides an excellent opportunity to achieve stronger coordination, develop coordinated regulations, and achieve better integration of wetland conservation across other sectors.

Recent policy commitments from the central government including the announcement of tough controls on coastal reclamation provide an excellent baseline on which to base this project. However, more effort is needed to ensure these new policies are effectively mainstreamed across the policies and plans of other sectors – from strategic sector policies through to operational guidelines and policies that dictate the activities of other sectors at a site level.

There is a lack of effective techniques and management models for wetland-compatible sustainable use across a range of sectors that benefit from wetland resources (e.g. mariculture, aquaculture, fishing) and limited technical skills and understanding among PA managers and industry to adopt more sustainable practices. The lack of effective models and approaches for harmonious co-management is limiting the wise use of wetlands and the mainstreaming of wetland needs into the operations of other sectors. Similarly, while PA reform and strengthening is underway at a national level in China there are no appropriate models to manage PAs for migratory birds and to integrate conservation needs across other sectors to create sympathetically-managed landscapes for migratory waterbirds.

Table 2: Key National Policies, Documents and Regulations on Wetland Conservation in China

Table 2: Key National Policies, Documents and Regulations on Wetland Conservation in China

Major decisions related to PA and wetland conservation	Date	Policies, Documents and Regulations
PAs recognised as legal entities	1981	Law of Forest
Defined the legal status of marine eco-environmental protection	1982	Law on Marine Environmental Protection (revised in 199, 2013 and 2016)
Regulations for PAs promulgated	1985	Management Approaches of Nature Reserves of Forest and Wildlife, Law of Grassland
China recognises heritage value of PAs and joins World Heritage Convention	1985	World Convention on Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage
PA role in ecological conservation needs recognised	1987	Principles on China's Ecological Conservation
Need for species protection recognised	1988	Law of Wild Animal Protection
Recognition of Ramsar site	1992	RAMSAR Convention
China accepts global responsibilities and need to share benefits from uses of biodiversity	1992	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Recognition of need to protect geological sites	1994	Rules for Conservation Management of Geological Relics
Rules for Nature Reserves endorsed by State Council	1994	Regulations of Nature Reserves
Regulations for Marine reserves established	1995	Management Approaches of Marine Nature Reserves
Wide range of policy issues restated and approved	1992	China Biodiversity Action Plan
Defined the legal status of sea area use and management	2001	Law on the Use and Management of Sea Areas
Programme launched to conserve and restore wetlands	2003	Programme for wetland conservation and restoration
Circular of enhancing wetland conservation and management	2004	General Office of the State Council (No.56)
Defined the legal status of sea island protection	2009	Law on the Protection of Sea Islands
Circular of enhancing the nature reserve management	2010	General Office of the State Council (No.63
Calls for ecological redlining and reform of protected lands	2013	3rd Plenum of 18th Session of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPCCC)

Provides framework for subsidiary regulations for PAs	2014	Law of Environmental Protection (revision)
Clearly states that China will ensure that no less than 53.33 million ha of wetland areas will be protected	2015	Opinion of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Accelerating the Development of Ecological Civilization at 6th Plenum of 18th Session of CPCCC
By 2020, the total marine protected areas will cover 5% of total marine area under China jurisdiction; the total coastal wetland restored no less than 8500 ha	2015	Implementation plan of the SOA Construction of Marine EcologicalCivilization
Clearly states that the habitat has been protected by law	2016	The amendment of Law of Wild Animal Protection
Clearly states that the protection of rivers and lakes ecological system, and the establishment of wetland protection system	2016	13th National Five-year Plan
By 2020, the total wetland area of should be not less than 800 million mu (53 million ha),in which 700 million mu (47 million ha) of natural wetland, and 200,000 ha of restored wetland. The wetland protection rate increased to more than 50%.	2016	Wetland Conservation and Restoration Institutional Plan (Office of the State Council)
By 2020, representative coastal wetland ecosystems will have been put under effective protection; a new series of marine nature reserves and special marine protected areas (marine parks) of coastal wetlands at national, provincial, municipal and county levels will have been established; and damaged wetland ecosystems will have been restored	2016	Guidelines of the State Oceanic Administration on Enhancing the Management and Protection of Coastal Wetlands

Barrier 3: Lack of awareness of wetland and migratory bird benefits and management needs, and limited knowledge and information exchange on resource condition and best practice management techniques

The above barriers are compounded by lack of awareness of the importance of biodiversity in maintaining vital ecosystem services across all sectors. Lack of awareness is a barrier that applies at multiple levels – decision makers and policy makers, land managers, fishing and aquaculture industry, the general public and youth. Such low awareness is restricting investment (e.g. government resources, investment of other sectors, and in-kind personal investment in changed behaviours) in wetland conservation and restricting the uptake of more sustainable behaviours such as more wetland-sensitive coastal development and agricultural techniques that reduce use of pesticide/fertilizer. This results in insufficient investment in wetland conservation and PA management and a low uptake of sustainable land management and wetland-compatible practices by agriculture, fishing and aquaculture industries.

Management decisions are also impeded by a lack of data and limited sharing of data that does exist, with a tendency for localized databases held by individual nature reserves or institutions. There is no standardized monitoring or sharing of information on migratory bird numbers and movement patterns. Even where data exists, lack of access and sharing prevents it being used for effective planning of PA systems and to avoid and mitigate developments that might adversely impact PAs and biodiversity. Without consolidated data across the EAAF, managers are unable to see the big picture of species migration patterns and recognise the role and significance of their own site in this bigger picture.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,

To save the wetlands and coastal habitat in eastern China, Chinese governments at all levels have put more conservation efforts than ever before over the past decades, in close conjunction with civil society, including academia and other research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. These efforts have been translated into concrete conservation activities, including designating new wetland reserves and Ramsar sites, restoring wetlands on a small-scale, monitoring target waterbird populations in certain wetland PAs, and exploring approaches to control exotic species and combat poaching and illegal exploitation of wetland resources.

The March 2018 machinery of government reforms bring together previously disparate functions and responsibilities for PA management under the one Ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources. The new Ministry is responsible for overseeing the development and protection of China’s natural resources, setting up a spatial planning system,

establishing a system for payment of ecosystem services, and is mandated with responsibility over the national PA system, which is managed by the subordinate State Forest and Grassland Administration (SFGA) / State Administration of National Parks (two titles for the one entity). The lead mandate for wetland conservation and PA management sits with the newly-strengthened SFGA. The SFGA has announced wetland conservation as one of its priorities and will be the Executing Partner for this proposed project. The Ministry of Natural Resources also includes the functions of the State Oceanic Administration, responsible for managing coastal lands and who made the January 2018 announcement of enhanced regulations on land reclamation along the country's coastline, vowing to demolish illegally reclaimed land and stop approving general reclamation projects. The amalgamation of responsibilities within the new Ministry of Natural Resources provides an excellent opportunity for strong engagement in this project from the relevant parts of the Ministry to work together on coastal wetland conservation.

The Chinese government makes considerable investment to support wetland protection. For example, during the course of the 12th Five-year Plan over 2011-2015, the central government invested in 738 wetland protection projects to halt the degradation of China's wetland ecosystems and rehabilitate their functions. These projects received a total of US$2.114 billion central and local governmental funding, with approximately US$240 million of this invested in coastal wetlands. Other recent baseline initiatives of the central government include the second National Wetland Inventory (US$65 million) that provided updated data on China's wetland extent and condition. This investment is underpinned by strongly-aligned policy developments such as creation of an eco-civilization society, eco-compensation and the 2018 announcement of strict regulations and controls for reclamation of coastal land.

This central government investment is supported by strong investment by provincial wetland conservation programs and initiatives. For example, during the 12th Five-Year period, Shandong province has committed US$620 million to preserve and/or restore wetlands abounding in five priority zones, including the intertidal areas of the Bohai Bay and Laizhou Bay, the coastal zones and hilly areas of Eastern Shandong, the wetland concentrated areas of the mid-south of Shandong, the lacustrine zones of the north and west of Shandong, and the riparian areas of the Xiaoqinghe River. It is estimated that as high as 50% of the grant is budgeted for activities related to coastal habitat conservation.

There is a good baseline of GEF investment in wetland conservation to build upon. The GEF-5 China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action 'Main Streams of Life (MSL)' wetland PA system program (GEF investment of US$23 million) supported by UNDP and FAO, has brought together seven child projects under a coordinated programmatic framework. Six of the projects have taken place at a provincial level underpinned by a national policy

and coordination project. The program was launched in 2013 and most projects are reaching their operational close over 2018-2019. Of the provincial child projects, the Hainan MSL child project is closely related to this proposed project and will provide experiences and lessons learned in mangrove protection and restoration. These will contribute to the formulation of national standards for mangrove ecosystem stewardship and will provide a model of coastal mangrove conservation for target provinces along the EAAF in China. The projects also have a range of mainstreaming and site-based management successes and best practices that will inform this project.[For example, the MSL projects have had success integrating wetland conservation into new Lake and River Chief cross-sector coordination mechanisms established by the Government of China, supporting the establishment of government policy that supports wetland threat reduction (e.g. cessation of fishing at critical wetlands), and in using standardized monitoring approaches to measure the ecological condition of wetlands. There is also useful information learned on managing GEF programmatic approaches to ensure that the program equals more than the sum of the individual child projects and that knowledge exchanges and learning take place regularly between child projects. These best practices will be reviewed during the PPG phase and used to guide the detailed development of project activities and approaches.]

