

# Ethnic Minority Development Plan

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Project Number: 47070-002  
November 2015

## People's Republic of China: Hunan Dongjiang Lake Integrated Environmental Protection and Management Project

Prepared by the Zixing City Project Management Office for the Asian Development Bank.

## **CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS**

(as of 3 November 2015)

Currency unit	–	yuan (CNY)
CNY1.00	=	\$0.1578
\$1.00	=	CNY6.3353

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AB	–	agriculture bureau
ACWF	–	All China Women's Federation
ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CAB	–	civil affairs bureau
CNY	–	Chinese yuan
EM	–	ethnic minority
EMA	–	external monitoring agency
EMDP	–	ethnic minority development plan
EMP	–	environmental management plan
M&E	–	monitoring and evaluation
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
TO	–	township office
VC	–	village committee
ZCG	–	Zixing City Government
ZCPMO	–	Zixing City project management office
ZEMRAO	–	Zixing Ethnic Minority and Religion Affairs Office

## **NOTES**

- (i) The fiscal year of the Government of People's Republic of China and its agencies ends on 31 December.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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**PRC: Hunan Dongjiang Lake Integrated Environmental  
Protection and Management Project**

## **ETHNIC MINORITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**Zixing City Project Management Office**

**November 2015**

# ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR THE EMDP

To further increase the basic infrastructure level and improve the living standards of the local residents around Dongjiang Lake, Zixing City Government has decided to construct the Hunan Dongjiang Lake Environment Protection and Integrated Utilization Project. The project documents and project construction land use will get approval from Hunan Provincial Development and Reform Commission. It is planned that the project construction will start in 2015 and complete in December 2020. Zixing City Government will apply a proportion of ADB financing via Ministry of Finance to cover part of engineering and capacity development costs. Accordingly, the Project will be implemented in compliance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). Zixing City Project Management Office has prepared this Ethnic Minority Development Plan (EMDP).

The EMDP fully complies with requirements of the relevant laws, regulations and policies of People's Republic of China, Hunan Province and Zixing City Government and based on ADB review it conforms with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), specifically the policy requirements on Indigenous Peoples.

Zixing City Government and Zixing Project Management Office hereby affirm the contents of this EMDP dated May 2015 and ensures that the EMDP will be implemented as stipulated according to the principles. The Zixing City Project Management Office (PMO), in coordination with Zixing Ethnic Minorities and Religion Affairs Office, was authorized as the responsible agency to manage the implementation of the Project and related ethnic minority development activities.



Huang Bin  
Deputy Director

Project Management Office

2. / July 2015

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EM	–	ethnic minority
EMA	–	external monitoring agency
EMP	–	environmental management plan
EMDP	–	ethnic minority development plan
M&E	–	monitoring and evaluation
MLSG	–	minimum living standard guarantee
ZPMO	–	Zixing City Project Management Office
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
TO	–	township office
VC	–	village committee
ZCG	–	Zixing City Government
ZIFC	–	Zixing City Urban and Rural Environmental Protection Investment and Financing Center
ZEMRAO	–	Zixing Ethnic Minority and Religion Affairs Office

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This ethnic minority development plan (EMDP) has been prepared to ensure that the Yao ethnic minority people are able to participate and benefit directly from the Hunan Dongjiang Lake Integrated Environmental Protection and Management Project (the project), and that any negative impacts that might affect them are either avoided or mitigated. Adequate provisions to enhance economic conditions of the Yao villagers have been integrated into the project design. The EMDP is based on relevant laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and in accordance with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

2. ADB has included the project in its 2015 lending pipeline.<sup>1</sup> It is a multisector project involving water-based natural resources management, sanitation, drainage, and flood protection. The Government of the PRC has requested ADB to provide financial support for the proposed project. Rationale of the project is mainly to avert potential future deterioration in water quality of Dongjiang Lake. At present, the water quality of the Dongjiang Lake meets the country's national standards for drinking water source. The protection of the Dongjiang Lake is a priority project of the national government. It has been selected as one of the five river basins for nationwide pilot-testing of eco-compensation policy framework, which ADB has provided support in recent years. It is also considered as a strategic water resource for the Hunan Province, including Zixing City and Chenzhou Municipality.

### **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

3. The project has five major outputs or components (i) improved pollution control; (ii) established urban–rural water supply system; (iii) river course rehabilitation; (iv) integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management, which includes livelihood training; and (v) strengthened environmental and project management capacity, which includes public awareness on water pollution, solid waste, and ecological protection.

4. The proposed project is located in Hunan Province which covers a total land area of 211,800 square kilometers or about 2.2% of the country's total land area. The province is in the 11th rank among the largest in the PRC. There are two cities involved in the project: (i) Zixing City, and (ii) Chenzhou Municipality. Zixing City covers a total land area of 2,747 square kilometers, and is considered as a new industrial and tourist city in Hunan Province. The city is a county-level city under the administration of Chenzhou Municipality. It is subdivided into 2 street offices, 10 towns, and 8 townships (two of which are minority townships). There are four townships and/or towns (Huangcao Town, and the townships of Lianping, Longxi, and Qinjiang) and four villages with the Yao ethnic minority (EM).

### **III. SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

5. The primary economic activity of the households in the Dongjiang Lake basin is agriculture. A significant number of households in the project areas are dependent on aquaculture, including fishing in the Dongjiang Lake and rivers in some villages and/or townships. The people in upland communities, including the villages of the Yao EM, are

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2013. *Country Operations Business Plan: People's Republic of China, 2013–2015*. Manila.

dependent on bamboos production, orchards, and other fruit bearing trees which they sell to farmers' collectives and markets.

6. In addition to farming, households also raise livestock (i.e., cows, goats, and pigs) and poultry (i.e., chicken and ducks) both for food consumption and to augment household income. Swine or hog raising is common among the Yao EM as additional source of income. Migration of young people from villages within the project areas is high. Almost each household has more than one member working outside the village or township due to more job opportunities with higher wages in big cities and towns. They work in factories, offices, private companies, and business establishments.

7. The leading sources of income of the household heads based on the baseline socioeconomic survey conducted in November 2014 include the following: 1st rank is farming (55%), followed by self-employment (those with shops and/or businesses (15%); 3rd rank is working in construction or skilled labor (6%), and 4th rank is working in government agencies (4%).

8. At the regional level, Hunan Province has a gross domestic product (GDP) of CNY2.45017 trillion in 2013. The per capita GDP was CNY36,763, and per capita disposable income of urban residents in Hunan Province was CNY23,414. The per capita consumption expenditure of urban residents was CNY15,887. The per capita net income of rural residents was CNY8,372, with per capita consumption expenditure of CNY6,609.

9. The GDP in Chenzhou Municipality was CNY168.55 billion in 2013. Its per capita GDP was CNY36,256. In the same year, the per capita disposable income of urban residents in Chenzhou Municipality was CNY21,634. On the other hand, the per capita consumption expenditure of urban residents in 2013 was CNY12,662; and the per capita net income of rural residents was CNY9,692, with per capita consumption expenditure of CNY6,315. Zixing City's GDP reached CNY24.74 billion in 2013.

10. Huangcao Town has one village (Longxing) with the Yao EM. The primary source of income of the Yao people is farming. Other Yao families are receiving financial support from household members working outside the township. The major crops grown by the farmers are paddy rice; vegetables, mostly for household consumption; ginger; and fruits, such as oranges and chestnuts. Farmers use chemical fertilizers (not organic). Farmers are not members of a cooperative. Transportation is a major problem because bamboo grows mostly in upland areas far from the township proper. Not all farmers have trucks or tractors use for transporting bamboo from upland areas to the township proper.

11. Lianping (Jintang Village) and Qinjiang (Yao Village) townships have one village each with the Yao EM people. Their primary source of livelihood is farming. They are planting and/or taking care of oranges trees and working in areas with bamboo for so many years. The village leader of Jintang Village in Lianping Township who is a Yao mentioned that the farmers in the village, including the Yao EM, were already trained on the bamboo reforestation technology. They could already share knowledge on bamboo reforestation to other farmers in neighboring townships.

12. In Qinjiang Township, the Yao people also work as farmers in orchards. They prefer to plant orange trees and other kinds of fruit-bearing trees because they could harvest within a short span of time compared to growing timber trees or nonfruit-bearing trees. There are 10 farmers' forestry cooperatives operating in this township. One large farm cooperative, the "Quitian Ling Forestry Cooperative", has more than 100 members from four villages. The Yao farmers who were interviewed also stated that bamboo does not grow well in their village

compared to oranges, which mostly grow along the hilly terrain or mountain slopes near the Dongjiang Lake. In addition to orchards, the Yao households have small plots near their houses planted with various kinds of vegetables which are mainly for household food consumption. Excess agricultural products are for sale along the streets in front of their houses or in markets near their village.

13. The out migration rate is high in the project areas, especially among the younger and productive age bracket (40 years and below). The younger generation or children of old parents are not attracted to farming as the primary source of income. They prefer to work or look for jobs in factories and shops and/or commercial and manufacturing establishments located in urban areas. Their dream is to try their luck in cities or urban areas.

14. Participation of women in economic activities within the project areas in various sectors is commendable. Women are active in farming (bamboo, orchards, etc.), selling fruits along the roads and in shops, managing restaurants along Dongjiang Lake or in villages, working in factories for bamboo and fish processing, sorting oranges or working in farmers cooperatives, working as cleaners in the townships and villages, and other kinds of unskilled labor. Women also work in government agencies and organizations. There are more men employed in higher positions compared to women. However, the number of women in various sectors is commendable.

#### **A. Poverty and Social Assessment in the Project Areas**

15. In one Yao village (Jintang Village) in Lianping Township, one village (Yao Village) in Qinjiang, and one Yao village in Huangcao Town (Longxing Village), the majority of the households in their areas have almost uniform socioeconomic condition regardless of ethnicity. Income inequality was not raised as major concern among the Yao people as their socioeconomic condition is almost the same as that of the Han. The village leader affirmed that there are rich Yao people as well as Han (or poor Yao and Han) in the same village. The Yao are already assimilated; they have the same traditions as the Han people, and they claimed that they have no problem dealing with the Han in the village. Inter-marriage between the Yao and Han is common in the village. There is also uniformity in livelihood activities among households in the villages regardless of ethnicity.

16. Overall, the majority of the households in the project areas belong to average economic status as mentioned by the village and township officials. There are few households who are considered as poor and vulnerable, and are recipients of the national government's minimum living standard guarantee (MLSG). In Fenglin Village in Huangcao Town, there are 60 households (about 14%) receiving MLSG subsidy out of the 438 households. In Xinputou Village of Xingning Township, about 40 persons are provided with MLSG subsidy by the local government.

#### **B. Additional Social Assessment in the Project Areas**

17. Based on initial data gathered from the focus group discussions in townships (Bailang, Dongjiang, Huangcao, Lianping, Qinjiang, and Xingning), the majority of the houses in the project areas are old and still have the traditional type of toilet without septic tanks. New houses already have septic tanks. Springs are the primary source of water for drinking. The township center has water connections from the source to the houses. They consider their source of drinking water as safe, and without reported case of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases. Garbage in the township urban areas are collected at least 3–4 times a week, and the township

government and some villages hired cleaners (mostly women). Households pay minimal amount for water and/or garbage fees. Households in rural villages do not currently pay garbage collection service fee. Some villages have concrete garbage bins or box structure constructed in each village group. This project was constructed with funds from the township government.

#### **IV. PROJECT BENEFITS AND IMPACTS**

18. As stated in the project's design and monitoring framework, the major impact of the project will be sustainable economic development of Xiang River basin in Hunan Province achieved. The project's outcome will be integrated environmental protection of Dongjiang Lake achieved. The project is expected to avert water quality problems that may arise in Dongjiang Lake in the future due to possible water contaminations from untreated wastewater, address pollution problems through improved solid waste collection and transfer stations, agricultural pollution control, construction of water reservoir and wastewater treatment plants, prevention of flood and soil erosion through river course rehabilitation project (where there will be five rivers included in this project), soil erosion control, and implementation of integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management (i.e., aquatic ecological system functional recovery, wetland protection and recovery, soil erosion control, public interest protection, bamboo reforestation, and others).

19. The implementation of the project components and activities are expected to improve or address pollution problems along the Dongjiang Lake and surrounding areas as well as problems on solid waste and wastewater management. Providing reliable and safe drinking water to households will also prevent water-borne diseases and other illnesses, increase production, and improve the environment or ecosystem along the Dongjiang Lake areas. The project has also a capacity-building component on environmental monitoring and project management for concerned government agencies and/or bureaus. Eco-compensation and livelihood training for the local people, including women, are included in the feasibility study. Various government agencies and/or bureaus will be involved in the implementation of the project.

