**UNDP Management Response**

**[Strengthening the Protected Area System in the Qilian Mountain-Qinghai Lake Landscape Project] Mid Term Review**

Date: 2021 Nov 19

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Cleared by: Position: Unit/Bureau:

Input into and update in ERC: Position: Unit/Bureau:

**Overall comments:**

The project fully agrees the results of the MTR and accepts recommendations MTR made. It is very helpful to review the first half implementation of the project, to identify the good process as well as weakness and issues that need to be improved and tackled. For the part of strengths, the project will keep working on them and strive to achieve a more prosperous development in the coming two years; for the part of weakness, the project will follow the recommendations made by the MTR team and take concrete measures to improve implementation specifically in environmental and social risk management, project reporting, landscape planning, ecological corridors, pasture management and sustainability under the strong leadership of QFGB, UNDP, DOF, with strong support from all implementing partners and stakeholders.

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| **Evaluation Recommendation 1: Finalize the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) as a matter of urgency, while ensuring that SES requirements for disclosure are adhered to**  |
| **Management Response[[1]](#footnote-1): Fully accept.**PMO will communicate with international, national and local consultants and see if further revision were needed to the revised ESIA and ESMP, and seek supports from QFGB and UNDP CO if necessary, to speed up the finalization of ESMP.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| **Status[[3]](#footnote-3)** | **Comments** |
| * 1. To finalize the ESIA and ESMP report by communicating with consultants and UNDP CO.
 | 2021.12-2022.02 | PMO | Initiated |  |
| 1.2 Distribute CPAR3 environmental and social management plan to each project review, guide and supervise the long-term implementation of the environmental and social management plan in each project reserve. | 2022.02-2022.03 | PMO, C-PAR child projects | Not initiated |  |
| 1.3 Incorporate the implementation of CPAR3 environmental and social management plan into the annual work plan of the project and monitor and evaluate the progress of the environmental and social management plan every year |  2022 .03-2023.12 | PMO, CTA | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 2: When the ESMP is finalized, review all project outputs and activities (including those completed, underway and future) against the ESMP to ensure risks are appropriately managed, make any necessary changes to the design of activities and identify any required remedial actions, and have the findings endorsed by the PSC and RTA** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**Risks related to ESMP will be monitored, recorded, necessary changes and measures will be made to respond to the required actions, and record findings and changes.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 2.1 Review the project outputs and activities against the ESMP and identify the risks that not yet appropriately managed and corresponding measures for necessary change | 2021.12-2022.02 | PMO, QFGB | Initiated |  |
| 2.2 Actions taken and findings to be recorded and reported in the PSC | 2022.02-2022.03 | PMO, PSC | Not initiated |  |
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| **Evaluation Recommendation 3: (to be answered by UNDP)****Provide enhanced technical oversight and support, including targeted capacity building, to CO and other stakeholders for the complex processes involved in managing High-risk safeguards projects** |
| **Management Response:**  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 3.1 UNDP CO will appoint focal point for safeguard issues to ensure the full compliance with SES standards and procedures. | 2021.12-2022.02 | UNDP CO | Initiated  |  |
| 3.2 UNDP Regional Office will enhance capacity building of CO and strengthen the technical oversight on safeguard compliance/ensurance | 2022.02-2024.01 | UNDP Regional Office | Initiated  |  |
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| **Evaluation Recommendation 4: (to be answered by UNDP &QFGB)****Review the processes followed in environmental and social risk management in this project since CEO endorsement, identify lessons learned and opportunities to improve safeguards outcomes in future projects** |
| **Management Response:**   |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 4.1 the lessons learned will be analyzed and included in the safeguard specialist report and project implementation report as important reference for other/future projects | 2022.01-2024.01 | UNDP CO, PMO, Safeguard Specialist | Not initiated |  |
| 4.2 Both UNDP and QFGB will take these lessons learnt into future formulation and implementation actions | 2022.01-2024.01 | UNDP， QFGB | Not initiated |  |