China's reform of its national protected area system to introduce national parks and align to international standards is also supported by GEF. The GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) program contains six child projects (US$21 million GEF investment) supported by UNDP, Conservation International and FECO. The program is supporting the reform of China's protected area system at national and provincial levels in line with international best practice standards for protected areas, across a range of ecosystem types. The project's activities to strengthen national planning, policy and financing for the PA system will provide baseline efforts for the project to build upon and adapt for migratory bird conservation. The program also includes a marine PA network child project, covering the coastal areas in Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi, that will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and best practices that can be replicated along the EAAF in China. C-PAR child projects are currently in the CEO Endorsement process and expected to commence implementation in late 2018.

Government efforts are bolstered by programs supported by a range of non-governmental organizations. For example, the 'Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China - A Strategic Public-Private Partnership to Help China Conserve its Globally Important Wetlands' (2013-2018) is a US$2 million initiative championed by the NFGA and Paulson Institute, in partnership with the Lao Niu Foundation and International Crane Foundation. The initiative aims to make coastal wetland conservation a national strategic priority through developing national conservation strategies for coastal wetlands while enhancing China's leadership and stewardship in conserving coastal wetlands. As a founder and advocator of the Yangtze Wetland Protected Area Network, WWF

channels approximately US$200,000 annually for coastal conservation efforts, such as hosting workshops and encouraging sustainable aquaculture by promoting the MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) standards for fisheries and seafood businesses.

There is increasing interest in private sector social CSR investments in wetland conservation. For example, the Beijing Oriental Park Co. Limited established The Qiaonyu Foundation (a Beijing enterprise-based NGO) and has committed to invest 100 million yuan (around US$15.3 million) to establish 100 new wetland PAs managed by NGOs within 10 years for migratory bird conservation. The Alashan SEE Foundation (also a Beijing enterprise-based NGO, consisting of 650 members from private companies) has launched a 10-year bird project to support grassroots NGOs to carry out protection actions in non-protected coastal wetlands, with funding of two million yuan (around US$291,300) in 2017-2018.

China is a member of the EAAF Partnership, which was launched on 6 November 2006 and aims to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them. The objectives of the EAAF Partnership are to develop the Flyway Site Network of international importance for migratory waterbirds, enhance flyway research and monitoring, build habitat and waterbird management capacity and develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds. There are currently 36 partners including 18 countries. China has been a member since 2008 and has a Partnership Implementation Strategy that is consistent with the strategic plan and objectives of the EAAF Partnership. This project will help support its implementation.

Prior GEF investment in China has supported the establishment of this flyway-wide cooperation, through the GEF-financed and UN Environment-supported project Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia (US$4 million), that closed in 2012. The project allowed China to have a fuller understanding of the overall conservation status of large, globally significant waterbirds, in particular crane species.

The proposed project will build on these initiatives, projects and commitments to enhance the ecological integrity of globally critical wetlands along the EAAF in China.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

To address the above-mentioned challenges and barriers, the proposed project will build on the baseline scenario to support China to secure the conservation of endangered migratory water birds through the establishment of a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the EAAF in China.

The proposed project will comprise three complementary components that address strengthened PA system planning, policy and mainstreaming at national and sub-national level (across the breadth of the EAAF in China and within the five demonstration provinces); site-based management effectiveness at five model PAs for migratory species and their surrounding landscapes; and knowledge, coordination and awareness. Component 1 will apply at both national and sub-national level (covering the scope of the EAAF within China). Activities with a national scope include strengthened wetland policy and technical standards, mainstreaming conservation policies into the 14th Five-year Plan and associated sectoral policies, and the establishment of a national coordination mechanism to bring together government agencies and sectors with a mandate related to or impacting on wetland conservation. Component 1 will also include activities that are sub-national in scope, covering the part of Eastern China that falls within the EAAF – such as through the development of a systematic wetland plan for the EAAF and targeted PA network expansion to bring important breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory waterbirds under conservation tenure. Component 2, operating at site-level, will support the implementation of these national and sub-national activities through demonstration of integrated habitat and species management at five sites, with results used to identify project best practices that can be replicated across the EAAF within China. Components 1 and 2 operate in parallel at both system and site-level, with learning between levels supported by the knowledge management in Component 3.

Component 1: Flyway PA sub-system planning, expansion , [financial sustainability] and mainstreaming

Component 1 will address barriers related to insufficient coverage of key sites for migratory birds within the PA system and the lack of integration of wetland and migratory bird needs in the plans and operations of other sectors.

First, the project will complete systematic assessments to identify critical sites for migratory birds along the breadth of the EAAF in China, and support the addition of these sites in the PA network (Output 1.1). This will be captured in a PA master plan for the EAAF in China – an integrated assessment that will allow for the consideration of all breeding, staging and wintering sites for migratory birds in the future planning of the wetland PA network, rather than the current focus on individual sites. The project will support the addition of an estimated 200,000 ha of breeding, staging and wintering sites for globally-significant migratory birds to the PA network through: facilitating the gazettal of PAs and the nomination of sites for designation on the Ramsar list of wetlands of international

importance; the completion of PA master plans and biodiversity assessments (including flyway-wide conservation benefits); and the submission of sites to the EAAF Flyway Site Network including the completion of site information sheets. Potential new PA sites are tentatively identified as including Dagang (Tianjin Province), Nanpu and Huanghua (Hebei), Rudong (Jiangsu), Dongshan (Fujian), and Dapeng Bay (Guangdong). Proposed PA sites will be further defined through PPG phase assessments. All new proposed PAs will be recognized KBAs and/or meet KBA criteria related to the conservation of globally significant species (noting that KBA coverage in China is incomplete), fulfilling GEF requirements for globally significant sites for biodiversity conservation.

To support the effective management and financing of the expanded PA system, the project will support the development of a flyway conservation strategy and business plan (Output 1.2) that identifies priorities, financing needs and potential new financing opportunities for wetland conservation in China including social investment. Parallel mainstreaming activities will help support enhanced government investment in wetland PAs across the EAAF, although the business plan will also focus on expanding private sector investment. [The project will support the establishment of a national donor alliance for migratory bird and wetland conservation (mirroring the flyway donor alliance established at the 2018 Global Flyway Summit) to bring together emerging philanthropic and private sector interest in China and align it to the priority actions identified and costed in the business plan.]

National and sub-national policies and regulations on wetland conservation will be strengthened (Output 1.3). The recent Ministerial reform in China and new policy on regulating coastal reclamation provides new opportunities for the adoption of integrated approaches on wetland conservation, including the long-proposed national regulation on wetland conservation and the development of a national management policy for wetlands of national importance. The project will also support the implementation of the State Council Circular on Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands to place more emphasis on the conservation and restoration of waterbird habitats, and the development of provincial-level Circulars in the four coastal demonstration provinces of Component 2 (Guangzhou, Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai) to support the implementation of this pivotal government policy on coastal wetland conservation and strict control of reclamation of coastal land.

Building off the strong commitments of the Government of China to protect wetlands, Component 1 will support the mainstreaming of wetland and migratory waterbird conservation into the plans and policies of other sectors (Output 1.4). Child projects under the GEF-5 ‘mainstreams of life’ (MSL) wetlands program have had great success with mainstreaming at national and provincial levels. The proposed project will support the integration of the recently-adopted and GEF-5 MSL program-supported ‘Wetland Conservation and Restoration Plan’ and associated policies into the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and associated sector plans. The project will provide policy support and

studies for the planning process including the setting of targets for wetland PA expansion, and policy and technical guidance for the translation of such targets across provincial/local and sectoral 5-year plans to inform the next phase of planning for China's social and economic development. Mainstreaming across sectors at an operational level will be supported by the adoption of technical guidelines on effective wetland conservation, management and sustainable use developed for different sectors. These will be piloted at demonstration sites under Component 2 (see Output 2.3), prior to finalization and adoption at a national level for replication across China and the EAAF Partnership.

The effective coordination across sectors and critical EAAF sites will be strengthened through the establishment of a multi-sector coordination 'China flyway partnership network' for the breadth of the EAAF in China (Output 1.5). The coordination mechanism will be connected across different scales of governance, linking to site-level governance (e.g. coordination mechanisms established at five model PAs in Component 2; see Output 2.1), and to international scale via the existing multi-jurisdiction EAAF Partnership in which China participates.