20. As in any development projects, it is inevitable that there will be some potential risks or negative impacts that may arise during project implementation, such as resettlement (temporary or permanent disruption of livelihoods; loss of income; and impacts on structures, land, and crops and/or trees) especially in areas where there will be civil works (i.e., construction of water treatment plants, etc.). Environmental impacts (i.e., noise, dust, etc.) during project implementation may also arise. Necessary safeguard mitigation measures for resettlement and environment impacts have been formulated to serve as guide for the executing agency and concerned project implementing agencies and units during implementation.

21. There are four townships and few villages with the Yao EM. One village (Jintang Village) in Lianping Township and one village (Yao Village) in Qinjiang Township are inhabited by about 70% of the Yao EM. The Yao EM have been living in the upland areas of these two townships for a long time. The Yao people do not consider themselves as different from the Han; they live harmoniously in the village without experiencing discrimination. Both the Yao and Han children go to the same school. They perceived that they are in almost the same socioeconomic status with non-Yao households in the villages.<sup>2</sup> However, they affirmed that most of the children of the Yao no longer speak the unique dialect of the Yao, especially if they migrate out of the villages to work in other parts of the country.

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<sup>2</sup> Consultations with the Yao EM village leaders and townships' officers by the technical assistance (TA) social development specialists during 29–30 October 2014.

22. The majority of the Yao EM no longer practice their cultural practices that are distinct in their own ethnic group. The children of the Yao EM attend school in the same school where the majority Chinese children also attend. The Yao village leaders fear that their unique culture may be forgotten by the children or younger generation due to low level of cultural awareness. The project will not have any indirect social impact on the Yao villagers; instead it will provide them benefits such as livelihood opportunities in bamboo upgrade activities and other project subcomponents and/or activities. No buildings with cultural or religious significance to ethnic minorities will be impacted.

23. An EMDP is prepared to ensure that the Yao EM people are able to participate and benefit directly from the project, and that any negative environmental or indirect social impacts that might affect them during project implementation are either avoided or mitigated. Adequate provisions to enhance economic conditions of the Yao villagers have been integrated into the project design. The EMDP fully complies with the requirements of relevant laws, regulations, and policies of the PRC, Hunan Province, Zixing City, and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), specifically the policy requirements on indigenous peoples. Likewise, necessary safeguard measures were included in the gender action plan, resettlement plan, social development action plan, and other safeguard reports required by ADB for the project to ensure that EM's rights are respected, and will be benefited by the project. All persons and/or households who will be affected by the proposed project components and/or subcomponents will be engaged in consultation during project implementation.

24. The implementation of the project components and activities are expected to address pollution problem in the Dongjiang Lake and surrounding areas. Providing adequate water and safe drinking water to households will also prevent water-borne diseases and other illnesses, increase production, and improve the environment or ecosystem along the Dongjiang Lake areas. The project has also a livelihood training component, and capacity building on environmental monitoring and project management for concerned government agencies and/or bureaus, eco-compensation, and information on alternative livelihoods for local people, including women. Various government agencies and/or bureaus will be involved in the implementation of the project.

## **V. CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE**

25. The Yao people in around four villages covered by the project have been consulted about the likely positive and negative impacts of the project. They expressed their support and are willing to participate in the project so they can benefit directly. Further consultation and community mobilization activities will be conducted during project implementation. The EMDP will be uploaded to the ADB website and distributed to the Yao villages by June 2015.

26. Various methodologies were used in data gathering and in conducting consultation with various stakeholders. Public consultations, meetings with the townships and/or village officials, women, farmers, the Yao EM, and other stakeholders were conducted in the project areas starting September 2014 to February 2015.

27. For the period September to November 2014 and February 2015, the technical assistance consultants for social development and/or gender and resettlement specialist (international and national) have conducted several consultations with concerned government agencies and/or bureaus in Zixing City, township governments, village leaders, women, farmers, the Yao EM, and farmers collectives. The EM consultations were conducted by the social development and gender specialists (national and international consultants).

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

28. The Zixing City project management office will be responsible for implementing the EMDP. The Zixing Ethnic Minority and Religious Affairs Office and its township offices will provide support, coordinate, advise, and review progress of the EMDP implementation. Implementation arrangements for the EMDP are integrated into the specific project activities. Other key agencies for implementation include the Zixing City Forestry Bureau, the Industrial Workers Training Center, the All China Women's Federation, and other agencies. In Lianping Township, the Zixing Ethnic Minority and Religious Affairs Office will review progress of the bamboo upgrading component at the four Yao villages.

## **VII. COSTS AND FINANCING SOURCES**

29. The actions to be implemented are either included as (i) part of the project budget, or (ii) part of routine administrative expenses of respective authorities.

## **VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

30. Monitoring and evaluation of the EMDP is required to ensure the plan is implemented properly. The objective of the monitoring and evaluation is to assess whether the EMDP actions have been implemented effectively. The EMDP will be monitored and reported semiannually to ADB. The social development consultant will work with the Zixing City Project Management Office to set up an appropriate monitoring system and assist with the preparation of reports.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide financial support for the proposed Hunan Dongjiang Lake Integrated Environmental Protection and Management Project (the project). This ethnic minority development plan (EMDP) is a requirement of ADB; and has been prepared to ensure that the Yao ethnic minority (EM) people will be able to participate and benefit directly from the project, and that any negative impacts that might affect them are either avoided or mitigated. Adequate provisions to enhance economic conditions of the Yao villagers have been integrated into the project design. Government policies and programs for ethnic minorities further help protect and enhance project benefits.

2. ADB has included the project in its 2015 lending pipeline.<sup>3</sup> It is a multisector project involving water-based natural resources management, sanitation, drainage, and flood protection.<sup>4</sup> The national government has requested ADB to provide financial support for the proposed project.

3. At present, the water quality of the Dongjiang Lake meets the country's national standards for drinking water source. The protection of the Dongjiang Lake is a priority project of the national government. It has been selected as one of the five river basins for nationwide pilot-testing of eco-compensation policy framework, which ADB has provided support in recent years. It is also considered as a strategic water resource for the Hunan Province, including Zixing City and Chenzhou Municipality.

4. The project areas cover a total of 13 townships and 183 villages. There are four townships and/or towns (Huangcao Town, and the townships of Lianping, Longxi and Qinjiang) and four villages with the Yao EM people. The project will directly benefit about 78,325 households for all project components, including improved pollution control, enhanced water supply, reduced flood risk, integrated management of ecosystem, and strengthened environmental and project management capacity. The outcome of the project will be integrated environmental protection of the Dongjiang Lake basin achieved. As a result, the project will bring in indirect benefits of better environment and securing good quality of water for over 6.40 million population (about 1.6 million households) living in Zixing City and adjacent areas. **Figure 1** shows the location of the project areas and the townships and/or town with the Yao EM people.

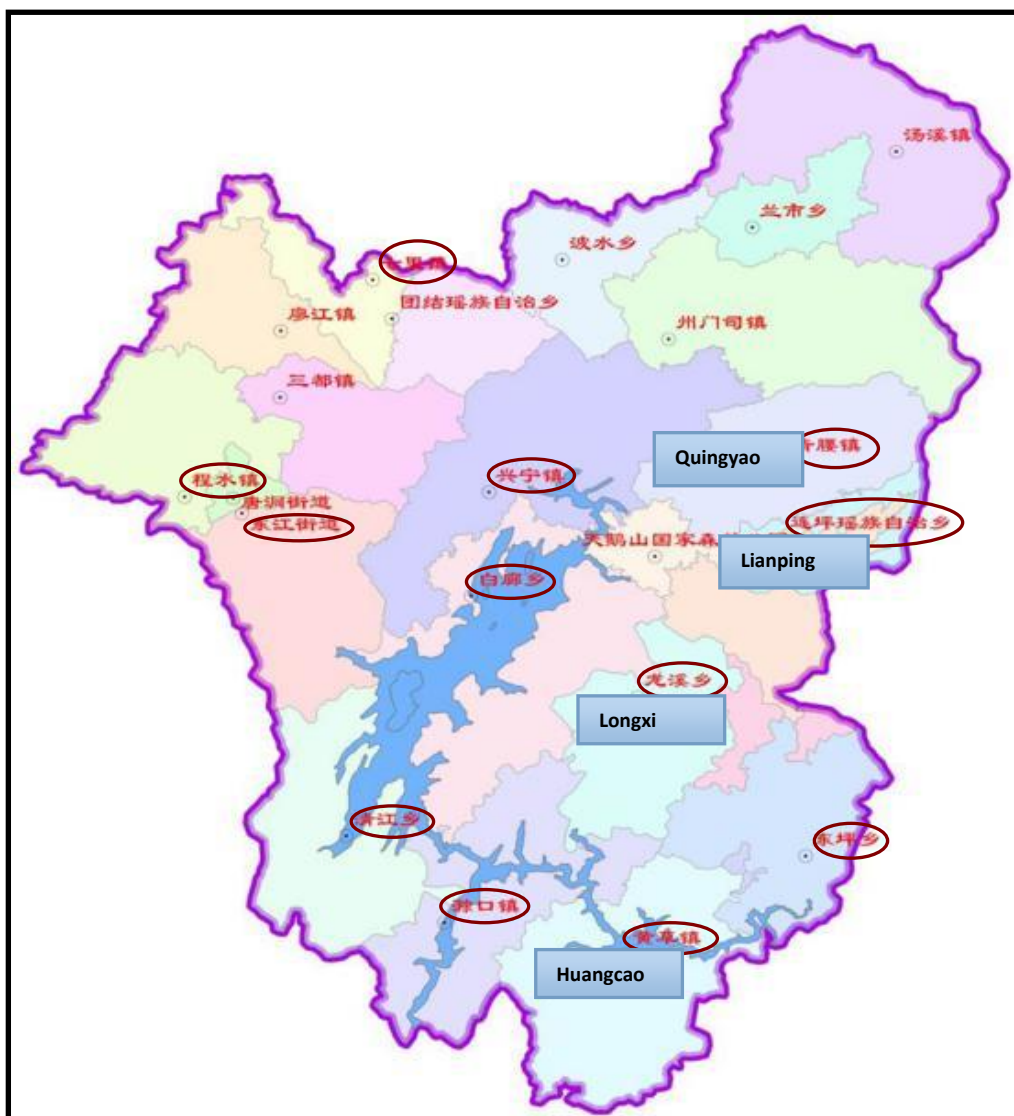
## 2. OBJECTIVES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EM DEVELOPMENT

5. The EMDP is based on relevant PRC laws and regulations; and in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS, 2009), specifically the safeguard requirements for indigenous peoples (IP). Within the project areas, the Yao EM people are mainly living in four villages in four townships covered by the project, which include Huangcao, Lianping, Longxi, and Qingjiang.

<sup>3</sup> ADB. 2013. *Country Operations Business Plan: People's Republic of China, 2013–2015*. Manila.

<sup>4</sup> ADB. 2014. Technical Assistance for the Hunan Dongjiang Lake Environmental Protection and Integrated Utilization Project. Consultant's inception report, Sector Assessment (Appendix 3). Manila (TA 8638-PRC).

**Figure 1: Project Location Map and Areas with Yao EM**



6. ADB's SPS (2009) specifically defines the obligation of its borrowers to design and implement projects that fosters full respect for IP's identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the IPs themselves so that they (i) receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits, (ii) do not suffer adverse impacts as a result of projects, and (iii) can participate actively in projects that affect them.<sup>5</sup> The SPS mandates the screening of projects as to their impacts on IPs. Screening starts early in the project concept paper stage which subsequently ensures that projects approved will be responsive to the SPS' procedural and substantive requirements.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ADB's Report for the Thirteenth Session of the United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), 31 March 2014.

7. The project is classified as category B based on ADB's categorization for IPs. The Yao EM people do not consider themselves as different from the Han. Income inequality was not observed among the Yao people. They practice the same rituals although the old Yao EM people know their rituals and practices, but the majority of them no longer practice the Yao cultural practices. Thus, their children could no longer speak the Yao language, except in one Yao village in Huangcao. The village leader mentioned that there are some households who are still using the Yao language, but rituals and practices distinctly for the Yao EM people are no longer being practiced by the majority. The rights and culture of ethnic minorities are well recognized and respected by the national government.

8. An EMDP has been prepared to ensure that the Yao EM people are able to participate and benefit directly from the project, and that any negative impacts that might affect them are either avoided or mitigated. Adequate provisions to enhance economic conditions of Yao villagers have been integrated into the project design. The EMDP fully complies with requirements of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies of the PRC, Hunan Province, Zixing City, and ADB's SPS (2009), specifically the policy requirements on IPs.

