



A new green line: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation objectives and practices into China's Water Resources Management Policy and Planning Practice

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

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BACKGROUND

The evaluation of this project is a requirement of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

It was conducted for both accountability and learning purposes of the GEF, FAO, the national executing partner and other participating institutions. It provides a comprehensive and systematic account of the project's performance by assessing its design, implementation and achievement of objectives.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE

GCP/CPR/057/GFF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Yunnan Province and
Chongqing Municipality,
China

START/END DATE

2016 / 2023

FUNDED BY

FAO, GEF

PRIORITY AREAS

BE3

PARTNERS

National institutions



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation asked:

- Has the project successfully integrated biodiversity conservation into China's water management policy and planning?
- Can the project be credited for progress towards long-term impact, including improved legal frameworks and capacities in local institutions for sustainable water and biodiversity management?

EVALUATION METHODS



Knowledge
management
products



Desk review



60
interviews



7
focus
discussion
groups

EVALUATION FINDINGS



WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project made a very good contribution to the goal to mainstream biodiversity conservation objectives and practices into the water resources management policy and planning in China.

It also made a significant contribution to the effective generation and processing of advanced information on river biodiversity and its conservation at the four pilot sites.

The project's results are likely to be sustainable: there is strong government ownership and effective investments in biodiversity mainstreaming at multiple levels; improved partnerships; the establishment of long-term monitoring, etc.

Actual co-financing significantly exceeded the sum committed. In fact, the national, provincial and county governments made critical contributions.



WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

- The project design had some shortcomings that led to implementation challenges. The project design contained no actions and only one target that addressed gender issues. Implementation and reporting had limited consideration of gender participation.
- The project design and implementation did not address any environmental or social safeguards.



LESSONS LEARNED

FAO's Operational Partner Modality (OPIM) model was successfully applied to this project. This is because the relevant FAO teams now have extensive experience in indirect execution.

The project demonstrated good practices in optimizing cooperation between multiple departments at different levels. This improved delivery by enhancing the project's enabling environment. To fully realize the intended benefits from the GEF funding to share knowledge, find synergies and build partnerships, it is important that operational partners implement the complementarity mechanisms identified.

Click [here](#) to find out more in the full report.



NEXT STEPS



Replicate successful project activities in other counties and rivers in Yunnan and Chongqing to enhance results and extend activities to other provinces, tailoring approaches to each province's unique situations and needs.



Revise the project's sustainability plan, addressing challenges in finance and technical support, and clarify FAO's role in implementation.



Improve future project reporting by providing comprehensive and timely evidence against each target and adopting a transparent approach to regularly reassess environmental and social impacts in future projects.



Establish a bird monitoring system along the Chuan River in Jingdong County, Yunnan Province.