Component 2: Site-based demonstrations of PA network for migratory bird conservation

Component 2 will operate at the site-level in five provinces of China (Guangdong, Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, Yunnan), to enhance protection and management of key breeading, staging and wintering sites for globally significant migratory birds and address barriers related to insufficient management effectiveness and mainstreaming of wetlands with the practices of other sectors at site-level.

Five model PAs for migratory species will be established (Output 2.1). The proposed demonstration sites for enhanced site-level protection and habitat management are (from North to South): Liaohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve (Liaoning), Yellow River Delta NNR (Shandong), Chongming Dongtan NNR (Shanghai), Zhanjing Mangrove Forest NNR (Guangdong), and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR (Yunnan). All PAs are critical sites for globally significant migratory birds and designated Ramsar sites. A summary of the context and biodiversity significance of each model PA is provided in Table 3. Project support will enhance PA management effectiveness at the five sites that cover 296,633 ha of globally significant wetland habitats, encompassing terrestrial and marine PAs. Project support will include the development of PA management plans including business plans, the preparation of updated Ramsar Information Sheets and EAAF Partnership Site Information Sheets, and the development of local coordination mechanisms that bring together different stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management and use of these critical wetlands for migratory birds. For Zhanjiang Mangrove Forest NNR the project will also support its registration as an EAAF Partnership site (all other demonstration sites are already registered).

Table 3: Summary of demonstration PAs

Name	Area (ha)	Key habitats	Global biodiversity significance	Ecological stresses & threats	Governance
1. Liaohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve, Liaoning Ramsar Site #: 1441	80,000 ha	Marine PA. Reed swamps, and Liaohe River estuary delta ecosystem; key habitat for many water birds, where 142 species of water birds are recorded	· Key stopover sites for migratory birds along East Asian and Australasian Flyway · Key stopover sites for cranes including red-crowned crane and Siberian white crane; the southernmost part for the natural breeding site and the northernmost part for the natural over-wintering site of red-crowned cranes, with more than 540 individuals of red-crowned cranes using it as a stopover site · The breeding site for the largest population of Sauders's gull in the world - Was listed as a Ramsar site in 2005	· Insufficient supply of freshwater results in ecological degradation of reed swampy wetland · Oil and gas production, reed production, and mudflat aquaculture and other development activities have led to loss of natural wetlands and fragmentation of habitats; fishery and over-fishing of aquatic resources; pollution - Impact of human activities	Established in 1985, the NR was upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1988. In 1996, it was listed in the East Asian- Australasian Shorebird Site Network; in 2005, it was listed as a Ramsar site; currently it has 30 management staff.
2. Yellow River Delta National Nature	153,000 ha	Terrestrial PA.	· Joined "China MAB Reserve Network" in 1993 · Joined East Asian-	· Severity of threat to wetland ecosystem: moderate	Founded in 1990, the NR was upgraded to a national nature reserve in October 1992. It has 43 full-time

Reserve, Shandong Ramsar Site #: 2187.		Coastal and marine wetland, riverine, palustrine and man-made wetlands	Australasian Flyway Network in 1996 · Joined Northeast Asian Crane Site Network in 1997 · Was listed as a Ramsar site in 2013 · 38 species of waterbirds occur in numbers exceeding 1% of their global population A total of 1,333 individuals of Oriental white stork have been bred at this site, and no less than 2,000 nests for the breeding of Sauders's gull are found annually; the largest breeding site for Oriental white stork and the second largest breeding site of Saunders's gull	· Ecological pressure: invasive plant species-spartina alterniflora Coastline erosion: shortage of freshwater resources, reclamation and building of sea dykes have resulted in the loss of natural wetlands; unsustainable agricultural farming	management staff and is under the centralized management of State Forestry and Grassland Administration
3. Chongming Dongtan Birds National Nature Reserve,	24,155 ha	Marine PA. The riverine wetland is the main habitat type, with 290	· Chongming Dongtan (east beach) and its surrounding water bodies are one of the world's top ecologically sensitive areas · Became a member of East Asian-Australasian Shorebird	· Severity of threat to wetland ecosystem: moderate · Ecological pressure: invasive plant species-spartina alterniflora	Founded in 1998, the NR was upgraded to a national nature reserve in 2005. In 2006, it was designated by SFA as one of the 51 National Demonstration Nature Reserves in China. Currently, it has 21 full-time

Shanghai Ramsar Site #: 1144.		species of waterbirds	Site Network in 1999 · Was listed as a Ramsar site in 2002 Over a million individuals of migratory birds stay or pass through the site each year; the numbers of 11 species of waterbirds including hooded crane, black-faced spoonbill, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Spotted Redshank, Kentish Plover, Baikal Teal, Dunlin, Falcated Teal, Great Knot, Black-tailed Godwit and Saunders's gull reach up to or exceed 1% of flyway population	Coastline erosion: fishery and over-harvesting of aquatic resources; pollution	management staff and is under the centralized management of State Forestry and Grassland Administration
4. Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve, Guangdong Ramsar Site #: 1157	20,278 ha	Marine PA. Mangrove, marine and estuarine ecosystems, three dominant habitat types of the reserve, host 199 species of	· Listed as a Ramsar site in 2002 · Listed as a the Man and Biosphere reserve in 2010 · An estimated population of 43 individuals or 10 percent of the total population of the world's Spoon-billled sandpiper wintering in the reserve	· Severity of threat to wetland ecosystems: medium · Ecological stresses: invasive plant: Spartina coastline erosion, loss of natural wetlands resulting from reclamation and the construction of coastal	Established in 1990, the reserve was upgraded as a national one in 1997. There are 33 full-time nature reserve staff members who manage the reserve under the superintendence of the State Forestry Administration.

		birds		embankments, over-harvesting of fisheries and aquatic resources, pollution, unsound aquaculture, agricultural reclamation, the construction of harbors and their related facilities	
5. Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve, Yunnan Ramsar Site #: 1435.	19,200 ha	Terrestrial PA. Plateau wetland, grassland and lakes, two dominant habitat types of the reserve, host 166 species of birds	· Listed as a Ramsar site in 2004 · Included in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network in 2005 · An estimated population of 1200 individuals or 10 percent of the total population of the world's black-necked crane wintering in the reserve In the Central Asian flyway - Black necked cranes wintering in India, on the migration, Pakistan and Nepal etc.	· Severity of threat to wetland ecosystems: low to medium · Ecological stresses: over-grazing and difficult-restoring of wetland, pollution Sources of ecological stresses: unsound aquaculture, densely populated, plateau-climate	The reserve was upgraded as a national one in 2003. There are 30 full-time nature reserve staff members who manage the reserve under the superintendence of the State Forestry Administration

Efforts at demonstration sites will include enhancement of institutional capacity for site-level management of wetlands (Output 2.2). Capacity development will be based on training needs identified during PPG assessments and align to the competency-based approach promoted through the GEF-5 MSL program and GEF-6 C-PAR program. Preliminary training needs have been identified as including: ecological monitoring methods for Ramsar sites, migratory bird monitoring, best practices for wetland rehabilitation and threat management, co-management and governance, nature education and communication for wetland conservation.

A key need for critical wetland conservation is to manage threats at a landscape level, achieving sustainable management and use within PAs and surrounding land uses. Component 2 will aim to reduce threats to targeted wetlands and migratory birds including those arising from unsustainable or inappropriate land management and resource use, ranging from excessive use of fertilizers to over-fishing. Component 2 will support enhanced habitat management of wetlands and demonstrate effective technical methodologies for wetland conservation and sustainable use at the five model PAs, in surrounding landscapes and at critical staging and wintering sites outside of the PA network (Output 2.3). Demonstrations will cover wetland rehabilitation in different wetland systems including effective control of key IAS threatening wetlands and models for sustainable use of aquatic resources in coastal wetlands. The results of pilot interventions will be documented and inform the development of national technical guidelines on wetland sustainable use and management (see Output 1.4).

In parallel with the establishment of effective technical protocols and methodologies, Component 2 will engage communities and users of wetland resources at the five model sites to promote the wise use of wetlands and the adoption of sustainable practices that reduce threats to wetlands and support local livelihoods (Output 2.4). Project support will include technical assistance and incentives to encourage the adoption of wise use practices. The project will provide technical support and demonstration of wetland-compatible practices for fishing, aquaculture and agriculture activities, and facilitate the certification of products, businesses and suppliers through standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council. The potential for eco-compensation will also be explored. It is estimated that sustainable use and land management practices will be improved over 600,000 ha outside of PAs across the five demonstration provinces (this preliminary target will be confirmed during PPG phase as demonstration landscapes are deliniated). Alternative livelihood options (e.g. eco-tourism, bird watching, sport fishing) will also be developed to reduce unsustainable economic pressures on wetlands that can no longer be sustained. Community engagement in project approaches will be facilitated by outreach and awareness-raising activities, including partnerships on nature-based education with local schools at each demonstration PA (see Component 3).