## **2.1 The Policy on Ethnic Minorities of the People's Republic of China**

9. The national government defines the coverage of ethnic minorities (EM) to include all other nationalities (except the Han nationality). The word "nationality" as referred to by the PRC here refers to ethnic groups with small number of population which explains why they are called EM. The Han population comprises the largest (about 90%) among the 56 recognized ethnic nationalities in the country. The EM's rights and culture are well recognized and respected by the national government. The Constitution and Law of Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China clearly stipulates several provisions that (i) guarantee the exercise and respect of EM's rights, and (ii) promote their economic and socio-cultural development.

10. The key principles of the PRC's EM policies can be briefly summed up as (i) ethnic equality and solidarity; (ii) administrative autonomy of EM regions; (iii) development of economy and cultures of EM regions; (iv) cultivation of EM cadres; (v) improvement of science, education, civilization, health, and other undertakings in EM regions; (vi) promotion of the application of EM languages; (vii) respect of EM customs and habits; and (viii) respect and protection of EM's freedom of religious beliefs. On the top of its state-building agenda, the PRC has been taking national unity, ethnic solidarity, ethnic equality, and mutual respect as the basic guidelines of managing ethnic affairs.

11. Box 1 shows the legal framework (national laws and regulations) protecting the EM's rights and other legal provisions that may apply for the project outputs and/or components, such as rights as citizens of the country, membership to collectives, utilization of resources, cultural and political rights, and others. Farmers' cooperatives for orange trees, bamboo, timber, and other agricultural lands exist in these areas; and most of the farmers, including the Yao EM people, are members.

## Box 1: Laws and Regulations Relevant to Ethnic Minorities and the Proposed Project

### A. Constitution of the People's Republic of China (after amendment on March 14, 2004)

#### Chapter I General Principles

**Article 4** All nationalities in the People's Republic of China are equal. The State protects the lawful rights and interests of the minority nationalities and upholds and develops a relationship of equality, unity and mutual assistance among all of China's nationalities. Discrimination against and oppression of any nationality are prohibited; any act which undermines the unity of the nationalities or instigates division is prohibited.

The State assists areas inhabited by minority nationalities in accelerating their economic and cultural development according to the characteristics and needs of the various minority nationalities.

Regional autonomy is practiced in areas where people of minority nationalities live in concentrated communities; in these areas organs of self-government are established to exercise the power of autonomy. All national autonomous areas are integral parts of the People's Republic of China.

All nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform under rule of law.

**Article 9** All mineral resources, waters, forests, mountains, grasslands, unreclaimed land, beaches and other natural resources are owned by the State, that is, by the whole people with the exception of the forests, mountains, grasslands, unreclaimed land and beaches that are owned by collectives as prescribed by law.

The State ensures the rational use of natural resources and protects rare animals and plants. Appropriation or damaging of natural resources by any organization or individual by whatever means is prohibited.

#### Chapter II The Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

**Article 33** All citizens of the PRC are equal before the law.

The State respects and preserves human rights.

Every citizen is entitled to the rights and at the same time must perform the duties prescribed by the Constitution and other laws.

**Article 34** All citizens of the PRC who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and stand for election, regardless of ethnic status, race, sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status or length of residence, except persons deprived of political rights according to law.

**Article 36** Citizens of the PRC enjoy freedom of religious belief.

No State organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion.

#### Section 6 The Organ of Self-Government of National Autonomous Areas

**Article 119** The organs of self-government of the national autonomous areas independently administer educational, scientific, cultural, public health and physical culture affairs in their respective areas, protect and sift through the cultural heritage of the nationalities and work for a vigorous development of their cultures.

**Article 121** In performing their functions, the organ of self-government of the national autonomous areas, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations on the exercise of autonomy in those areas, employ the spoken and written language in common use in the locality.

**Article 122** The State provides financial, material and technical assistance to the minority nationalities to help accelerate their economic and cultural development.

The State helps the national autonomous areas train large numbers of cadres at various levels and specialized personnel and skilled workers of various professions and trades among the nationality or nationalities in those areas.

#### **B. Law of Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China (1984)**

**Article 23** When recruiting personnel in accordance with State regulations, enterprises and institutions in national autonomous areas shall give priority to minority nationalities and may enlist them from the population of minority nationalities in rural and pastoral areas.

**Article 65** While exploiting resources and undertaking construction in national autonomous areas, the State shall give consideration to the interests of these areas, make arrangements favorable to the economic development there and pay proper attention to the productive pursuits and the life of minority nationalities there. The State shall take measures to give due benefit compensation to the national autonomous areas from which the natural resources are transported out.

**Article 66** Where national autonomous areas make contribution to the ecological balance and environmental protection of the State, the State shall give them due benefit compensation. While exploiting resources and undertaking the construction in national autonomous areas, the organizations or individuals shall take effective measures to protect and improve local living and ecological environment and to prevent and control pollution and other public hazards.

#### **C. Law of the PRC on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language.**

Article 8 - All the nationalities shall have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages. The spoken and written languages of the ethnic peoples shall be used in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Law on Regional Autonomy of Ethnic Minorities in China.

Sources: Constitution of PRC (2004); Law on RAEMC (1984).

12. The *Eleventh Five-Year Plan for Ethnic Groups Development*, which shows the great attention the national government has paid to the development of ethnic groups. The plan prescribes 11 main tasks:

- (i) to greatly improve the primary conditions for economic development in EM autonomous regions;
- (ii) to deal with poverty in EM groups;
- (iii) to improve education and technology;
- (iv) to promote medical care and public health;
- (v) to develop cultural undertakings;
- (vi) to steadily improve public welfare ;
- (vii) to strengthen the cultivation of ethnic qualified persons;
- (viii) for EM groups and EM autonomous regions to continuously open wider to the world;
- (ix) to perfect ethnic-related law system;
- (x) to improve the system of ethnic theories and policies; and
- (xi) to continuously create the social environment where all the ethnic groups develop harmoniously.

13. In 2011, the *Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Ethnic Groups Development* was updated and issued with similar tasks. The national government has been accorded great importance to the

protection of the EM's cultural rights, devoted to create favorable conditions for the inheritance and development of these cultures. The main activities include

- (i) respecting and protecting the right to retain or alter their customs in daily life;
- (ii) protecting the marriage customs. According to Article 50th of the Marriage Law, "the people's congresses of the ethnic autonomous areas are authorized to make flexible alternation to the regulations in light of specific situations of local ethnic marriage and family";
- (iii) respecting and protecting the right to preserve traditional festivals;
- (iv) respecting and protecting the right to retain or alter the ethnic funeral customs;
- (v) the national government adopting a series of measures to cope with the cases in which a few news media and publications, violating the relevant state regulations, occasionally hurt the EM's feelings by defaming or distorting their customs;
- (vi) respecting and protecting the right to use and develop their spoken and written languages;
- (vii) with great importance attached to the protection and development of the EM's traditional cultures, the PRC has been collecting, editing, translating, and publishing the EM's cultural heritage ancient writings in a planned and organized way; and protecting their historical spots, priceless relics, and historical heritages;
- (viii) various measures taken to guarantee the development of the EM's medicine; and
- (ix) great importance attached to the preservation of the EM's intangible or intangible cultural heritage.

## 2.2 Relevant Regulations on Dispersed Minorities in Hunan Province

14. Hunan Province has formulated and adopted several regulations favorable to the EM's rights and aimed at promoting their development, particularly in the field of forestry and related fields. The regulations clearly defined the support of the government in townships and/or counties with EM people. The summary of relevant regulations adopted by the Hunan Provincial Government (HPG) is provided in Box 2.

### Box 2: Relevant Regulations on Dispersed Minorities in Hunan Province<sup>1</sup>

#### Relevant Regulations on Dispersed Minorities in Hunan Province

**Article 3** The township with minorities accounting for more than 30% of the total population could be established as an ethnic township, which shall be reported by local county government to the provincial government for approval.

The head of the township shall be elected from the ethnic minorities in the township. The Chairman, vice-chairman of the town's People Congress or the deputy-director of the township should be elected from the ethnic minorities in the township. Other positions of the government should have certain numbers of ethnic minorities from the township.

**Article 8** The ethnic minority townships shall make development plans for economic, cultural and public infrastructure development according to the local natural conditions, resources reserve and ethnic characteristics. The townships that have ethnic groups should take the characteristics of and demands of the ethnic minorities into consideration when developing plans for economic and cultural development, public infrastructure construction.

**Article 10** The government above the county level should encourage forestry development in ethnic townships, and protect forest farmers' interests in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Hunan Forestry Regulations.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. 2012. *EMDP for the Hunan Forest Restoration and Development Project (HFRDP)*.

**Article 14** Where resources exploitation and infrastructure construction are conducted by the State in an ethnic township or in a town with ethnic groups, the construction party should cope appropriately with the interests of local people and help them for economic development.

**Article 21** The State organs, enterprises, institutions and social organizations should respect the habits and customs, religious belief and sentiments of dispersed ethnic groups, and protect their rights to use their native languages and writings.

On the major festivals of ethnic minorities, ethnic minority employees should have holidays with full pay as stipulated in relevant State regulations.

## 2.3 ADB Policy Requirements for Indigenous Peoples

15. ADB defines 'indigenous peoples' (IP) as those whose social and cultural identities are distinct from that of the dominant or mainstream society. These distinct social and cultural groups often possess the following characteristics in varying degree:

- (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and the recognition of this identity by others;
- (ii) a distinct language, often different from the official (or the dominant society's) language of the country or region;
- (iii) customary, cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separated from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- (iv) collective attachment to geographically distinct habits or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories.

16. ADB's SPS (2009) requires that any development project that has impact on IP should be ensured that

- (i) the project is in compliance with the IP's requirements and desires;
- (ii) the project is, essentially and structurally, in compliance with their cultural, social and economic norms;
- (iii) the impacted people should be well informed about the concept, planning, and implementation of the project and fully participate in it;
- (iv) equity must be guaranteed in the developmental endeavor and its impact; and
- (v) the adverse impact of any developmental activity should not be imposed on the IP. If such negative impact is unavoidable, proper and acceptable compensation or mitigation should be guaranteed.

17. To avoid, minimize, and mitigate the adverse impact on IP, ADB requires that all the ADB-financed development projects have to

- (i) undertake social impact assessment and planning process;
- (ii) prepare social impact assessment of the proposed project activities;
- (iii) prepare IP (EM) planning documents which specify (i) actions to mitigation adverse impacts and enhance project benefits in a culturally appropriate manner, and (ii) institutional arrangements and budget to implement the actions;
- (iv) disclose information and undertake meaningful consultation, which may include ascertaining consent of affected IP's communities for relevant project activities;
- (v) establish a grievance mechanism; and
- (vi) monitor and report on implementation of the action plan.

### 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

18. The project has five major outputs or components, namely: (i) improved pollution control; (ii) established urban–rural water supply system; (iii) river course rehabilitation; (iv) integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management, which includes livelihood training; and (v) strengthened environmental and project management capacity.

19. At present, the water quality of the Dongjiang Lake meets the country's national standards for drinking water source. The protection of the Dongjiang Lake is a priority project of the national government. It has been selected as one of the five river basins for nationwide pilot-testing of eco-compensation policy framework, which ADB has provided support in recent years. It is also considered as a strategic water resource for the Hunan Province, including Zixing City and Chenzhou Municipality.

20. The project areas cover a total of 13 townships and 183 villages. There are four townships and/or towns (Huangcao Town, and the townships of Lianping, Longxi and Qinjiang) and four villages with the Yao EM people. The project will directly benefit about 78,325 households for all project components, including improved pollution control, enhanced water supply, reduced flood risk, integrated management of ecosystem, and strengthened environmental and project management capacity. The outcome of the project will be integrated environmental protection of the Dongjiang Lake basin. As a result, the project will bring in indirect benefits of better environment and securing good quality of water for over 6.40 million population (about 1.6 million households) living in Zixing City and adjacent areas.

21. The population covered by the project area is 256,578, or 68% of the total population of Zixing City.<sup>2</sup> Since other EM migrated to Zixing and are living in the main urban center, this EMDP focuses only on the Yao EM people who have been living around Dongjiang Lake (around 5,324 people). The total population of Zixing City as of June 2014 is 376,231;<sup>3</sup> and 6,705 are EM, of which 5,324 (79%) are Yao people. Table 1 shows the total population by project area or location.

