

Project Evaluation Series

11/2023

**Terminal evaluation of the project
“Securing Biodiversity Conservation and
Sustainable Use in Huangshan
Municipality”**

Project code: GCP/CPR/049/GFF

Management response

Management response to the terminal evaluation of the project “Securing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Huangshan Municipality”					08/23
Evaluation recommendation	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Responsible unit	Time frame	Further funding required (Y or N)
<p>Recommendation 1. The sustainability plan that has been started should be finalized, with careful attention given to best practices dissemination, supporting Tier 3 and 4 NRs to improve management, sustaining and scaling up community co-management and alternative livelihoods activities, and learning from the Paradise Foundation and Green Anhui management model in Jiulongfeng PNR. <i>Addressed to: PMO, HSAC</i></p>	Accepted	FAO has provided feedback on the sustainability plan. The PMO will revise and finalize it.	PMO, HSAC	By Jan. 2023	No
<p>Recommendation 2. For Tier 3 NRs, continue providing support to improve their management effectiveness, using the learnings and best practices from this project. <i>Addressed to: HMFB</i></p>	Accepted	Because the 73 NRs of Tier 1 to 4 were consolidated to 21 NRs for optimized management in 2021 by the municipal government, the capacity building and best practice adoption in these NRs will be better planned. There is regular budget from the public sector to support the experience sharing activities.	HMFB	By March 2023	No
<p>Recommendation 3. For Tier 4 NRs, promote the adaptation of the community co-management approach and the Forest Chief Policy to develop a new model that empowers the community to manage the NRs and their natural resources. <i>Addressed to: HMFB</i></p>	Accepted	Because the 73 NRs of Tier 1 to 4 were consolidated to 21 NRs for optimized management in 2021 by the municipal government, the capacity building and best practice adoption in these NRs will be better planned. There is regular budget from the public sector to support the experience sharing activities.	HMFB	By March 2023	No
<p>Recommendation 4. Assess the effectiveness of the Paradise Foundation/Green Anhui entrusted management model in Jiulongfeng PNR and, if appropriate, explore opportunities to scale up and apply with other communities and forest areas and NRs with suitable conditions. <i>Addressed to: PMO, HMFB</i></p>	Accepted	Assessment of the effectiveness of the Paradise Foundation/Green Anhui entrusted management model will be included in the Terminal Report. There are national and provincial policies to encourage social societies and NGOs to participate in protected area conservation and development. There is regular budget from the public sector to provide the support.	HSAC, HMFB	By March 2023	No
<p>Recommendation 5. In future projects using an indirect execution modality, provide enhanced capacity building in the development of agreements</p>	Accepted	FAO China Office has developed a comprehensive training package to brief the partners on FAO GEF project management, and will provide continuous	FAO China Office	Ongoing efforts	No

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and in the implementation of required reporting and financial procedures. <i>Addressed to: OPIM team at FAO</i>		support to the partners during project implementation.			
Recommendation 6. Assess the future needs in Huangshan Municipality for expert advice on biodiversity-related matters after the project ends and consider rationalizing the Project Leading Group, Biodiversity Conservation Committee, and Biodiversity Advisory Committee. <i>Addressed to: PMO, HMFB</i>	Accepted	Through the project, the related departments and experts have built partnership. After the project, they will continue working together on biodiversity conservation, although without the title of the Group or Committee. HSAC has applied for a new GEF 8 project. The mechanism set up by this project will continue to work for the new project if approved.	HSAC, HMFB	Ongoing efforts	No
Recommendation 7. In future FAO GEF projects, if a project has a strong policy focus then the Operational Partner should be a provincial bureau (such as provincial grassland and forestry bureau). <i>Addressed to: FAO, national partners</i>	Accepted	FAO will bear in mind when designing new projects.	FAO China Office	Ongoing efforts	No
Recommendation 8. Consider opportunities to promote the achievements, best practices and innovations of this project at the CBD COP 15 in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022. <i>Addressed to: PMO, HSAC</i>	Partially accepted	Due to COVID-19, the project could not travel to Canada. FAO and the national partners will look for other opportunities to further extend the project practice and experience. There will be international events held in Huangshan in the coming years with the removal of the travel restrictions in China, e.g. Huangshan is the World Cultural and Natural Heritage site, and the Global Geopark of UNESCO.			No
Recommendation 9. Explore opportunities to disseminate the achievements, best practices and innovations of this project internationally, including with preparation of materials in languages other than Chinese if necessary. <i>Addressed to: HSAC, FAO</i>	Accepted	FAO website has published the project newsletter and fact sheet, so as the evaluation reports. When opportunities come, FAO will share the project experience with other countries and regions. The AI in the tourist center of Huangshan will continue sharing project knowledge to national and international tourists.	HSAC, FAO	Ongoing efforts	No

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