Component 3: Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E

Component 3 will respond to the low levels of awareness and understanding of technical and management approaches for sustainable use of wetlands through targeted awareness-raising and knowledge management, helping pull together the strengthened enabling framework and site-based demonstrations in Components 1 and 2, and supporting the documentation, replication and uptake of project approaches.

The project will put in place innovative systems for the long-term monitoring of migratory birds and the conservation and management of China's wetlands in the EAAF (Output 3.1). Standardized monitoring protocols for migratory bird populations, wetlands and Ramsar sites will be established in cooperation with the EAAF Partnership to raise understanding of the use of different staging and wintering sites across the flyway. This will be supported by the establishment of a unified database and knowledge platform for migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the EAAF in China, bringing together existing datasets from nature reserves and national wetland parks, coastal wetland conservation networks and NGOs. Sharing of knowledge and citizen science will be facilitated by the development of a smart-phone application data inquiry and reporting system.

Targeted outreach and education campaigns (Output 3.2) will help raise awareness of land managers, resource users and the public on the value of wetlands in ecological, social and economic terms, and the value of migratory birds as indicators of wetland condition, integrity and decline. Outreach will be informed by the development of a communications strategy for the China flyway partnership established under Output 1.5. Activities will focus on: the five model PAs in Component 2; Ramsar sites along the breadth of the EAAF in China; and partnerships with coastal wetland conservation networks in China. Partnerships on nature-based conservation will be developed with local primary and middle schools in the locale of demonstration PAs to engage youth support for wetland conservation.

Component 3 will also support knowledge management as outlined in Section 8. Project best practices and lessons learned will be identified and documented and disseminated between demonstration PAs and with other relevant GEF-financed and other efforts across China, and across the EAAF Partnership (Output 3.3).

Finally, the project will establish an effective M&E system that adheres to GEF requirements, enables effective evaluation of project progress and impact, and that is inclusive of the needs of women and opportunities to strengthen gender mainstreaming through project activities (Output 3.4).

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

The project aligns to GEF-7 biodiversity programming directions for PA management and mainstreaming. The project is primarily aligned with BD-2-7 to 'Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global projected area estate'. The project will contribute to this GEF-7 programming priority in several ways: by improving funding of PAs and diversifying financing sources for ongoing management; by increasing the spatial extent of PAs in China, filling an important gap in PA coverage (sites for globally significant migratory waterbirds); by strengthening the enabling legal, planning and institutional framework for the management of the PA system for globally significant migratory species; and by strengthening institutional capacity (strategies, tools, mechanisms, knowledge, skills and resources) to support the operational management and financing of key PAs for migratory birds at site level. These areas are fully consistent with the GEF-7 programming directions.

The project will also contribute to BD-1-1 to 'Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors'. Building on the GEF-5 wetlands program and in parallel with the broader PA reform supported by the GEF-6 C-PAR program, the project will support the mainstreaming of wetland conservation and needs into central government plans and policies (e.g. integration into 14th Five-Year Plan and sectoral plans) and through strengthening of the national policy and regulatory framework for wetland conservation. Mainstreaming at an operational level will be supported by the adoption of technical guidelines on wetland sustainable use and rehabilitation that will be targeted to the key sectors that are impacting on wetland condition and extent. The project will facilitate the adoption of more biodiversity-friendly and wetland-compatible production practices across aquaculture, mariculture, fishing and agriculture industries – the industries that are having substantial negative impacts on wetlands significant for migratory birds along the EAAF in China. Project support will encompass technical assistance in parallel with the provision of both market- and non-market-based incentives, in alignment with the GEF-7 programming directions.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

The Chinese government invests substaintial funding for protection and restoration of the natural environment and a high priority is given to protection of wetlands. This is bolstered by recent supportive policy developments such as creation of an ecological civilization, eco-compensation and strict control of coastal reclamation. The GEF support will help address critical gaps that remain in the PA network, develop a new model approach to managing PAs for migratory species, and help operationalize policies to ensure wise use and management of wetlands across the EAAF in China. By accessing the GEF grant, collaborating with international partners of the EAAF Partnership and adopting international standards and lessons learned from international experiences, the project is expected to raise awareness of the special requirements needed to protect migratory waterbirds and greatly improve the efficiency of national funding allocations towards the conservation of migratory birds. The incremental reasoning for this approach is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5: Incremental cost reasoning for project

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Global environmental benefits
National and sub-national level		
Institutional reform of PA system,and coastal wetland conservation and strict control of reclamation are new policies of government but need practical implementation on the ground with mainstreaming approaches and more financial sustainability.	Contributions to reform process for PA systems in broadening categories and approaches to sustainable resource use and conservation.	PA system along EAAF expanded with fewer gaps, better design and enhanced connectivity, with an additional 200,000 ha of important wetlands for migratory birds added to the PA system.
Positive gains made with policy mainstreaming but lack of adopted technical guidelines/methodologicies limits operational mainstreaming and management of impacts of other sectors at a site-based level.	Mainstreaming across sectors and integration of wetland needs within sector plans will support implementation of government policy on tough regulations for land reclamations especially where these negatively impact key breeding, staging or wintering sites. Mainstreaming at operational level supported by rigorous and effective technical guidelines for sustainable use and rehabilitation of wetlands by different sectors.	Management efficiency, financing and sustainability of PA system along EAAF significantly enhanced with direct measurable impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem health.
A lot of information about biodiversity, endangered species and their habitats exists but is scattered in many agencies and institutes and not shared or easily accessible		Better coordination of data management on globally significant migratory birds and public access to data will benefit domestic agencies, public and international programs, supporting management and conservation along the entire EAAF
Many new issues such as invasive species expansion, co-management and easement, and	Financial sustainability of the PA system will be improved based on clear economic justifications for bigger investment and identified new opportunities for funding. GEF funds leverage high levels of co-	

NGO managed PAs are recently being addressed in China but need more innovative design, experimentation, and demonstration.	finance. Access to information about wetlands and migratory species will be improved leading to better appreciation by public as well as better decision making. Newly arising issues will be addressed including community co-management and easement, and IAS control.	
Site-level		
Lack of capacity and approaches for site-based management of PAs for migratory species limits conservation benefits of PAs for migratory waterbirds. Farmers and fishermen around PAs employing short-sighted, inappropriate and often illegal production activities Inappropriate mariculture and aquaculture leads to serious loss of native biota and	Demonstrated model for PA management for effective migratory species conservation, providing a replicable model for rollout across China and the migratory bird flyways. Better co-management and engagement in exchange for more sustainable use of natural resources by farmers and fisherman. Nature reserve friendly products in buffer	PA management effectiveness: Enhanced management and conservation of globally significant wetland PAs over 296,633 ha (existing PAs) – marine and terrestrial PAs. Increased or stable numbers of globally endangered migratory birds, including Critically Endangered species, in China, contributing to stable populations across the EAAF.

degradation. Patchy and uncoordinated monitoring of wetland condition and migratory bird populations and limites sharing of data between site managers.	areas around PAs reduces negative impacts on biodiversity and promotes greater sustainability of production. Improved landholder responsibility for IAS, preventing invasions, controlling outbreaks and supporting reduction of IAS threats. Adopted and operationalized standardized methodologies for monitoring migratory waterbirds and data collated in common and accessible database, enhancing use of knowledge in informing management decisions	Reduction of threats to critical wetlands and PAs from unsustainable use of natural resources, unsustainable fishing methods, hunting, and IAS. Improved land management/wetland use over 600,000 ha, in integrated whole-of-flyway approach to habitat and species management irrespective of conservation tenure.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

The global environmental benefits arising from the program will result from the demonstration activities at five critical sites for migratory waterbirds (PAs and surrounding landscapes), and from the broader policy, planning and mainstreaming efforts at national level. Global environmental benefits achieved by the program will result in 1,096,693 ha under enhanced management. This will include an estimated 200,000 ha expansion of the wetland PA network, targeting sites that are critical breeding, staging and wintering sites for globally significant migratory birds

(recognized as IBAs/fulfilling KBA criteria – to be applied to proposed sites during the PPG phase). Targeted capacity enhancement and threat reduction will support habitat improvement and enhanced management effectiveness at 296,633 ha of existing wetland PAs that provide important habitat for globally significant migratory birds. Improved NRM practices that are more sensitive to the needs of wetlands and migratory birds will be conducted over an estimated 600,000 ha (including altered and non-natural wetlands; and area under agriculture, aquaculture, mariculture and fishing) to buffer wetland PAs, increase connectivity for migratory birds and reduce threats to wetlands and migratory birds. These efforts will complement the efforts at PA sites and bring about greater diversity and connectivity of critical sites for migratory birds along the EAAF. These efforts will be critically important for the ongoing conservation of numerous endangered migratory birds, including Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-necked Crane, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, Nordman's Greenshank and Red Knot. More sustainable use and management of coastal wetlands will provide conservation benefits for a diverse range of species, including the nationally-endangered Roughskin Sculpin.