**Table 1: Project Areas: Administrative Subdivisions and Population (2014)<sup>4</sup>**

No.	Township/Street	Administrative Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	Community Committees (Towns)	Administrative Villages	Village Groups
1	Tangdong Street	22.00	62,507	9	0	246
2	Dogjiang Street	148.18	61,972	9	8	213
3	Chukou Town	164.00	12,006	1	15	132
4	Xingning Town	220.00	29,396	1	33	368
5	Zhoumensi Town	189.98	16,551	1	26	251
6	Qingyao Town	143.00	9,289	1	14	0
7	Huangcao Town	186.80	9,845	1	15 (1)	130
8	Chengshui Town	122.64	26,512	1	17	234
9	Dongping Township	147.30	3,181	1	7	43
10	Lianping Township	95.30	1,728	1	4 (4)	24
11	Qingjiang Township	154.00	10,302	1	17 (1)	138
12	Longxi Township	84.00	3,557	0	8 (1)	0
13	Bailang Township	249.90	9,732	0	12	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1927.10</b>	<b>256,578</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1,779</b>

<sup>2</sup> The project benefits all administrative areas, except for the main urban center of Zixing City.

<sup>3</sup> Zixing City 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <http://www.zixing.gov.cn/sitepublish/site1/index.htm>.

### 3.1 Ethnic Minority Groups in the Project Service Areas

22. There are four townships and/or towns in Zixing City with the Yao EM people, and four Yao villages covered by four townships/town of Zixing City included in the project areas. Lianping Township has a population of 2,297 and 928 persons (40%) are Yao EM. In Zhongtang Village of Longxi Township about 518 persons (80%) are Yao EM; in Yao Village in Qingjiang Township, 347 persons (70%) are Yao EM; in Longxing Village in Huangcao Town, 871 persons are Yao EM; and in Jintang Village of Lianping Township, about 70% are Yao EM.

23. Table 2 summarizes the project components.

**Table 2: Summary of Project Outputs and Components**

Output	Component	Content
1. Improved pollution control	1.1(a) Township Wastewater Treatment	Six STPs: Qingyao 600 m <sup>3</sup> /day; Lianping 100 m <sup>3</sup> /day; Qingjiang 300 m <sup>3</sup> /day; Chukou 800 m <sup>3</sup> /day; Dongping 100 m <sup>3</sup> /day; Longxi 100 m <sup>3</sup> /day.  Total sewer: 38.1 km  Total number of Yao people who will be benefited: 234 persons (or over 1,332 households) in four villages within four townships with Yao EM people.
	1.1(b) Rural Wastewater Treatment	Treatment facilities, including 2,450 4-tank systems and 406 collective systems; and associated sewer 330 km in 10 townships.
	1.2 Solid Waste Collection and Transfer	7 transfer stations at Dongjiang, Qingjiang, Chukou, Qingyao, Longxi, Dongping and Zhoumensi.  Associated vehicles and equipment.
	1.3 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control	Green fertilizer: soil test * 318 samples; 1066.1 ha * 3 years for recipe fertilizer and 1,046.1 ha * 3 years for organic fertilizer in 13 pilot villages in Xingning, Bailang and Qingjiang townships.  Green pest control: 1,297.4 ha in 19 villages in Xingning, Bailang and Qingjiang townships.
2. Established urban–rural water supply system	2.1 Yangdongxia Water Supply—Water Treatment Plant	Extract raw water from the Yangdong Reservoir and provide treated product water to Xingning, Bailang, Zhoumensi, Lanshi and Poshui Townships (five townships) for domestic use. Facilities include:  Yangdong WTP, 20,000 m <sup>3</sup> /day, including abstraction, conveyance (DN400 27 km), treatment;  Distribution System(DS): 255 km water main ( DN150-DN500) and 228 km branch (DN100)  Three pressure-reducing stations (PRS)

Output	Component	Content
	2.2 Chukou Township Water Supply	One WTP (620 m <sup>3</sup> /day) and 11.8 km DS
3. River rehabilitation	3.1 Xingning River	Embankment 2,757 m; block clearance 2,209 m; landscaping 3,400 m.
	3.2 Guangqiao River	Embankment 3,574 m; block clearance 4,263 m; landscaping 6,000 m.
	3.3 Lianping River	Embankment 1,896 m; block clearance 849 m; landscaping 5,000 m.
	3.4 Qingyao River	Embankment 4,442 m; block clearance 4,098 m; landscaping 7,000 m.
	3.5 Tian'eshan River	Embankment 1,061 m; block clearance 3,193 m; landscaping 3,000 m.
4. Integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management established	4.1 Aquatic facilities and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Structural Facility for fish proliferation platform; 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> base; associated utilities, equipment and vehicles, 720 m<sup>2</sup> parking, 2,000-m access road.</li> <li>ii. Fish proliferation for 5 years.</li> <li>iii. Fish-breeding base. 20 ha breeding pond; office building and workshops.</li> <li>iv. Fishery resource protection: hardware, including a monitoring station and its substations; vehicles and ships; and other facilities.</li> </ul>
	4.2 Wetland restoration and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Xingning River Wetland: 4.5-km pathway; 26-ha re-vegetation, 14-ha habitat; and 2.92-ha artificial wetland; one educational center.</li> <li>ii. Huangcao Lakeshore Wetland: 26.7 ha</li> <li>iii. Hangxi River Wetland : 85-ha re-vegetation; 15-ha habitat; and associated management facilities</li> </ul>
	4.3(a) Soil erosion control - rocky desert rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 1,000-ha plantation</li> <li>ii. 13,666-ha natural enhancement and management</li> </ul>
	4.3(b) Public Interest forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Public interest forest protection: 289-km new and 301-km expanded fire breaks; and pest control in 2,665 ha.</li> <li>ii. Fire-fighting facilities: 3 bases, 3 warehouses, and associated equipment</li> <li>iii. Pest control: pest survey 8,000 ha; and associated equipment and pesticides.</li> </ul>
	4.4 Low-efficiency bamboo forest upgrade	Upgrade 2,595 ha of low efficiency bamboo forest in eight townships, including Xingning, Bailang, Dongjiang, Qingyao, Lianping, Qingjiang, Tian'eshan and Chukou.
	4.5 Livelihood training	30,000 person-times of training for vocational capacity building

Output	Component	Content
5. Strengthened environmental and project management capacity	5.1 Capacity building on environmental monitoring	i. 3,000 m <sup>2</sup> command center and relevant environmental monitoring equipment ii. 3,000 m <sup>2</sup> control center and relevant fishery monitoring equipment iii. 100 m <sup>2</sup> fire-fighting monitoring center and relevant equipment iv. Chushui River and Dongjiang Lake water quality monitoring stations
	5.2 Deep water lake research center	i. 2,300 m <sup>2</sup> laboratory building and 1,000 associated service building; associated equipment and vehicles
	5.3 Environmental awareness	i. 57,078 household-times training on green fertilizer
	5.4 Project management and capacity building	Consulting services and technical Assistance

Source: TA Consultants and Project Feasibility Study Report (February 2015).

24. For output 1: Improved pollution control, the project will benefit about 2,664 persons (or over 1,332 households) in four villages within four townships with the Yao EM people. For bamboo reforestation project in Lianping and Qinjiang, about 1,275 Yao EM people (about 638 households) will be benefited by the project. The same number of Yao households in Jintang village of Lianping Township will be benefited by the river course rehabilitation project in terms of flood protection and possible employment during civil works and maintenance. One Yao village (Longxing village) in Huangcao town with Yao EM people will also be benefited by the wetland rehabilitation and bamboo reforestation project. Around 3,410 temporary jobs will be provided to the local people, including the Yao EM people and women. Of this number, at least 852 jobs (25%) are targeted for women. For the operation and maintenance jobs, the project outputs and/or components will also provide employment for about 1,360 (or which 544 are women). Also, about 30,000 local people will be benefited by the livelihood training.

25. In Lianping Township, the village leaders and township officials consider water supply and river course rehabilitation projects as priority. The villagers, including the Yao EM people and women village leaders, consider the river course rehabilitation project as urgent, to prevent floods that affect the agricultural lands and some houses near the river. The Yao EM group also consider bamboo reforestation as an essential project as it is a primary source of household income.

26. In Qingjiang Township, the township officials consider pollution control (solid waste and waste water treatment) as a priority project. They perceived that local households are willing to pay for extra tariff provided the costs will not be too high. For the Yao village in the township, wastewater project is essential as the majority of the houses are still using traditional type of toilets, and some households are raising livestock without proper drainage. The Yao EM people consider planting oranges, vegetables, and other kinds of fruits as more profitable compared to forestry project which they claimed they will not be directly benefited, and it would take several years to grow the trees.

27. Huangcao Town is a tourist area. The stakeholders consulted (Yao village leaders, village leaders of Feng Lin and the township officials) are all in favor of the proposed projects, including (i) rural waste water project in the Yao village, (ii) wetland project, (iii) public forest protection, and (iv) bamboo reforestation. They consider wastewater project and bamboo reforestation as priority projects.

28. In Longxi township, the following projects will be implemented in Zhongtang Village with Yao EM people: wastewater treatment plant, solid waste transfer station, and forestry fire prevention activities.

#### **4. SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

29. The Constitution of the PRC and the law on RAEMC support the various nationalities in the country to have freedom in the use and developing their own spoken and written languages. The Yao EM people have their own language as confirmed by the Yao village leaders and local people. One major concern that they raise is the younger Yao EM people do not speak nor write their indigenous dialect, especially those who are working outside the village and/or townships and households who still live in the village but do not belong to the Yao group (or their neighbors are Han who speak Mandarin). In schools, Mandarin is the official language that is being used. There are also very few Yao teachers in the project areas.

30. In Jintang village in Lianping Township, the village leader (also a Yao) estimated the Yao population about 70% of the people in Jintang village. The village leader organized a class for the Yao children or anybody interested to join the class where the children are taught how to speak and write the Yao language. The class is held once a week and the teacher is also a Yao. This strategy is an opportunity for the children to learn more about the Yao culture which the older Yao people fear that their culture might be forgotten by the younger generation. The Yao EM people celebrate the same festivals celebrated by the Han (Chinese) such as (i) Panwang Festival (for the ancestors: (ii) Long Drum Dance (famous dance by two persons as partners); and some people still believe in ghosts, they practice some rituals to drive away ghosts or evil spirits. This is a practice of the Yao EM people where they butcher pigs, chickens, or goats to drive away the ghost and/or bad spirits.

31. The Constitution of the PRC and law on RAEMC also promote cultural enrichment, equal opportunities in education, recruitment and training of personnel in various kinds of trades and/or jobs. There are limitations in remote upland communities where the Yao EM people are residing such as (i) children regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, and background go to the same school, (ii) limited number of teachers who belong to the Yao EM people, and (iii) one Yao village in Qintang Township does not have a primary school. Schools in all levels are located only in the township proper. The Yao villages are located in remote areas, and schools mostly offer only primary level of education. Secondary schools are located in the township proper while tertiary schools (universities and/or colleges) could be found in cities and/or big townships.

32. The Yao EM people, with a population of 2.13 million, live in mountain communities scattered over 130 counties in five southern PRC provinces and one autonomous region. About 70% of them live in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the rest in Guangdong, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, and Yunnan provinces. Half of the Yao EM people speak the Yao language belonging to the Chinese-Tibetan language family, others use Miao or Dong languages, included those in Hunan Province. The Yao did not have a written language. Ancient Yao people kept records of important affairs by carving notches on wood or bamboo slips. Later, they used Chinese characters.

33. The Yao EM people in the Dongjiang Lake area have been living in the mountains for a long time; but since the overwhelming majority of people are Han, the Yao EM people have largely adopted the lifestyle of the local Han and have been assimilated into Han culture to a large extent. Since collectivization, there is no difference in economic activities. Yet, the Yao and local Han maintain unique customs, habits and livelihood which have been shaped by the remote mountain environment.

34. A baseline socioeconomic survey was conducted in the project areas as part of the poverty and social analysis, which included 29 Yao respondents which accounts for about 5% of the total number of the survey respondents.

#### 4.1 Social and Culture Features of the Yao EM People

35. The Yao EM people had a long history, way back in the times of Chiyou tribe and eventually become a member of the big Chinese family. There were several views or beliefs about the Yao EM people: it is said that the Yao EM people (i) are rooted in “Shanyue people”; (ii) originated from Changsha, Wuling people; (iii) originated from the Wuxi people who lived in Hunan and Guizhou; (iv) had diversified origin, and (v) are considered as the offspring of the “You people”.<sup>5</sup> The Yao EM people used to live in houses supported by cedars, covered by couch grass, and made of light materials, such as bamboo. As years go by, the living conditions of the Yao EM people had improved. Most of them already live in houses with wooden partitions, earth walls, or tiles.<sup>6</sup>

36. **Language.** The Yao EM people have their own language with complex branches and large differences in various regions in the PRC. The old Yao EM people could still communicate using the Yao language; however, the younger generation (children) can no longer speak the Yao language. In writing, the Yao EM people use the Chinese character. However, the Yao folk literature shows that it has rich culture and/or tradition; and has tales such as the “*Praise of King Pan*”, *Legend of King Pan*, and others. These literatures may already be forgotten by the younger generation if these are not taught nor shared with them. The Yao EM people are good in dancing and singing, using long drum which is a folk dancing in the Yao culture. The Yao EM people have many festivals, including the *King Pan Festival* (the first ancestor who was ranted the title of the King Pan on October 16th of the Lunar calendar). This is celebrated by the older Yao. However, the younger Yao no longer celebrate this.