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| **Evaluation Recommendation 5: Coordinate implementation of the recommendations on environmental and social risk management at a C-PAR programmatic level to maximize identification of systemic issues, opportunities for improvement and lessons learned** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**  Coordinate with C-PAR 1 for the implementation of the MTR recommendations, reviewing the implementation of ESRM, identifying the SWOT aspects of it for improvement in coming years.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 5.1 Follow up with UNDP’s comments to the ESIA and ESMP reports and timely feedback to PMOs for improvement | 2021.11-2022.02 | C-PAR1 | Initiated |  |
| 5.2 Coordinate the international safeguards consultant and PMOs to finalize the ESIA and ESMP to guide the risk management activities of PMOs | 2021.12-2022.03 | C-PAR 1 | Initiated  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 6: Prepare a revised results framework for approval by the PSC and RTA with all baselines and targets reviewed and confirmed and with clarity around how each will be measured and reported** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**PMO will prepare a revised results/outcomes framework under the support from CTA, then review and discuss it with key stakeholders and supervisor units including QFGB and the Coordination Office, and further submit it to PSC and RTA for approval.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 6.1 To draft a revised results framework with baselines and targets reviewed under the support of CTA; | 2021.12-2022.02 | PMO, CTA | Initiated |  |
| 6.2 To submit the framework to PSC and RTA for review and approval by reviewing the framework with key stakeholders  | 2021.02-2022.03 | Stakeholders, QFGB, DOF, PSC,UNDP CO, RTA | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 7: Agree on what activities will contribute to Indicators 2b, 4a, 8a and 8b and establish how they will be measured and reported, and have these approved by the PSC and RTA** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**PMO will prepare specific indicator verification schedule, esp. responding to the Indicator 2b, 4a and 8b, with the agreed methods of measuring each of them and report it to PSC and RTA for confirmation. |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 7.1 To prepare specific indicator verification schedule, esp. for the Indicator 2b, 4a and 8b, with the agreed methodologies to measure each of them | 2021.12-2022.02 | PMO, CTA | Initiated |  |
| 7.2 To report the agreed measuring methods and schedule to PSC and RTA for approval after obtaining consensus from stakeholders | 2021.02-2022.03 | PMO, PSC, RTA, Stakeholders | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 8: Agree on the methodology and analysis for snow leopard monitoring, ensuring this keeps consistence with the methodology used to develop the baseline.**  |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**Will organize specific meetings with the Qilian Mountains National Park Qinghai Administration to discuss the methodology and analysis for snow leopard monitoring, to reach consensus on it.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 8.1 To organize meetings with the Qilian Mountains National Park Qinghai Administration for the methodology and analysis for snow leopard monitoring, to agree and ensure a consistence with the methodology used to develop the baseline. | 2022.01-2022.04 | PMO, CTA, the Qilian Mountains National Park Qinghai Administration | Not initiated |  |
| 8.2 To share the agreed methodology with implementing partners and obtain consensus.  | 2022.04-2022.05 | PMO, CTA, the Qilian Mountains National Park Qinghai Administration | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 9: Establish baseline status and end-of-project targets for the KAP survey under Indicator 9 and have these approved by the PSC and RTA** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**Will discuss with CTA, UNDP CO and RTA about establishing baseline status and targets in the end of project for the KAP survey, then submit it to PSC and RTA for approval.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 9.1 To organize meetings for the establishment of baseline status and targets in the end of project for the KAP survey | 2022.01-2022.02 | PMO, CTA, UNDP CO, RTA | Not initiated |  |
| 9.2 To submit it to PSC and UNDP CO and RTA for approval. | 2022.02-2022.03 | PSC, RTA | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 10: Prepare early for the terminal evaluation to obtain required clearances for relevant documents and other information to ensure that all evidence is ready in a timely manner** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**PMO will review the details of the whole process of MTR in 2021, record all lessons learned from it and to develop a TE plan that starts preparing relevant materials, documents and evidences from now on.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 10.1 PMO to develop a TE plan that respond to all lessons learned from MTR collecting recommendations from implementing partners at all levels (PSC)  | 2022.03-2022.04 | PMO, CTA, Implementing partners, PSC | Initiated |  |