Global environmental benefits from the proposed project will be achieved as a result of: 1) Improved conservation status of the EAAF, which will provide better habitat for millions of migratory waterbirds belonging to over 250 species, including 33 globally threatened waterbird species. Importantly, the Yellow Sea region, a hub of the EAAF will benefit from reduced environmental stress. 2) Enhanced global conservation planning for the EAAF based on comprehensive, standardized monitoring data of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF in eastern China; 3) Enhanced conservation of recognized threatened species in the EAAF, including four species recognized as Critically Endangered and numerous Endangered and Vulnerable species (see Table 1); and 4) Adoption of sustainable management of coastal wetland resources along Eastern China that provide a diverse range of benefits including aquatic species of high economic values and carbon sequestration.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project proposes the concept of integrated wetland management at flyway level for the first time within China. The project aims at protecting China's EAAF breeding, staging and wintering sites as an integrated whole to maintain the integrity of the entire flyway. The project will also introduce the concept of model PAs for migatory birds, putting in place a new approach for managing PAs for the sensitive needs of migratory waterbirds. This offers replication across other types of migratory species. Innovative forms of monitoring will be supported

including use of radar data from airports to track the movement of large bird flocks and the use of GPS transmitters to follow individual birds along migratory pathways.

Sustainability: The different project components will act in an inter-connected fashion to improve wetland conservation policy and legislation, extend the formal protected area estate to include new critical habitats, give wetland PA managers the tools and skills that they need to enhance management of critical wetland sites, facilitate the adoption of more sustainable land management/fishing practices that are threatening wetlands and migratory birds, and raise awareness among decision-makers, public and the next generation building support for wetland conservation and migratory bird protection beyond the life of the project. The proposed project builds on a strong and supportive government baseline for wetland conservation, including new policy announcements and ongoing PA reform. The proposed project is strongly aligned to government policies and will further mainstream wetland conservation within central policy and planning via integration into the 14th Five-Year Plan and associated sector plans. [The integration of wetland conservation within central policy and planning will help support increased government investment in wetland conservation including budget allocations for the ongoing management of the wetland PA system and for new established wetland PAs. This policy mainstreaming will also support stronger investment by other government Ministries including enhanced efforts to reduce sector-specific threats to wetlands]. Specific activities that will support environmental sustainability of project impact include:

- Reformed legal framework and mainstreaming will put in place new standards and engagement across a range of sectors that impact on wetlands;
- Identification of new forms of financing including broadened investment of private sector and social/philanthropic donors to support ongoing management and financing of PA network
- Technical support and capacity development will give farmers and fisherman the practical tools they need to more sustainable manage wetlands, while project attention on certification and value-added wetland-compatible products will provide financial incentives to adopt more sustainable management practices.

Scaling up: The knowledge learned from the five demonstration sites will be used to inform the development of policies and technical guidelines for managing wetland resources at a site level, supporting replication of project activities across wetland sites in China. With the successful implementation of the project, this concept will be disseminated across other migratory bird flyways in China, helping implement the national guideline of “coordinated resources management”. The building and operation of a comprehensive and long-term wetland conservation

network based on the flyway will provide best practices for other countries along EAAF. The long-term monitoring network of the proposed program, especially standardized monitoring approaches and data management, will enable China to have a more complete understanding of the population dynamics and patterns of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF and will offer tools that can be adopted elsewhere and data that informs management decisions across the EAAF. The project fits well with the vision of the EAAF Partnership, which was launched at the World Summit in 2000. The project will partner closely with the EAAF Partnership during implementation to support this replication and engagement in program outcomes and activities.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

See Annex A for map of demonstration sites. Shapefiles for five demonstration sites are also provided.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities ☑

Civil Society Organizations ☑

Private Sector Entities ☑

If none of the above, please explain why: ☐

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

Preliminary consultations on the development of this proposal have taken place including as part of the existing GEF-5 'mainstreams of life' wetlands program. These consultations have included the proposed model PAs for this project, who have confirming their interest in participating in the project along with sufficient willingness of local communities to engage in the project and adopt sustainable wetland use practices. Further consultations with local communities, including ethnic minorities (Yi and Miao minority groups) at Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve, will be conducted during the PPG phase. This proposal has also been discussed with the EAAF Partnership and the Ramsar Secretariat and with potential interested private sector co-financers.

Further consultations with project stakeholders will take place during the PPG phase. Preliminary identified stakeholders and the ways they will be engaged in project preparation are outlined in Table 6. The main mechanisms for engagement will be through PPG stakeholder workshops and targeted discussions with the consultant PPG team of international and national consultants in person, phone, Skype or email.

Table 6: Preliminary list of project stakeholders

Stakeholders	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Finance	Operational Focal Point (OFP). Coordination and implementation of GEF projects in China. Will be briefed on project development and endorse final Project Document.
State Forestry and Grassland Administration (SFGA)	Responsible for forest lands, most of China's nature reserves, wildlife issues, wildlife trade (CITES), wetlands protection (Ramsar Convention). It also manages forest parks, wetland parks, and natural forest protected. Will be Executing Partner for proposed project. Will advise on all aspects of project design, proposed management structures and alignment to government co-financing and coordination with other partners.
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	New Ministry created in 2018 central Ministry reform. MNR is the competent authority responsible for spatial planning and sustainable use of lands and resources within national boundaries; it will also provide guidance to NP spatial pattern planning as an important stakeholder. MNR now also includes responsibility for national ocean planning, legislation and management, supervision and management of the use of sea area and marine environment (functions held by the State Oceanic Administration). Will be engaged in project development via SFGA as Executing Partner and through the engagement of other relevant sections/functions within the Ministry to ensure strengthened coordinated approach to coastal wetland conservation.
Ministry of Ecological Environmental Protection (MEE)	Responsible for overall coordination of environmental issues, pollution and CBD implementation and clearing-house, execution of CBPF. It is the agency that guides, coordinates and supervises ecological conservation. As the competent administrative ministry of the State Council for environmental protection, [MEE] is responsible for comprehensive management of nature reserves across the country, including guiding, coordinating, supervising environmental protection work of various kinds of nature reserves, scenic spots and forest parks. Will provide inputs to project development as they relate to management of ecological threats and PA system reform. Lead Implementing Partner for GEF-6 C-PAR Program and will advise on potential coordination with C-PAR.
National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)	NDRC is the competent authority responsible for national macroeconomic policy and management, leading coordination among related sectors, reporting to state council by consolidating related suggestions from ministries. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into socio-economic development plan and annual plan, Examines and approve major ecological rehabilitation programs/projects, responsible for promotion of the strategy of sustainable development through lead role in five-year planning process. Will provide inputs to align to PA system reform and system of NP pilots. [Key partner in project mainstreaming efforts given lead role in five-year planning process.]
[Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs]	[The Ministry responsible for agriculture and aquaculture management, as well as management of aquatic organisms. Will be engaged in project mainstreaming activities. Will be consulted during PPG to provide inputs on sector-based issues.]
[Ministry of Water Resources]	[The Ministry responsible for management of water resources, and lakes, rivers, reservoirs etc. Will be engaged in project mainstreaming activities. Will be consulted during PPG to provide inputs on sector-based issues.]
[Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development]	[The Ministry responsible for various planning in both urban and rural areas. Will be engaged in project mainstreaming activities. Will be consulted during PPG to provide inputs on sector-based issues.]
UNDP	Development agency for the United Nations and coordinates UN assistance in China. UNDP will serve as GEF Agency for the proposed project. Will coordinate the PPG process and ensure project development process and project documentation meet GEF and UNDP-GEF requirements.