37. The Constitution of the PRC and the law on RAEMC supports the various nationalities in the country to have freedom in the use and developing their own spoken and written languages. The Yao EM people have their own language and it is still in use by some, as confirmed by the Yao village leaders and local people. One major concern that they raise is the younger Yao EM people do not speak their language nor write their language using Chinese characters, especially those who are working outside the village and/or townships; and those households who still live in the village but do not belong to the Yao group (or neighbors are Han who speak Mandarin). In schools, Mandarin is the official language that is being used, and there is no teaching of the Yao language. There are also very few Yao teachers.

38. In Jintang Village (where the Yao village leader estimated the Yao population as 70%) of Lianping Township, the village leaders organized a class for the Yao children or anybody interested to join the class where the children are taught how to speak and write the Yao

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<sup>5</sup> EMDP for the Hunan Forest Restoration and Development Project (HFRDP), WB. March 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

language. The class is held once a week and the teacher is also a Yao. This strategy is also an opportunity for the children to learn more about the Yao culture. If there will be no attempt to share the culture of the Yao EM people to the children, the possibility for the Yao culture to be eroded or forgotten is high.

39. **Education.** The Constitution of the PRC and Law on RAEMC promote cultural enrichment, equal opportunities in education, recruitment, and training of personnel in various kinds of trades and/or jobs. There are limitations in the remote upland communities where the Yao live, such as (i) children regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, and background go the same school; (ii) a limited number of teachers are Yao; and (iii) one Yao village in Qintang Township (Yao village) does not have a primary school. The Yao villages are located in remote mountain areas. Secondary schools are located in the township center and/or town which may be inconvenient and costly for villagers to send their children. Tertiary schools (universities and/or colleges) could be found in cities and big towns.

40. **Distinctive cultural traits.** Many of the Yao households that were interviewed do not consider themselves as different from the Han. Income inequality was not observed among the Yao EM people. They claimed that they are the same as the Han people; they practice the same rituals although the old Yao people know the Yao rituals and practices but they no longer practice those. Thus, the children of Yao could no longer speak the Yao language, except in Longxing Village (Yao village) in Huangcao Town. The village leader mentioned that there are some households who are still using the Yao language, but rituals and practices distinctly for Yao are no longer being practiced by the majority of the Yao people. In terms of religion, about 95% of the 29 Yao respondents of the social survey are Buddhists; less than 1% are Tao; and some have no specific religion.

## 4.2 Poverty Situation of Yao Villages with Project Activities

41. Overall, the conditions of the scattered Yao villages are relatively poor and the preferential policies they have enjoyed are not sufficient to enable them to catch up with those in developed regions. Their economic development has gap with other adjacent areas. Table 3 shows the number of rural poor in project areas with the Yao EM people.

**Table 3: Rural Poverty in Project Areas with the Yao Villages**

Township/ Town	Village	Farmer's Net Income per Capita	Rural Poor				Rural Population **	Poverty Rate (%)
			Sub- total	Poor	MLS	Five- Guarantee		
Huangcao Town	Longxing average	8,254	79	35	41	3	857	9.2
	Township average	9,609	1,093	426	568	99	12,366	8.8
Lianping Township	Jintang average	8,134	37	21	16	0	415	8.9
	Township average	11,255	192	97	95	0	2,297	8.4
Longxi Township	Zhongtang Village average	12,860	50	26	16	8	592	8.4
	Township average	11,702	453	238	180	35	4,979	9.1

Township/ Town	Village	Farmer's Net Income per Capita	Rural Poor				Rural Population **	Poverty Rate (%)
			Sub- total	Poor	MLS	Five- Guarantee		
Qingjiang Township	Yao Village average	11,203	35	17	17	1	340	10.3
	Township average	12,757	1,069	546	469	54	10,389	10.3
<b>Zixing City average</b>		<b>12,970</b>	<b>23,489</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>10,488</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>257,108</b>	<b>9.1</b>

\* Data provided by Poverty Alleviation Office.

\*\* Data from Zixing City Statistical Yearbook (2014).

### 4.3 Income and Livelihoods

42. Table 4 shows the primary source of the Yao household income based on the baseline social survey conducted in November 2014. Of the 590 respondents, 29 respondents (or 5% of the total respondents) belong to the Yao EM group. There were 23 female respondents and 6 Yao male respondents. The data in the table below shows that 20 respondents (69%) of the 29 Yao respondents are engaged in agriculture and/or farming as the primary source of household income. Of the farmers, three are in bamboo forestry. There were also four Yao respondents who have business or engage in selling fruits and vegetables; one respondent is employed in agencies; two respondents work as construction worker, and three respondents work in factories. There were also five Yao respondents who mentioned that they have household members working outside the village and/or township and they are provided with financial assistance.

**Table 4: Primary Source of Yao Household Income**

Source of Income	Answer	Female		Male		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Farming/growing vegetables, orange trees, other crops	yes	17	73.90	3	50.00	20	69.00
	no	6	26.10	3	50.00	9	31.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Forestry source of income	yes	3	13.00	0	0.00	3	10.30
	no	20	87.00	6	100.00	26	89.70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Self-employed/ have business source of income	yes	4	17.40	0	0.00	4	13.80
	no	19	82.60	6	100.00	25	86.20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Employment in agencies (private and public)	yes	1	4.30	0	0.00	1	3.40
	no	22	95.70	6	100.00	28	96.60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Construction worker	yes	1	4.30	1	16.70	2	6.90
	no	22	95.70	5	83.30	27	93.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Factory worker	yes	2	8.70	1	16.70	3	10.30
	no	21	91.30	5	83.30	26	89.70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source of Income	Answer	Female		Male		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Have household member working	yes	5	21.70	0	0.00	5	17.20
abroad/other areas	no	18	78.30	6	100.00	24	82.80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Baseline Socio-Economic Survey, TA 8638-PRC, Nov 2014.

43. In Longxing Village of Huangcao Town, the primary source of income is farming (rice paddy and bamboos) and financial support from household members working outside the township. The major crops grown by the farmers are rice, vegetables mostly for household consumption, ginger and fruits such as oranges and chestnuts. Farmers use chemical fertilizers (not organic). Farmers are not members of the cooperative. There was one cooperative organized 3 years ago but did not last long as it could not meet the business demands (only 10% of the farmers are engaged in bamboo planting and/or processing). Income from bamboo is not sufficient as a regular source of income for the farmers compared to orchards (i.e. oranges, chestnuts, etc.) where farmers could harvest yearly. Bamboo timber or poles could be harvested only after 3 years. Transportation is a major problem, bamboos grow mostly in upland areas far from the township proper. Not all farmers have trucks or tractors for transporting bamboos from upland areas to the township proper.

44. In Lianping Township (Jintang Village) and Qingjiang Township (Yao village) the Yao people mainly farmers in bamboo and orchards farms, respectively. The Yao EM people have been planting and/or taking care and utilizing bamboos for so many years; and as claimed by the Yao leader in Jintang Village (Lianping), they are already well trained and informed of the technology and could already share their knowledge to other people and/or townships. In Qingjiang, the Yao EM people are also farmers in orchards. During the stakeholder consultations, they mentioned that they prefer to plant and take care of orange trees, other fruit-bearing trees, and bamboo because they could harvest within a short span of time, as compared to growing timber trees.

45. In Qinjiang Township (Yao village), the primary livelihood of households is farming but irrigation is a major problem as mentioned by the people, including the Yao EM people. Farmers plant vegetables (i.e., eggplants, onions, cabbage, etc.). They plant paddy rice and corn before; but due to water problem, especially during dry season, they shifted to growing orange trees. Paddy land and hilly slopes near the Dongjiang Lake were planted with oranges. Farmers find growing oranges trees as more productive compared to planting paddy rice, bamboo, and timber. The older Yao EM people usually engage in farming, but the younger ones (40 years and below) prefer to work in factories and other kinds of jobs outside the village and/or township. They provide financial assistance to their parents and/or families left in the village.

46. In Zhoutang Village of Longxi Township, more than 80% are Yao. Intermarriage among the Yao and Han (both sexes) is common and acceptable practice. Although most villagers are Yao they claimed that are not different from the Han. They speak Zixing dialect (Mandarin), use Chinese characters, have the same type of food, and enjoy the same social policies except the Yao students who can enjoy a preferential policy of adding ten scores in the university entrance examination. Older and middle-age Yao villagers can speak Yao language but many young villagers, especially teenagers could not speak the Yao language. About customs and cultural traditions, it is also similar with Han although they know that Yao should have special festivals. The villagers in Jintang Village in Lianping Township are aware that the Yao EM people have rich culture. They would like to promote and share their culture to the non-Yao people, and they

also would like to recreate the Yao festivals to promote or develop the tourism industry in the township.

47. The participation of women in economic activities within the project areas is commendable. They are active in farming (bamboo forest, orchards, farming, etc.). They are also engage in selling fruits and vegetables, processed fish, bamboo shoots, working in factories, and others are working as cleaners and in farmers cooperatives (for oranges) within the village.

## 5. PROJECT BENEFITS AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS

48. Project impacts were identified as well as negative impacts. Table 5 presents the summary of the significant positive impacts or expected benefits that the project will provide to the affected households and communities in the identified project service areas:

**Table 5: Positive Impacts of the Proposed Project**

<b>Project Output/ Component</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Positive Project Impact</b>	<b>Enhancement Measures/ Recommendations</b>
<b>1. Improved Pollution Control:</b>			
a) Waste water treatment plant	Qinjiang and Lianping Huangcao Longxi	-will benefit about 2,664 Yao EMs (over 1,332 Yao HHs in 4 villages) in terms of employment during civil works, operation and management; -improved health and sanitation will result to decline or prevent sickness; -long-term impact: improved water quality of Dongjiang Lake.	-conduct consultation with the Yao people, leaders & contractors prior to project implementation to inform about the project, and engage interested people in civil works, etc.; public awareness on health and sanitation.
b) Solid waste collection and transfer			
<b>2. River rehabilitation</b>	Qinjiang Lianping	-will benefit about 1,275 Yao (638 Yao HHs) by providing jobs to unskilled people in civil works. -long-term impact is flood prevention in villages located close to the rivers; increase income/agricultural production.	-involve the Yao communities in public awareness on flood prevention; -provide gender awareness to the contractors and local people.
<b>3. Integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management</b>			
a) Wetland restoration and management	Huangcao	-local people including Yao EM/women will have opportunity to have jobs in civil works, maintenance and operation;	-conduct consultation with the Yao people, leaders & contractors prior to project implementation to inform about the project, and engage interested people in civil works, etc.;
b) Bamboo forest upgrade	Qinjiang Lianping Huangcao	-will benefit 1,275 Yao people (about 638 Yao HHs) through long-term food / income sustainability. The Yao people especially in Lianping and Huangcao are dependent on	-conduct consultation with the affected HHs and communities prior to project implementation; and engage the Yao people in decision

Project Output/ Component	Location	Positive Project Impact	Enhancement Measures/ Recommendations
		bamboo production as their primary source of HH income. -planting bamboos could help in preventing soil erosion.	making & how they will be benefited by the project. -provide capacity building on bamboo production, etc.
c) Livelihood training	Qinjiang Lianping Longxi Huangcao	-increase livelihood opportunities and income by providing additional knowledge and skills on livelihood opportunities relevant to eco-tourism, bamboo production, farming, etc.).	-conduct consultation with the Yao EM including women; assess specific livelihood training needs they would be most interested to participate.

49. One negative impacts of the project is related to land acquisition and other resettlement related impacts, but these do not affect any EM villagers. Another potential negative impact is related to environment particularly for subprojects that entail construction (i.e., water treatment plant [WTP], improved water supply, etc.) which may cause dust and noise during construction. The local people consulted perceived that these are only temporary compared to long term positive impacts that the project will bring.

50. To address the negative impacts perceived by the respondents, necessary mitigation measures will be implemented. Livelihood training will be conducted for about 30,000 project beneficiaries that could provide households with additional income. Additional information on this is further explained in the SDAP. The stakeholders, including the local people, women, EM, and LGUs and/or agencies, will be engaged in consultations and decision-making process. A communications strategy matrix was prepared to serve as guide by the EA and/or the PMO during project implementation. A gender action plan (GAP) was also prepared with target indicators to ensure that women, as well as men could have access to benefits of the proposed project (i.e., capacity building/training, job opportunities in civil works, operation and maintenance, etc.).