| 10.2 To revise and finalize the plan by discussing with all stakeholders | 2022.05-2022.06 | PMO, CTA, Implementing partners  | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 11: Obtain independent assessment of whether the provincial planning and programmes in the Qilian Mountains and Qinghai Lake areas provide the project with the intended strategic ecological direction; if necessary, work to establish such a framework** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**PMO will identify a consultant to provide technical services to make assessment on whether the provincial planning and programmes in the two PAs clearly provide the project with intended strategic ecological direction; if necessary, will continue to work on the development of such a strategic plan identifying the integrated landscape development direction required in the project document, which is to closely combine with the provincial ecological construction schemes.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 11.1 PMO will identify a technical consultant to conduct the assessment; | 2021.12-2022.04 | PMO, CTA, Implementing partners | Initiated |  |
| 11.2 Recommendations will be made according to the findings of the assessment if it was necessary to develop a strategic plan, or work out a framework of realizing the intended objective in PD. | 2022.04-2022.06 | PMO, CTA | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 12: Develop a clear ecological objective for each corridor, including simple diagrams showing the corridor in the landscape and the wildlife populations that will benefit** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**PMO, especially the two PA coordinators will work together with CTA, implementing partner technical staff, as well as local communities, to develop an ecological corridor plan with more clearly objective of making contribution to reduce the fragmentation of wildlife habitats in the landscape. |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 12.1 The two PA coordinators will develop a draft corridor construction plan and revise it by taking recommendations from technical staff and communities;  | 2021.12-2022.03 | PMO, CTA, implementing partners. | Initiated |  |
| 12.2 To finalize the plan by informing related units at all levels and communities to obtain consensus for implementation. | 2022.03-2022.05 | PMO, CTA, implementing partners | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 13: Develop additional pasture management plans to inform the restoration of degraded grasslands and the improved management of habitats, in accordance with Activities 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 in the project document** |
| **Management Response: Partially accepted.**PMO will urge the current subcontractor who is working on the pasture management plans to submit the draft by the end of this year, and will provide technical assistance to them reviewing and improving the drafts following the specific requirements set in the project documents.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 13.1 Two PA coordinators urge the submission of draft plans and support the subcontractor to revise them following recommendations from stakeholders and making consensus of implementation; | 2021.12-2022.03 | PMO, CTA,  | Initiated  |  |
| 13.2 To finalize the plans and implementation | 2022.03-2022.05 | PMO, CTA, implementing partners | Not initiated |  |
| **Evaluation Recommendation 14: Develop a sustainability plan before the end of the third year to identify how the project’s results can be continued beyond the GEF funding and use this to inform activities over the final two years of implementation** |
| **Management Response: fully accepted.**The PMO will organize series workshops against the sustainability in key areas including financial, policy and legislation, institutional capacity development, PA biodiversity conservation and community participatory conservation initiatives, then draft a sustainability plan combing the outputs of these workshops and consulting with CTA, consultant teams and stakeholders, then to finalize it and submit it to PSC and local collaboration partners for commitment.  |
| **Key Action(s)** | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Status** | **Comments** |
| 14.1 To organize workshops discussing the sustainability with stakeholders and then draft a plan with the feedbacks collected from the workshops. | 2021.12-2022.01 | PMO, CTA, implementing partners | Initiated |  |
| 14.2 To finalize the plan on the base of consensus from all stakeholders | 2022.01-2022.02 | PMO, CTA, implementing partners | Not initiated |  |

*(Add tables, as needed)*

1. Select one: Fully Accept, Partially Accept, Reject [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Select one: Not initiated, Initiated, Completed, Completed, No longer applicable [↑](#footnote-ref-3)