Provincial Bureaus of Finance	Coordination and provision of provincial co-financing of provincial level projects under the same framework. Will provide inputs to project design at provincial level for pilot sites.
Provincial bureaus of forestry and grassland where the project model PAs are located	Responsible for planning, supervision and management of wetland protected areas in Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, Guangdong and Yunnan. Will provide inputs on context and needs at each site to inform design of detailed project activities.
Management Bureaus of individual demonstration PAs	Responsible for management of project demonstration PAs. Will advise on project design, needs and contexts at a site level. Responsible for site-level execution and monitoring.
Academic institutes, colleges and universities	Responsible for field surveys, monitoring, data collection and database development, these including Beijing Forestry University (BFU), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Can provide technical expertise on hydrological, botanical and zoological aspects and data to support detailed project design.
EAAF Partnership Secretariat	Provides Secretariat and coordination for the EAAF Partnership. Partner in delivery of some activities, and in replication and upscaling across EAAF Partnership sites. Potential co-financer. Will provide inputs on upscaling and partnership with EAAF Partnership.
Ramsar Secretariat	Oversight and technical support for management of sites inscribed on the Ramsar list as wetlands of international importance. Will provide inputs on alignment to Ramsar priorities and national context for China.
International conservation agencies/NGOs	Potential to provide technical expertise and bring in international experience, networking and platform for communication. Possible co-implementers for some activities under projects. Will be consulted during project design, including to identify lessons learned and findings from past and ongoing initiatives. e.g. Paulson Institute, IUCN, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF, and CI
National/local NGOs	Can provide technical service, knowledge dissemination, nature education, and waterbird and habitat survey. May become co-implementing agency or project co-contractors of some project activities, e.g., Alashan SEE Foundation, Qiaonyu Foundation, Heren Foundation, Lao Niu Foundation, Shanshui Nature Conservation Center, China Coastal Waterbird Census Group, Spoon-billed sandpiper in China, National Platfrom for the Joint Action of Bird-watching Organizations, and Tianjin Binhai New Area Wetland Conservation Volunteers Association, etc. Will be consulted to provide inputs on needs and to identify alignment to other initiatives.
[Private sector]	[Various opportunities to engage private sector, including in national donor platform and in project activities at demonstration sites. Potential partners include oil companies (Yellow River Delta, Liaohe River Estuary), eco-tourism enterprises, SMEs engaged in mudflat resources harvesting or aquaculture enterprises, database or website technical service providers, national e-merchant platforms such as JD.com and Taobao.com. Private sector could be engaged as co-financers, co-implementers of project activities. Particicular opportunities exist to engage private sector in marine aquatic product certification, eco-tourism, habitat restoration technologies R&D and demonstration, and information sharing on waterbirds and their habitats; e.g. Oriental Scape Group, technical service provider for Shidi.org.cn, and eco-environmental control companies. Opportunities for partnership and co-financing will be explored in discussions during the PPG phase and co-financing commitments confirmed.]
[Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co.]	[Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co. is the largest landscape architecture company in China, engaging in landscape design and construction, including for wetland environments. Established the Qiaonyu Foundation, which has become a major donor for wildlife conservation. The company has a keen interest in migratory waterbird flyway conservation and the protection of key flyway sites. Anticipated private sector co-financing with amount to be confirmed during the PPG phase. Further discussions on co-financing and coordination opportunities will be conducted during the PPG phase.]

Local communities	Local communities at five demonstration sites, primary resource users of nature reserves and surrounding areas. Direct participants and beneficiaries of the project. Local communities at all demonstration sites will be consulted during PPG phase to get their inputs to detailed design of project activities and confirm support for project. [Field visits will be conducted during PPG phase by the project development team, including community engagement specialist, and community representatives will be briefed on the proposed project outcomes and activities and invited to provide their inputs into what the project activities should be and how this can build on other efforts and respond to community needs and aspirations, including of women and of ethnic minority groups.]
Ethnic minorities	Local communities at the Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve include Yi Minority Group in Laolin Village and Miao Minority Group in Jiaozigou Village. Further assessments will be conducted during PPG to confirm the presence of ethnic minorities at any other proposed demonstration sites. [In-person consultations will take place during the PPG phase with ethnic minorities that are present at the demonstration sites. UNDP Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples will be applied. UNDP will seek FPIC on any matters that may affect rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods.]

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

[There are some gender inequalities in China in rural areas, where rural women have less education than men and are less likely to participate in decision-making in public affairs, such as lower attendance at village meetings compared to men. Domestic duties and domestic care also tends to fall predominantly on women in rural communities. This means that women are less likely to participate in training and education opportunities as they have restricted availability. There are also differences in how men and women use coastal wetland resources. For example, men often rely on inshore fishing (by boat) for livelihoods, while women are more likely to rely on the intertidal zone. Women also devote more time than men to selling small handicrafts to tourists and are more likely to be employed in wetland tourism-related activities such as local home-stays and restaurants. These issues will be explored further during the PPG phase to identify how the project can support (among others that may be identified): the enhanced role of women in decision-making (including project decision-making); enhanced training and learning opportunities for women; enhanced livelihoods support and socio-economic benefits for women arising from sustainable coastal wetlands use.]

There are opportunities within the project to support gender mainstreaming at site-level through targeted livelihoods support and promotion of wetlands-compatible practices. This offers potential socio-economic benefits for women and women's groups, and efforts will be made to include specific activities targeting women. Women's participation in decision-making will be considered in the development of governance mechanisms from site through to national level. Lessons learned from the implementation of the GEF-5 MSL program in China will be used to infrom the design of project interventions – these projects reported good success in engaging women at site-level governance structures that can be built on by this project. At this stage there are not anticipated to be any evident gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources at project sites, however this will be confirmed by detailed PPG assessments.

During the project development phase, a full gender analysis will be completed to identify the different roles of men and women in wetland conservation and sustainable use. At the site level, the program will carefully examine local conditions pertaining to local livelihoods, resource use and land tenure and management systems, and factors affecting the livelihoods of women and men in relevant communities. Consultation sessions will be held to obtain views and inputs of a wide range of local stakeholders, including women, in selected landscapes to develop project activities and to inform a robust stakeholder involvement plan with full gender considerations.

A corresponding gender mainstreaming plan for the project will be completed and submitted with the project document at time of CEO Endorsement. Gender mainstreaming will been integrated across project activities as relevant and is also recognized in project Output 3.4. Gender-disaggregated targets and indicators will be included within the project results framework.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; ☐

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or ☑

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. ☑

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

[The private sector will be engaged in the project both at national level and at demonstration sites. At a national level, the project will engage the emerging philanthropic movement in China and increasing business interest in conservation. A national donor alliance for migratory bird and wetland conservation will be established (under Output 1.2) coordinating these additional donors and aligning them to the identified priority actions for flyway conservation in China. This aligns to the approach adopted at the 2018 Global Flyway Summit in Abu Dhabi where donors including the Qiaonyu Foundation committed to establish a donor alliance to collaborate more effectively to promote bird conservation along global flyways and encourage additional donor investment. The project will also engage the private sector at demonstration landscapes to ensure sustainable use and management of wetland resources, adoption of more sustainable practices and eco-certification of products. Multiple opportunities will be explored further during the PPG phase. This will include potential partnerships with the resource extraction sector (e.g. oil companies operating oil fields in Yelow River Delta and Liaohe River Estuary), tourism sector (e.g. tourism companies in Yellow River Delta, Liaohe River Estuary, Chongmingdongtan wetland and the Wing Flight company in Dashanbao) and also small-to-medium enterprises using wetland resources at demonstration sites (e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, mariculture, marine fishing enterprises). Local companies will be engaged in the delivery of livelihoods diversification and value-added opportunities for local communities, e.g. eco-tourism, marine product certification – both at demonstration site level and to establish market opportunities. Partnerships with electronic merchants such as JD.com and Taobao.com will be explored to see if there is potential for them to include the sale of certified wetland-friendly products under their e-merchant platforms (building on the example provided by the Global Protected Areas Friendship System Group which sells certified products via the baohudi.org platform).Specific opportunities for

private sector engagement will be developed in more detail during the PPG phase and individual co-financing commitments secured. The indicative co-financing at PIF stage includes a commitment from the Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co. Initial discussions between SFGA and Beijing Oriental Landscape Ltd Co. confirm their support for the project and their ongoing interest in migratory bird conservation. It is anticipated that co-financing will cover engagement in donor alliances for migratory waterbird conservation and support for the protection of key migratory bird sites along the EAAF in China. The details of the co-financing will be confirmed during the PPG phase.]