51. **Indirect negative impacts or threats.** The Yao culture in village around Dongjiang Lake faces threats due to (i) the small size of scattered Yao communities in a Han dominated area, (ii) the limitation resources that they are permitted to development for their livelihood, (iii) high cost of transport due to their remoteness, and (iv) lower levels of education due to their remoteness, and (v) lack of education in Yao language. The creation of Dongjiang Lake further reduced the cultivatable land resources, and also caused many Han to move out. Those that stayed took up some activities such as fish cages and orchard cultivation, neither of which was familiar to the Yao. More recently, the environmental restrictions on forestry, pig raising, fish cages, nonpoint source pollution from cultivation of crops and orchards, and use of outdated, polluting ships on the lake. These threats pre-existed the project and have put pressure on local people to adopt new livelihood measures. Many young people prefer to move to towns and cities for better opportunities. For the Yao culture to survive, viable livelihood opportunities are needed in the Yao villages.

52. The upgrading of bamboo forests in Lianping Township will benefit the Yao EM people, but they will face increasing competition for other locations that have lower transport costs. Thus, the Yao EM people need government support with marketing their bamboo or developing bamboo products to maintain their livelihoods and income levels. A bamboo processing factory in Lianping Township had already closed down; so the people are worried about their future, as

the profit margins from bamboo harvesting are small. Oversupply could reduce prices, making it unprofitable in remote villages. Therefore, some actions should be taken to support them; and monitor their bamboo production and profitability during the project. Another solution would be alternative livelihood with support under the project training component. However, such training should be for alternative livelihoods that can be done in or near their villages. Otherwise, training in other skills may increase the out-migration of young Yao people which would be detrimental for their villages. Therefore, young people should be made aware of their cultural heritage and encouraged to take up viable jobs near their villages.

53. The local people, including the Yao people in Longxi Village in Huangcao Town also raised as a concern the possible increase of tourists in the town. The Yao village leaders perceived that the proposed project activities on integrated ecosystem rehabilitation and management, particularly on wetland management and bamboo upgrade project, are essential to keep their town/villages clean and green, which are essential for promoting eco-tourism. Tourism industry provides livelihood opportunities for the local people including the Yao people. They sell agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, fruits, etc.) at the market in Huangcao town. On the other hand, they anticipate that the increasing number of tourists in the area has also indirect negative impacts such as problem on garbage especially in the town proper and the water quality of Dongjiang Lake may be affected if the hotels/guest houses and households do not have improved sanitation facilities. Likewise, the Yao households should be supported to develop such tourism services and avoid being exploited by outsiders. For example, homestays and traditional crafts and customs (e.g., songs, dance, stories, festivals) could be supported. Tour boating and trekking are possible tourism and/or recreational activities that could employ the Yao EM people. Any such activities should be done in consultation with and obtained consent from the Yao EM people, and should be implemented in a culturally appropriate manner. ZEMRAO will bring in the Yao experts to provide advice to the local people and the raise awareness and instill pride in their Yao heritage. Table 6 shows the summary of the indirect negative impacts of the proposed project and mitigation measures proposed by the Yao village leaders.

**Table 6: Indirect Negative Impacts of the Proposed Project and Mitigation Measures**

<b>Indirect Negative Impacts/ Threats for the Yao People</b>	<b>Specific Concern Raised by the Yao</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures/ Proposed Action</b>
1. Limitation in resources to support for livelihood development	-lack of access to micro-credit; cooperatives that provide capital assistance for livelihood; -limited knowledge and skills on alternative livelihood opportunities for the Yao HHs.	- capacity building/livelihood skills training -engage the Yao people including women in projects with civil works and maintenance.
2. High cost of transport due to their remoteness;	-lack of access to affordable transport services in Yao villages/communities (which are in upland areas & far from the township proper); difficult to transport bamboo poles and agricultural products; vehicle rental is costly.	-need to discuss with the local government agencies/units to address this concern/problem
3. Lower levels of education due to their remoteness	-Yao communities have primary and middle schools, but high schools are located in the town proper; -after graduating from high school levels,	-facilitate linkages with the local govt. heads/agencies to address this

Indirect Negative Impacts/ Threats for the Yao People	Specific Concern Raised by the Yao	Mitigation Measures/ Proposed Action
	most of the Yao children look for work outside the town/village.	problem.
4. Lack of education in Yao language; low level of cultural awareness about the Yao culture	-Lack cultural awareness of Yao culture among the local people/communities; -parents do not use Yao language thus, children do not use speak/write Yao language; Yao leaders are worried that the Yao culture might be forgotten in the future; -most of the teachers are Han (Yao and Han children go to the same schools).	-Yao village leaders/ township heads could provide support to Yao communities for cultural awareness activities; -information for the tourists (local and foreign) about the Yao culture in areas with tourists.

## 6. ACTION PLAN

54. The action plan is summarized in Table 7, showing the activity, indicators and/or targets, responsible implementing agency, timing, and budget source. The budget arrangement is given in Chapter 9.

**Table 7: Action Plan**

Activity	Targets and Monitoring Indicators	Responsible Agencies	Timing	Budget Source
1. Labor Employment				
1.1 Provide skilled and unskilled project construction jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2,500 jobs will be needed during construction, of which about 10 jobs will be given to the Yao minorities</li><li>112 jobs will be needed during operation, of which about five jobs will be given to the Yao minorities</li><li>Mass media advertisements to the four Yao communities: (TV, newspaper and poster) and monthly announcements on the bulletin boards of village offices</li><li>100% of employees with signed contracts with welfare provisions</li></ul>	PMO Contractors Project companies Labor bureau ACWF	Jul 2015– Dec 2019  After 2019	1.1 Project budget (Works Contracts)
1.2 Provide permanent jobs at the operation stage				1.2 Operational Budget of the facilities
1.3 Ensure timely advertisement of employment opportunities, and ensure that employment preference will be given to Yao villagers				1.3 PMO operational budget
1.4 Protection of labor rights and interests of employees				1.4 No additional budget required
2. Participation in Bamboo Upgrading Activities				
2.1 Bamboo reforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>About 50% of the concerned/affected ethnic minorities</li></ul>		Jul 2016– Dec 2019	2.1 Project budget (Community participation budget)
2.2 Livelihood training				2.2 Project budget (Livelihood)

Activity	Targets and Monitoring Indicators	Responsible Agencies	Timing	Budget Source
				Training Service Package)
3. Environment and Sanitation Public Awareness				
3.1 Yao villagers to participate in environment and sanitation awareness and 3Rs program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100% of Yao people in four villages (disaggregated by sex)</li><li>No. of awareness programs provided</li></ul>	Environmental Protection Bureau	Jul 2016–Dec 2019	3.1 Project budget (Goods Contracts) and local village committee
3.2 Conduct training program on solid waste separation and collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No. of promotion materials distributed</li></ul>			3.2 Project budget (Consulting Service Contracts)
3.3. Provide trash bins and containers in 4 Yao villages (in 4 townships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No. of bins and containers provided</li></ul>			3.3 Project budget (Goods contracts) and local village committee
4. Wetland Protection Awareness Programs				
4.1 Yao villagers in Longxing village of Huangcao town participate in the awareness programs for the Huangcao Wetland subproject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40% of people are ethnic minorities included in wetland and biodiversity protection awareness programs (disaggregated by sex)</li><li>No. of education programs (in school or village meetings)</li></ul>	Forestry Bureau	Jun 2016–Dec 2019	4.1 Project budget (Consulting Service Contracts)
5. Livelihood Training				
5.1 Livelihood training for agricultural skills (persons) - bamboo planting (100) - bamboo crafts (50) - bamboo processing (100) - chicken raising (100) - cultural tourism service (50) - restaurant service (50) - other (50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>500 Yao people (about 100 people per year) including at least 40% women</li></ul>	Industrial Workers Training Office and relevant agencies to deliver training	Jan 2016–Dec 2019	5.1 Project budget (Livelihood Training Consulting Service Contracts)
6. Environmental Impacts				
6.1 Ensure environmental measures to reduce dust, noise and traffic interruptions are implemented appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Impacts in four Yao villages</li></ul>	PMO Contractors Environmental Protection Bureau	Jul 2015–Dec 2019	6.1 Project budget (Works Contracts) and EMP budget
6.2 Ensure the grievance redress mechanism is effective and accessible to Yao people				6.2 Project budget (Works Contracts) and PMO budget

ACWF = All China Women's Federation, EMP = environmental management plan. PMO = project management office.

55. The proposed actions may be enhanced or improved during project implementation. ZCG through the Zixing City PMO and in coordination with the concerned agencies will ensure that the proposed activities and/or plans are implemented to benefit the local people, including the Yao people. The GAP and SDAP were also prepared for the project.

## 7. CONSULTATION, DISCLOSURE AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS

56. The Yao EM people in the four villages in four townships have been consulted about the likely positive and negative impacts of the project. They expressed their support and are very willing to participate in the project so that they can benefit directly. Further consultation and community mobilization activities will be conducted during implementation. The EMDP will be uploaded to the ADB website and distributed to the four Yao villages by June 2015. The social development and gender specialists conducted consultations with 34 agencies, including nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and research institutes and/or organizations. Training on the ADB safeguard policy and gender mainstreaming was conducted by the international consultant for social development and/or gender and resettlement for the PMO social safeguard officer; and selected government agencies, including the representative from ZEMRAO, the Livelihood Management Training Office, the Poverty Alleviation Office, and other agencies on 18 March 2015 at the Zixing City PMO's conference room.

### 7.1 Summary of Consultations Conducted

57. Overall, the total number of persons consulted by the two teams is 803 (395 or 49% are females). Of this number, 24 persons consulted are Yao. Table 8 shows the summary of the total number and percentage of persons and agencies consulted.

**Table 8: Summary of the Total Number and Percentage of Persons and Agencies Consulted (September 2014–February 2015)**

Total Number and Percentage of Persons and Agencies Consulted			
Social Development and/or Gender Consultations			
Government Agencies, Local Government Bureaus, NGOs, Research Organizations Consulted by the Social Development and Gender Team	Number of Persons Consulted by the Social Development and Gender Team	Number of Yao Ethnic Minorities Consulted	Number of Respondents for the Baseline Socioeconomic Survey
34	160	12	592
No. of female consulted/interviewed	51 (32%)	6 (50%)	328 (55%)
No. of male consulted/interviewed	109 (68%)	6 (50%)	264 (45%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>764 (100%)</b>		
	Percentage of Female Consulted: 385 (50.3%)		
	Percentage of Male Consulted: 379 (49.7%)		

58. Consultation and participation of various stakeholders in the project's service areas or affected communities are required by ADB to ensure social inclusion. This is essential in all phases of the project from conceptualization, design, preparation and implementation stages. This involves information dissemination about the proposed projects and subprojects with the project beneficiaries and affected households in the service areas. Specifically, the purpose of the participation plan is to engage the project beneficiaries and other affected stakeholders in meaningful consultation and decision-making process. Informing them about the proposed project, and consulting them on various issues related prior to and/or during project implementation is essential to achieve proactive and meaningful people's participation. The stakeholders identified involved the following: local government authorities, including the district, city, townships, and village leaders; concerned government agencies; local people, including women, ethnic minorities, the households affected by resettlement, private sector/NGOs, and farmers cooperatives; and other stakeholders who will be affected or may have interest on the proposed projects.

59. This exercise serves as a venue for the various stakeholders especially the affected households and/or communities to express feedback and perceptions on potential negative impacts, as well as suggestions to improve project implementation. It is also an effective strategy to raise public awareness and gain the support of interested stakeholders including NGOs and/or civil society and private sectors by providing them information about the projects' benefits or positive impacts, mitigation measures to address the potential negative impacts, and details on project implementation and monitoring, including institutional arrangements. It is expected that if the affected stakeholders are well informed and engaged in the decision-making process, it could prevent misconceptions on project impacts, avoid conflicts, and clarify doubts about the project which may cause delay during implementation.

60. The content of the consultation and participation plan is based on the results of stakeholders consultations conducted in the projects' service areas. The detailed stakeholder analysis is included in the Poverty and Social Assessment (PSA) report. The highlights or minutes of the consultations conducted during the feasibility study phase are also included in the Appendixes of the PSA report.

61. Chapter 7, section B—Consultation, para. 60. Please update the objectives to reflect the meaningful consultation requirements outlined in SR3 (para.10).

## **7.2 Consultation and Participation Objective**

62. **General objective.** To provide reliable project information and engage the stakeholders in meaningful consultation through meetings, workshops and/or training, and other participatory approaches.

63. **Specific Objectives:**

- (i) To ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed, consulted, and participate in decision making in all phases of project implementation (planning, detailed design. Implementation, and operation) to ensure that the Yao EMs could benefit from the proposed projects by providing them equal opportunities for public awareness activities, capacity building/livelihood training, employment and other benefits relevant to the project.
- (ii) To increase the level of awareness of various stakeholders in the project areas by engaging them in meaningful consultations, decision making, and active participation through various communication strategies in discussing and addressing key issues that may be raised during project implementation relevant to the nature and/or design of the project by component and/or subcomponents; resettlement, environment, and social and/or gender, and address concerns raised by the Yao EMs.
- (iii) To promote the spirit of cooperation, responsible information sharing and decision making necessary to facilitate developing the sense of ownership among the concerned government agencies and/or local government units (LGUs) and households who will be affected by the proposed project.

## **7.3 Stakeholders Analysis: Key Issues and/or Problems and Suggestions Raised**

64. Among the stakeholders consulted are the LGUs (township government officials, government agencies, and village leaders), the Yao EM, women, and other sectors in the villages. The LGUs are aware of the proposed project and/or subprojects as they already attended meetings conducted by ZCG. However, their level of awareness about the project is low as they admitted that they do not know the details about the subprojects. Other sources of information about the proposed project are media (TV news during the ADB mission),

government website, and key government agencies and/or bureaus. The local people, including women, farmers, and the Yao EM, have no details about the proposed projects. Also, details of each specific project components and/or subcomponents that will be implemented in the project areas are not yet clear among the township and/or village officials (i.e., wetland protection, green fertilizers, specific locations and descriptions of the wastewater treatment plans, solid waste stations, and river course rehabilitation).

65. Overall, the stakeholders consulted are in favor of the project components and/or activities. The participation plan (PP) for stakeholders, including the Yao EM people, was prepared to serve as guide during project implementation (see Annex A). Other information of the key issues and/or concerns raised by the Yao EM are included in Annex B: Highlights of the Consultations Conducted in Yao Villages covered by the Project.

#### **7.4 Grievance Redress Mechanism**

66. Prior to implementation of the project, a transparent and effective channel for complaints and appeals will be established for affected peoples. The grievance redress mechanism should ensure that problems can be identified, recorded, discussed, and resolved in a timely and effective manner as they arise and to ensure that the project is implemented in compliance with the ADB safeguard policy requirements, as set out in this EMDP. The mechanism will ensure that the Yao people through the village leaders and/or the Yao community cadres are represented in the communication channel. The Yao people feel comfortable raising their concerns and/or feedbacks or complaints to the Yao village leader and/or the village cadres. The Yao village has both male and female cadres to ensure that the concerns of both sexes are addressed. The grievance redress mechanism that will be implemented is identical to the existing government channels of complaint letters, visits in local government at all levels, and meeting with the Yao village leaders and/or community cadres, as outlined below:

- (i) Complaints regarding other aspects relevant to the implementation of the EMDP should appeal first to the village committee and/or leader. The Yao village is headed by a Yao and has also a Yao female community cadre;
- (ii) Complaints regarding environmental impacts should be made to the contractor, and copied to the Zixing City PMO (detailed steps are provided in the EMP);
- (iii) If the complaints are not adequately resolved, a complaint may be submitted to the township government office, with a copy to the Zixing City PMO;
- (iv) If necessary, a complaint may then be submitted to the respective implementing agency, with a copy to the Zixing City PMO. The PMO will be assisted by the social development and gender specialist who will also be tasked to ensure that the EMDP and other plans prepared for the project are implemented in a timely manner.

67. The Zixing City PMO will monitor the process and ensure adequate explanations and solutions have been provided in a timely manner. Most grievances should be resolved at the lower levels, but affected persons have the right to appeal to higher levels if they are not satisfied with the decision. The Zixing City PMO will be informed and will retain a record of all complaints. The appeal channel stated above will be explained to the affected people through meetings or in other ways so that they are fully aware of their rights to appeal.

68. Grievances can also be submitted directly to the Zixing City PMO. If the aggrieved person is not satisfied, they may submit a complaint to ADB (Project Officer or the ADB Resident Mission in Beijing). If good faith efforts are still unsuccessful and if there are grievances that stem from non-compliance with ADB's safeguard policy requirements on

indigenous peoples, the aggrieved person(s) may submit a complaint to ADB's Office of Special Project Facility or Office of Compliance Review in accordance with ADB's Accountability Mechanism (2012).<sup>7</sup>

## 8. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

69. The Zixing City PMO will be responsible for implementing the EMDP with the assistance from the social development and gender consultant, who will be hired by ZIFC (the implementing agency) during project implementation. The consultant shall also ensure that the EMDP and other plans (i.e., GAP, SDAP, and communication plan) are implemented in a timely manner. The Zixing City PMO has appointed a social safeguard officer who was already trained or given orientation on the important functions to perform, and ADB's safeguard policy, etc. during the training conducted on 18 March 2015. The ZEMRAO and its township offices will provide support to coordinate, advise, and review progress of the EMDP implementation. Implementation arrangements for the EMDP are integrated into the specific project activities. Other key agencies for implementation include the Forestry Bureau, the Industrial Workers Training Office, the All China Women's Federation (ACWF), and other concerned agencies, in coordination with the township heads and the Yao village leaders and/or cadres who shall be the focal persons to facilitate linkages at the village level. In Lianping Township, the concerned agencies, including ZEMRAO, will review progress of the bamboo upgrading component at the four Yao villages.

70. **Capacity building and/or training.** The measures in the EMDP under the section on Action Plan are mostly routine activities of the respective line agencies; therefore, capacity-building measures will focus on awareness activities on the ADB policy requirements (i.e., ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009); the government policies protecting the EM, including the Yao EM people, gender mainstreaming, and other safeguard measures) by the project implementation consultant. To ensure smooth implementation of EMDP and to achieve the expected objectives, the following policy awareness trainings are needed for the PMO, the key implementing agencies listed above and relevant township-level officials to enhance their project management skill:

- (i) **Participation principle and skills.** Some government officials lack awareness on the importance of the sense of public or community participation and/or mobilization, especially when communicating with the rural residents. This leads to insufficient participation of the local people.
- (ii) **ADB safeguard principles.** The government officials may have relevant experiences, but they are not familiar with the requirements of the ADB policies. This would require providing them information through workshops or training to orient them on relevant safeguard policies.

71. The awareness training program will be held when the start-up consultant has been mobilized in the later part of 2015 or as soon as the project commences in 2016.

## 9. COSTS AND FINANCING SOURCES AND SCHEDULE

72. The activities or measures proposed in the EMDP can be divided into two groups. For the first group, funds have been allocated within the Project cost. They include the following: (i) for national consultant to advise and support ZC PMO, ZIFC and Project team during consultation with EM and other stakeholders, implementation and supervision of EMDP (CNY 168,000 [US\$27,000], included in the relevant consulting service packages as presented in the

<sup>7</sup> For further information, see <http://www.adb.org/Accountability-Mechanism/default.asp>.

procurement plan); (ii) livelihood trainings provided to EM people (CNY650,000, included in the livelihood training consulting service package); (iii) other various specific trainings implementation (spread out in relevant consulting service packages and goods packages as presented in the procurement plan); (iv) job opportunities for EM (spread out in relevant works packages and in operation budget for facilities under the Project); and (v) participation in the community participation components (spread out in relevant community participation packages); etc. For the second group, additional funding is required. The activities in this group mainly include the advertisement effort to facilitate the employment of EM during project implementation and operation (estimated to be CNY60,000). Since the PMO will be the responsible agency during project implementation, the PMO will secure such funding under their operational budget to ensure smooth EMDP implementation.

73. Implementation of the activities in the EMDP will commence as soon as the loan is approved and ZCG and ZIFC agree when to start project implementation later part of 2015 or next year. There will be some project components that ZCG through the Zixing City PMO may commence project implementation by later part of 2015. The social development and gender consultant who will be hired for the project will also be responsible to assist the Zixing City PMO with the implementation of the EMDP. The schedule of EMDP actions and the proposed budget sources are included in Table 7 (see Section 6).

## **10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

74. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the EMDP is required to ensure the plan is implemented properly. The objective of the M&E is to assess whether the EMDP actions have been implemented effectively EMDP. The EMDP will be monitored and reported semiannually to ADB. The social development and gender consultants who will be hired during project implementation by ZIFC will work with the Zixing City PMO to set up an appropriate monitoring system and assist with the preparation of reports. The consultant shall ensure that the activities included in the EMDP (as well as the GAP, SDAP, and communication plan) are implemented. He or she will assist the Zixing City PMO's social safeguard officer in implementing the plans; will conduct monitoring, and assist the PMO in preparing the reports required for submission to ADB.

75. The objectives of the M&E are
- (i) to ensure there is meaningful consultation with and participation of Yao people;
  - (ii) to investigate and report the EMDP implementation progress based on the action and monitoring indicators in Table 5;
  - (iii) to recommend adjustments or improvements to the action plan, if required; and
  - (iv) to evaluate the effects and impacts to ensure the EMDP objectives have been met and that the Yao EM people are satisfied.

76. The monitoring ensures the key implementation agencies to supervise, understand, and report on the EMDP implementation progress to ADB. The Zixing City PMO, with the assistance of a social development and gender consultant, will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting progress of the EMDP to ADB semiannually. The monitoring reports may be combined with the submission of the social and gender reporting, but the EMDP progress will be presented as a separate report or annex so it can be easier disclosed to the affected Yao people. These reports will then be uploaded to the ADB website and reviewed by relevant staff. The Zixing City PMO will also include a section on the EMDP achievements on the project completion report to be submitted to ADB.

77. Detailed design of the administrative and management structure of the SDAP will be

carried out during the early phases of project implementation. During project implementation, the following positions will be proposed: one national resettlement monitoring specialist and/or team leader, and resettlement monitoring and coordination specialist to perform monitoring and ensure that the RP is implemented. The two social development and gender specialists who will be hired will provide technical assistance to the PMO during project implementation, monitoring and preparation of reports; and ensure the implementation of the consultation and participation plan, EMDP, GAP, and SDAP.

### ANNEX A: STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION PLAN

Stakeholder Group	Objective of their Intervention	Type of Participation and Depth	Participation Methods		Time Line		Cost Estimate
	Why they are Included		Method	Who will be Responsible	Start Date	End Date	
<p>Zixing City Government</p> <p>Government agencies bureaus</p> <p>Yao EM (village heads/cadres) and villagers</p>	To be informed about the project, responsible for project implementation in accordance with the TOR, decision makers at the national level, and could influence the local government units and/or agencies in policy making and decision making	<p>Information sharing, regular meetings, consultation, shared decision making, and shared responsibility</p> <p>Participation (high)</p>	<p>Meeting</p> <p>Workshop</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Consultants</p>	2016	2017	Budget for hiring 1 national gender specialist (6 person-months, intermittent; transport costs; and budget for consultation)
<p>Local government officials/leaders (provincial, district, city, townships, villages)</p> <p>Yao village heads/cadres and villagers</p>	Representatives of government executing agencies, need to be informed and consulted about the project, those responsible for policy making and engage the township and/or city and village heads to support and/or participate actively during project implementation	<p>Information generation and/or sharing, consultation, and shared decision making and/or responsibility</p> <p>Participation (high)</p>	<p>Meeting</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Public consultation</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Consultants</p>	2016	2017	Budget included under community participation
<p>Yao village heads/cadres and villagers as:</p> <p>-farmers groups/collectives</p> <p>-bamboo farmers collectives, orchard farmers collectives, women associations, etc.;</p>	<p>Representatives of the various community-based organizations (CBOs) responsible on issues and/or matters concerning solid pollution control, solid and waste water disposal and/or management system, drinking water, flood protection, soil erosion, forestry, etc.</p> <p>They need to be informed, participate in decision making, project implementation, monitoring, and control. The associations will oversee the operation and maintenance of the irrigation and/or drinking water and/or flood control systems. The farmers,</p>	<p>Information sharing,</p> <p>Consultation, and shared decision making, and shared responsibility, and control</p> <p>Participation (medium)</p>	<p>Meeting</p> <p>FGD</p> <p>Public consultation</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Social development/ gender specialist</p>	2016	2020	Budget for capacity building, transportation cost for the PMO/gender specialist