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Risks	Rating	Preventive Measures
Weak project sponsorship as a result of government institutional reform	Low	The proposed project is highly consistent with China's national strategic planning for environmental protection or wetland conservation. China has considered wetland conservation an integral component of building ecological civilization, one of five pillar building blocks for buttressing China's well-off society. Coastal and marine wetlands have also been mainstreamed into corresponding national environmental planning. Accordingly, China has adopted the percentage of China's natural shorelines unimpaired as an indicator of its strategic planning and performance measure system for government officials. It is deepening its institutional overhaul, aiming to manage its exhausted natural resources in an integrated manner. Such innovation will allow the project to receive more support from the governmental sectors involved in coastal wetland conservation and management.
Influences of economic slowdown on local governments' wetland conservation decision making	Low-Medium	With the global economic recession, the pace of China's economic growth has shown signs of slowing. Local governments might intensity coastal reclamation to boost their economies. On the contrary, the central government consistently underscores the sustainable development of China's economy and the construction of ecological culture, so much so that it has tightened up the review, approval, and surveillance of coastal reclamation projects. This new Central Government policy on tougher controls for coastal reclamation considerably reduce this risk. The government will further consider adding the percentage of wetlands protected in each administrative region to the indicator system evaluating local governments' performance, linking with the acceptability system of government officials. Project outcomes can be used to help China determine the intensity of coastal wetland use and development.
Insufficient understanding of coastal wetland ecosystems	Low	China has not studied its coastal and marine wetlands as extensively as its forest ecosystems, and therefore, there are limited scientific data available for its Governments to develop and implement decisions about coastal and marine management. The depletion of marine resources, shortage of water resources, invasion of alien species, and increase in marine disasters have urged the Chinese governments and their research bodies to scale up their concern and study on coastal wetland ecosystems in recent years. The project efforts will allow the decision-makers, managers, and resource users of coastal wetland resources to make science-based decisions in accordance with appropriate management practices or standards available.
Slow or limited uptake of policy mainstreaming restricting integration of wetland PA conservation across sectors, mainstreaming fails to deliver adequate ways to balance wetland conservation and development objectives limiting long-term success of mainstreaming	Medium	Mainstreaming efforts will be centred on policy support for the 14th Five-year Plan, which has a leading role over government reform agendas and budgets. Project is designed to build off existing government policy and commitments which increasingly recognize the need to balance development against the needs of coastal wetland conservation. Project will combine mainstreaming and awareness raising in parallel to build engagement and political support. Project will also provide technical assistance, through technical standards and best practice wetland management guidelines for different sectors to facilitate adoption. Assessments of existing policy/legal frameworks and opportunities to balance wetland PA conservation with objectives of key sectors will be completed during the PPG phase and used to inform the detailed design of mainstreaming activities.

Lack of support for PA fundraising, difficulty establishing broader donor and private sector interest in flyway conservation	Medium	The proposed expansion of the wetland PA network will increase the ongoing management costs of the wetland PA network, exacerbating the current lack of funds for management. Project will seek to increase investment through mainstreaming and awareness efforts in parallel to build political and groundroots support for coastal wetland conservation. A flyway conservation strategy and business plan will be developed to support this, with financing gap and needs identified and opportunities for private sector and philanthropic donor investment elaborated.
Limited engagement of farming/local communities in sustainable livelihoods and land management practices restricting their adoption and replication	Medium	The project will demonstrate a range of activities to support adoption of sustainable land management / wetland use practices to reduce threats to wetlands and migratory birds. There might be limited uptake and replication of these activities if they do not deliver adequate financial and livelihood benefits to communities, making it difficult to engage communities and sustain benefits after the project. To mitigate this risk, project will use a range of approaches, blending technical assistance, market- and non-market-based incentive mechanisms, and awareness raising and engagement of farmers associations. Livelihoods activities will be underpinned by socioeconomic assessments and local consultations conducted during the PPG phase. Market-based opportunities will be further assessed during the PPG stage to confirm their potential.
Influences of climate change on wetlands, especially on the structure, composition, and functions of coastal ecosystems	Medium	The project will single out the optimal wetland conservation scheme, a "red-line" target for China's coastal wetlands that considers the projected climatic variability and change under different climate change scenarios. The adoption of integrated wetland management systems will increase the ability of coastal wetlands to mitigate and adapt to global warming. Reliable data from monitoring systems to be established in the project will enable Chinese government at different levels to take proactive measures. Enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity for coastal ecosystems will be integrated into project design during PPG phase.

Potential physical and/or economic displacement linked to the establishment of new PAs and/or the adoption of new management practices or regulations at demonstration PAs	Medium, High	A SESP pre-screening has been conducted in accordance with UNDP policy. This identified potential social risks and impacts that could arise alongside the establishment of new PAs and at demonstration sites for improved management effectiveness. The [risk with the highest likelihood] relates to the potential for access to resources to be changed through new regulations and management practices [which is overall assessed as 'medium' risk rating]. This risk could also apply to ethnic minorities at project demonstration sites where ethnic minorities are present, currently only identified at the Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR. [In accordance with SES policy, UNDP will seek FPIC on any matters that may may affect rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods]. [There is the potential risk of physical displacement associated with PA establishment and/or PA strengthening through potential government resettlement. The likelihood of this occurring is assessed as low as no government resettlement is planned at project PA expansion or demonstration sites. Five project demonstration sites have been identified: Liaohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve (Liaoning), Yellow River Delta NNR (Shandong), Chongming Dongtan NNR (Shanghai), Zhanjing Mangrove Forest NNR (Guangdong), and Dashanbao Black-necked Crane NNR (Yunnan). There are no plans for government resettlement at any of these demonstration sites. Some indicative sites for PA expansion have been identified: Dagang (Tianjin Province), Nanpu and Huanghua (Hebei), Rudong (Jiangsu), Dongshan (Fujian), and Dapeng Bay (Guangdong). There are no plans for government resettlement at any of these proposed PA sites. There is some uncertainty with PA expansion sites as these are not yet fully delineated and will not be confirmed until the PPG phase. Given this uncertainty the risk has been conservatively escalated to a rating of 'high'. This risk rating may decline during the PPG phase when further information is confirmed on project sites. The project will not conduct any resettlement and GEF funds will not be used for resettlement.] The potential for physical and/or economic displacement at project sites linked to project activities and/or associated government programs will be assessed during the PPG phase. A SESP will be completed during the PPG phase in accordance with UNDP-GEF policy, along with the development of any required frameworks, management plans or further assessments depending on the nature and extent of identified risks.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The proposed institutional structure will be confirmed during the PPG phase. The preliminary proposal is that a Project Management Office will be embedded within the Government Implementing Partner (Executing Entity) the National Forest and Grassland Authority. The PMO will be responsible for overseeing project monitoring and evaluation and ensuring a coordinated approach is taken across project demonstration sites.

UNDP as GEF Agency will ensure that project monitoring and evaluation is conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures, including completion of project inception report, annual project implementation reviews (PIR) and mandatory independent mid-term review and terminal evaluations. This oversight will be provided by the UNDP Country Office in China with support from the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor in Bangkok. UNDP will conduct yearly visits (with costs for UNDP staff covered by the GEF Agency fee) to project sites based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. A Project Steering Committee will be established and provide overall guidance and decision-making for the project. This will be chaired by the Ministry of Finance and comprised of related national Ministries and provincial authorities, along with UNDP, with membership to be finalized during the PPG phase.

SFGA will coordinate the program with other wetland and wildlife projects in China. SFGA is the duly appointed lead agency for coordination of all programs relating to wetlands conservation, wildlife conservation and wildlife trade. SFGA is the state party for such instruments as CITES, RAMSAR and the EAAF Partnership. This role provides the opportunity for SFGA to ensure that project activities are coordinated with – and supportive of – the efforts of other partners including the directions of the EAAF Partnership.

As a flyway-wide knowledge transfer and sharing platform, the EAAF Partnership will not only provide monitoring information, research findings, and best conservation practices available on waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF with the proposed project but also offers great opportunities to introduce the outcomes of the project to other countries along the flyway. There will be regular coordination and engagement with the EAAF Partnership via SFGA.

This project has been designed to complement and supplement relevant GEF-financed projects as outlined below:

· **GEF-5 'Main streams of life' (MSL) wetlands program:** the MSL program, supported by UNDP and FAO, comprises one national policy and coordination project and six provincial projects. The program has had many successes with policy mainstreaming and PA sub-system strengthening at a provincial level, and in improving site-based management of wetland PAs including co-management with local communities. The MSL child projects are largely reaching their operational closure over 2018-2019 and most will have closed by the time the proposed project would commence implementation. The proposed project is designed to build off the successes and lessons learned by the MSL program. Great attention will be placed over the PPG phase in identifying these lessons and integrating them fully into the detailed design of project activities, and in the projects' knowledge management and coordination approaches.

· **GEF-6 China's Protected Area System Reform (C-PAR) program**: the C-PAR program, supported by UNDP, CI and FECO, is currently awaiting CEO Endorsement of its six child projects. The program would be implemented in parallel with the proposed project, but a few years ahead. This provides a good opportunity to piggyback on knowledge exchange and coordination processes used by the C-PAR program, particularly as the projects all share a focus on PA sub-system strengthening. The coordination with C-PAR is proposed to include: i) While this project will have its own Project Board, there will be coordination and information exchange between the two governing bodies by inviting a member of the C-PAR Program Board to attend Board meetings of this project as an observer – and vice versa allowing this project to observe at C-PAR program level (with SFGA represented on both boards, it will be appropriate for SFGA to take on this role; ii) Participation of flyway project within technical advisory groups of C-PAR on relevant subjects; iii) Inclusion of flyway project demonstration sites within the knowledge exchange program of C-PAR, such that this project can also benefit from – and share – lessons and best practices learned on PA strengthening, and view first-hand through domestic site visit the approaches being used by the C-PAR projects, iv) Establishment of We-Chat coordination group for relevant PA-focussed GEF projects in China.

· **GEF-6 PRC-GEF Partnership Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development (C-SAP) program:** the C-SAP program, supported by UNDP, FAO and World Bank is currently in PPG phase. There are five child projects within the C-SAP program including one focussed on strengthening China's frameworks for IAS management and control. This proposed project will coordinate with that project to ensure that technical approaches, systems and standards for best practice IAS management reflect the learnings from that project. UNDP, as GEF Agency for both projects, can help facilitate this coordination.

· **International waters projects in China and IW:Learn initiative:** There are lessons to be learned from past and ongoing projects in the IW portfolio in China, including in the Yellow Sea and South China Sea. Knowledge exchange and coordination can be facilitated through engagement in the online IW:Learn knowledge platform and participation in biennial IW:Learn conferences and regional events.

Mechanisms to coordinate with the above-mentioned GEF-financed ongoing projects will be defined further during the PPG phase.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

1. **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD**
2. **National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NEPE) under GEFSEC**
3. **Others**

The rationale and policy of this project are fully consistent with broader government planning and policy at national and provincial level. Notably, the 13th Five-year Plan (2016-2020) urges environmental protection and the creation of China as an ‘ecological civilization’. The 13th Five-year Plan places great emphasis on environmental protection and wetland conservation. Policy is pushing even more strongly in this direction with the aim to develop a ‘Beautiful China’ and deepen ongoing reforms for ecological protection and redlining. Several ministries have adjusted their priorities for 13th Five-year Plans to match the new directions given at the third Plenum of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee.

This proposed project is aligned with the China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action (CBPF), which is China’s umbrella GEF investment strategy for biodiversity conservation. This project has been designed to address urgent, priority and catalytic issues identified under the CBPF. In particular, it will fill a clear gap in the current CBPF actions by building on the lessons learned during the recent EU-China Biodiversity Program (also part of CBPF) and ongoing wetlands projects under the GEF-5 MSL wetlands program.

The migratory birds project is aligned with China’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under the UNCBD, which recognizes wetlands and sites for migratory birds as a priority. The project is also aligned to the National Implementation Report under Ramsar Convention. Its relevance to major national and international plans and partnerships is summarised in Table 7 below.

Global Flyway Network (GFN) Research Programme	2006	Research program supervised under University of Groningen/Royal Netherlands Institute of Zoology.	Dedicated demographic and migration ecology research on key migrant species along the Flyway focusing on Bohai Bay, China, in collaboration with Beijing Normal University.
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)	2006-	Multinational program based in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Currently 18 member countries (of 22 across EAAF). Partnership provides a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	Sites selected as demos under this project are identified as priorities of the EAAFP network.
Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China	2015	Coordinated by Paulson Institute with Convention on Wetlands Management Office and Institute of Geography of CAS and funded by Lao Niu Foundation	Identifies 107 unprotected priority sites for migratory bird protection and strategies for their conservation.
China Biodiversity Partnership and Framework for Action (CBPF)	2007-2017	Umbrella framework for action to coordinate and build momentum around the programs of different partners under CBD in China	Creates synergy with broader conservation work in biodiversity areas – legal framework, PA strengthening in general, information sharing etc. The project fills gap in the framework.
Implementation Plan of State Oceanic Administration on Building Marine Ecological Civilization	2015-2020	Defined the major tasks and objectives on restoration of coastal wetlands and development of marine protected areas.	By 2020, the total area of marine protected areas will have reached 5% of marine areas under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China; at least 8,500 hectares of coastal wetlands will have been restored

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management is embedded within the project design. Component 3 of the proposed project relates to knowledge and information management and awareness raising and includes a specific output (Output 3.3) to identify and document best practices and lessons learned. The project's approach to knowledge management will focus on knowledge exchange and transfer at multiple levels: between project demonstration sites, between this project and other GEF-financed initiatives underway in China particularly the child projects of the C-PAR program and the IAS child project of the C-SAP program, across other wetland PAs in China that fall within the EAAF or other flyways, and across the broader EAAF Partnership with currently 18 countries and NGO and private sector partners.

The project's knowledge management approach will include: formal (e.g. program website) and informal (e.g. We-Chat discussion group, international fora on wetlands, etc) knowledge sharing channels, in-person knowledge exchange visits at project sites (and sites of other thematically aligned projects) and the development of knowledge products and reports. The project will particularly share its findings and experiences with the C-PAR framework program on PA reform to ensure that the specific requirements of migratory species stopover sites will be adequately catered for in the overall national PA reform process.

The project's attention on developing and supporting the rollout of standardized monitoring techniques for migratory birds will provide a sound, scientific basis for knowledge exchange and provide the data needed for sound management decisions at sites along the EAAF. The development of a unified database for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats along with a smart-phone based application for data entry and retrieval will support the provision of additional data (e.g. citizen science) and encourage its use, along with providing a platform to share data and knowledge generated by the project.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Jing Fu GEF Operational Focal Point	Director, International Financial Institution Division III, International Department	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	9/14/2018

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

ANNEX B: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table F to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Interim Offline Reporting Template for GEF-7 Core Indicators

6110 China / PIF-stage data / 20 September 2018

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares)

Ha (expected at PIF)	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Ha (achieved at TE)
272,200			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all figures reported under the two sub-indicators (1.1 and 1.2) for that stage.

1.1 Terrestrial protected areas newly created

Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)

100,000			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all individual PAs reported in the next table, for that stage.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
TBD during PPG phase						

Name of Protected Area	METT Score at CEO Endorsement	METT Score at MTR	METT Score at TE
TBD during PPG phase			

Add rows as needed; ensure all relevant PAs are listed in both this and the previous table. Note no METT score at PIF.

1.2 Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
172,200			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all individual PAs reported in the next table, for that stage.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve	555558392	Not reported	153,000			
Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve	902683	Not reported	19,200			

Name of Protected Area	METT Score at CEO Endorsement	METT Score at MTR	METT Score at TE
Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve			
Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve			

Add rows as needed; ensure all relevant PAs are listed in both this and the previous table. Note no METT score at PIF.

Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares)

Ha (expected at PIF)	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Ha (achieved at TE)
224,233			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all figures reported under the two sub-indicators (2.1 and 2.2) for that stage.

2.1 Marine protected areas newly created

Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
100,000			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all individual PAs reported in the next table, for that stage.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
TBD during PPG phase						

Name of Protected Area	METT Score at CEO Endorsement	METT Score at MTR	METT Score at TE
TBD during PPG phase			

Add rows as needed; ensure all relevant PAs are listed in both this and the previous table. Note no METT score at PIF.

2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
124,433			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all individual PAs reported in the next table, for that stage.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)
Liohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve	902689	Not reported	80,000			
Chongming Dongtan Birds National Nature Reserve	900673	Not reported	24,155			
Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve	900686	Not reported	20,278			

Name of Protected Area	METT Score at CEO Endorsement	METT Score at MTR	METT Score at TE
Liohe River Estuary National Nature Reserve			
Chongming Dongtan Birds National Nature Reserve			
Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve			

Add rows as needed; ensure all relevant PAs are listed in both this and the previous table. Note no METT score at PIF.

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (expected at PIF)	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Ha (achieved at TE)
600,000			

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all figures reported under the four sub-indicators (4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4) for that stage.

4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, noncertified)

Ha (expected at PIF)	Qualitative description at PIF	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Qualitative description at CEO ER	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Qualitative description at MTR	Ha (achieved at TE)	Qualitative description at TE
550,000	Adoption of wetland-compatible practices across sectors, e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, mariculture, fishing						

4.2 Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification and that incorporates biodiversity considerations

Ha (expected at PIF)	Type of Certification at PIF	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Type of Certification at CEO ER	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Type of Certification at MTR	Ha (achieved at TE)	Type of Certification at TE
50,000	TBD during PPG phase, standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council will be explored						

4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (expected at PIF)	Description of Management Practices at PIF	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Description of Management Practices at CEO ER	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Description of Management Practices at MTR	Ha (achieved at TE)	Description of Management Practices at TE

4.4 Area of High Conservation Value forest loss avoided

Total Ha (expected at PIF)	Total Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (achieved at TE)

Figure at a given stage must be the sum of all individual PAs reported in the next table, for that stage. Prepare and upload file that justifies the HCVF.

Name of HCVF	Ha (expected at PIF)	Counterfactual at PIF	Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Counterfactual at CEO ER	Ha (achieved at MTR)	Ha (achieved at TE)

Total area under improved management (in PIF and CEO ER Table F)

Million Ha (expected at PIF)	Million Ha (expected at CEO Endorsement)
1,096,633	

Calculate the total by summing Core Indicators 1-5. Ensure that there is no double-counting.

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Total number (expected at PIF)	Total number (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total number (achieved at MTR)	Total number (achieved at TE)
Women	4,000			
Men	4,000			
Total	8,000			