Stakeholder Group	Objective of their Intervention	Type of Participation and Depth	Participation Methods		Time Line		Cost Estimate
	Why they are Included		Method	Who will be Responsible	Start Date	End Date	
	women, and other sectors are direct stakeholders; and at the same time are represented in the associations.						
Women (including Yao)	<p>Women are the primary beneficiaries and users of water in the households. Lack of access to reliable and safe water; poor health and sanitation result to increase in diseases add to their domestic burden (i.e., fetching water, taking care of sick HH members, and other traditional roles).</p> <p>Women will have more time to attend to productive tasks including economic activities.</p> <p>To ensure inclusiveness of women and that they are able to benefit from the project in livelihood capacity building, public awareness, capacity building, and employment that would be created during project implementation.</p>	<p>Information sharing/generation</p> <p>Consultation, and shared decision making, and shared responsibility, and control</p> <p>Participation (medium)</p>	<p>Meeting</p> <p>FGD</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Public consultation</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>Social development/ gender specialist</p>	2016	2020	Budget for capacity building, transportation cost for the PMO/gender specialist (included in the project)
NGOs / community based organization (with mandate relevant to the project outputs/components such as the farmers cooperatives, women groups, etc.)	<p>Will be mobilized to participate in public information and dissemination, could help in organizing fora, seminars on climate change, environmental protection, pollution control, livelihood skills training, gender mainstreaming, health and sanitation, etc.</p> <p>NGOs/CBOs have the resources and expertise that could be tapped to complement and/or support project implementation.</p>	<p>Information sharing,</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>Collaboration (medium)</p>	<p>Meeting</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Consultation</p>	<p>PMO in coordination with the township/</p> <p>Consultant (Social development/ Gender)</p> <p>village leaders</p>	2016	2020	Budget included under community participation

## **ANNEX B: KEY ISSUES/CONCERNS AND DATA GATHERED DURING THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE YAO ETHNIC MINORITIES IN LIANPING AND QINGJIANG TOWNSHIPS**

### **B.1 CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICIALS OF LIANPING TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT AND YAO VILLAGE (JINTANG)**

**Date and Time:** Whole Day, 29 October 2014

**Venue:** Lianping Township Government Conference Room

**Persons Consulted:**

1. Ms. Xiao Lihua, Chairman of Township People's Congress, Han (mobile no.: 0735-3170066)
2. Mr. Zhao Changqing, Jintang Village Party Branch Secretary, Yao (mobile no.: 13975787722)

**TA Consultants (Facilitator):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian National Social Development and Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Development / Gender Specialist

**Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To gather data needed for the proposed projects, specifically for poverty and social assessment (PSA), gender assessment, and assessment of the Yao ethnic minorities' situation in selected villages and/or townships covered by the proposed project.
2. To inform and consult selected stakeholders including the Yao ethnic minorities about the proposed project (bamboo reforestation, solid waste project, river course rehabilitation project and forestry project), and elicit comments and/or perception on project impacts and how they will be benefited; and their recommendations.

**Highlights of the Consultation and/or Data Gathered:**

**1. Profile/Few information about Lianping Township:**

- (a) Total population = 2,851 and average household size is four.
- (b) Total number of villages = 4 (Jintang, Chengkang, Tianping, and Urban village)
- (c) Total number of employees = 25 (four Yao, including one Vice-Director)
- (d) Primary source of livelihood of the people in the township is farming and/or agriculture (mostly are bamboo and/or timber farmers). Major crops are rice, corn, vegetables, timber, and bamboos. The villages and/or township is surrounded with mountains and bamboos and various kinds of trees are well grown in the mountains and/or areas with hilly terrains.

- (e) There are few paddy lands situated on flat, land hilly terrain areas. Farmers could plan rice only once a year because the paddy lands are not irrigated.

## 2. Profile and/or Information about Jintang Village:

- (a) Total population = 330 (in year 2000) and 313 (in 2014)
- (b) Total number of households: 86 (in 2000) and 92 (in 2014)
- (c) More than 70% of the population are “Yao” and 30% are Han (Chinese)
- (d) Number of female-headed households = 1 (married to a foreigner and staying abroad)

## 3. Additional Socio-cultural information in Jintang Village:

- (a) No ethnic minorities “council or elders” or separate organization. Both the Yao and the Han belong to one village organization under the leadership of the village head.
- (b) No women organization in the village but there is one Yao female cadre in Jintang Village.
- (c) The religion of most of the Yao is “Dao”, some are Buddhists, and others have no religion.
- (d) About 20% of the village population do not speak the language of the “Yao”, they are the children/youth, or those in the 30’s and below. Some Yao parents no longer use the language of the Yao; the language of the Yao is not used in school, and some children and population of younger age (30 years old and below) do not permanently stay in the village. They stay in the Township or in urban areas where they are working. Others stay in the area but they do not stay within the “Yao group” in the village (staying in the urban area).
- (e) Actions done and some suggestions raised by Mr. Zhao to preserve the Yao language: (i) since 2013, the schools used textbooks in Yao language; and (ii) started conducting a Yao Class once a week in the village; there are two Yao teachers teaching Yao language and culture to primary school children.
- (f) The majority of the population in the village reached Junior High School. The village has 1 post graduate degree holder, 4 college graduates, 10 vocational school graduates, and the rest reached high school. No specific data on the number of people who are illiterates.
- (g) School existing in Jintang village = one primary school. There is no secondary and university in the village nor in Lianping Township. Children in secondary schools go to a neighboring township (Jintaw) located far from the Jintang Village. Both the Yao and Han go to the same school. **There is no segregation by ethnicity. In fact, there is or are no more distinctions between the Yao and the Han. The Yao are already acculturated in the Chinese culture.** They considered themselves as Chinese, which

explains why children no longer speak the language nor practice some typical Yao culture.

- (h) The Yao celebrate the same festivals celebrated by the Han (Chinese) such as (i) **Panwang Festival (for the ancestors: (ii) Long Drum Dance** (famous dance by two persons as partners); **and some people still believe in ghosts, they practice some rituals to drive away ghosts or evil spirits.** This is a practice of the Yao people where they butcher pigs, chickens or goats to drive away the ghost/bad spirits.

#### 4. Socioeconomic Data:

- (a) Most common source of income or livelihood of the people/households in the village is farming or agriculture. Major crops planted and/or grown include rice, vegetables, corn, bamboo, fruit bearing trees, and timber.
- (b) Farmers in their 50's or older are still engaged in farming (planting rice, corn and vegetables). They prefer to use chemical fertilizers because it is easy to buy in commercial centers. Only few farmers use the recycled human and/or animal wastes. Farmers in younger age are engaged in bamboo and timber production. Each farmer could harvest about 40-50 bamboo shoots per month. Farmlands in the villages are rain fed due to absence of irrigation facilities.
- (c) The majority of the Yao households' annual net income range from RMB2,000 to RMB3,00 per year. They consider their economic condition as poor.
- (d) Some people/households with houses located along the river (which is included in the river course rehabilitation project) are also engaged in fishing for additional food consumption. Lianping Township is far from Dongjiang Lake.

#### 5. Suggestions raised to help the farmers improve their household income:

- (a) Provide assistance for the construction or improvement of roads. Most of the bamboo and/or timber and forest areas are located far from the access roads. It is difficult for farmers to transport to carry bamboos, timber and other agricultural markets from the farm/upland areas to the township proper and market where they sell the products.
- (b) Sustain the implementation of the bamboo reforestation project as the majority of the households are dependent on bamboo and/or timber production. Bamboos are both sources of food (bamboo sprouts for family food consumption and excess are for sale in the market) and the bamboo poles, and timber are brought to the collectives.
- (c) Price of bamboo shoots ranges from RMB4.00 to RMB6.00 per half kilogram. Key informants have no idea on the price of the bamboo poles and timber.
- (d) Every year, farmers cut about 100 bamboo trees per *mu* (both bamboo shoots for household food consumption and bamboo poles and/or timber for sale).

- (e) The World Bank implemented a forestry project in the township but piloted only in selected villages. Of the four villages in the township, only one village was included in the World Bank-funded forestry project.
- (f) Bamboo farmers are members of the bamboo farm collectives existing in the villages. They bring the harvested bamboos and/or timber in the collectives.
- (g) There was one (1) factory for bamboo crafts established in Lianping Township last year. Now, it moved to another township (Dongjiang). The name of the factory is “**Yao Township Bamboo and wooden Crafts Factory**”. The factory conducted bamboo craft training for the people in Lianping Township and villages last year. There were three bamboo crafts experts from Jiangxi Township invited by the factory to conduct the training in Lianping Township. The factory was just renting in Lianping Township. The factory has been transferred to Dongjiang Township, where the owner no longer pays rental.
- (h) Among the products made of bamboos are
  - (i) bamboo wall decorations,
  - (ii) ash trays,
  - (iii) lanterns, (iv) teapots,
  - (iv) pencil/penholders,
  - (v) baskets,
  - (vi) chopsticks, etc.
- (i) The farmers’ level of knowledge on bamboo forestry and/or planting or bamboos is already advance as they had been engaged in this kind of livelihood activity for so long.
- (j) For future alternative livelihood training for the poor households, the key informants suggested training on bamboo craft and handicraft making with raw materials existing in the villages/township. Other livelihood skills training suggested include improved farming system but the problem is water (as they have no irrigation facilities).
- (k) Overall perception of the Yao village secretary on the economic condition of the majority of the Yao people is about 50% of the Yao households have average economic condition. He said nobody among the Yao households would qualify as rich; 45% are poor and 5% are very poor. He also mentioned that there is no difference between the Yao and Han economic condition. There are also Han households who are poor. *There is also no discrimination nor conflict between the Yao and the Han.* Some Yao people are married to Han, and the Yao also considered themselves as Chinese.

## 5. Households’ Access to Basic Social Services:

- (a) Source of drinking water is spring. In the township, there is a water tank constructed by the township government on the mountain. In the villages, households’ source of drinking water is from spring (they used plastic hose or bamboos as improvised pipe in order for water to flow from the source (spring) to the house.

- (b) Water quality in Jintang village is not so clean but they have no reported diarrhea cases. Households boil water before drinking. People in the villages do not pay as they rely on springs as their source of water for drinking. About 100 households in the township pay for water consumed.
- (c) Wastewater in the households living in the villages flow directly to open drainage, while the apartments and/or houses in the urban center or the township have improved and covered drainage system.
- (d) Solid waste or garbage is collected daily by one cleaner hired by the township. Each household is provided with a plastic pail where they throw their garbage provided by the township government. It was observed during the field visit in the township that the plastic garbage containers do not have lid or cover which makes it attractive for flies, and is considered unsanitary. Flies and rats are carriers of various kinds of germs that could cause illness among the people.
- (e) In the villages, households by group have a concrete incinerator or garbage facility made of concrete with funding provided by the township government. It is located along the road close to the houses. They segregate solid wastes and burn wastes such as dried leaves, paper, twigs, etc. Plastic and other wastes that could be recycled are segregated. **There is no garbage collection tariff collected from the households in both the townships and the villages.** The salary of garbage collector and/or cleaner is subsidized by the township government.
- (f) Monthly wage of the garbage cleaner (a female) hired by the township government is RMB800.00 to RMB900.00.
- (g) The houses in the urban area (in apartments) have sanitary toilets with flush and have septic tanks. Toilets in the villages in old houses are still using the traditional latrines made of a hole and no septic tanks, and no need for water. However, households with new houses have already constructed sanitary toilets with septic tanks, and with flush.
- (h) Lighting facilities used in both the township and villages is electricity.
- (i) The majority of the Yao and households in the township and villages use gas and electricity for cooking.

## 6. Perception on the Proposed Projects

- (a) The key informants are aware of the proposed projects but the level of awareness is still low. They heard about the bamboo reforestation, improved solid waste project, river course rehabilitation and forestry-related projects. The female key informant from the township government heard about it from the Environmental Protection Bureau. The village secretary also mentioned that he is familiar of the World Bank's Forestry Project in Hunan Province, but not all villages and townships were covered by the said project.

- (b) The key informants are in favor of the proposed projects. They perceived that the **bamboo reforestation project** will be a great help for the farmers to augment their household income and provide additional supplies for bamboo shoots (a source for both food and income); the bamboo poles and timber are additional sources of income (the collectives pay the farmers and/or households for the bamboos harvested. Many farmers and/or households will be benefited by the said project. The solid waste project would be beneficial to the households and essential to prevent pollution.
- (c) To date, they do not consider the bamboo/forestry as a problem, as the bamboo farmers knew how to take care and utilize wisely bamboos and other forest resources.
- (d) For **solid and/or wastewater project**, they do not perceive this as major concern as of now because the population in the township and villages is small and garbage collection is done on a daily basis at the township level. However, TA consultants have observed that there were many flies in the township urban center, which may be caused by garbage bins or plastic trash containers without lid (or cover). In the villages, solid waste is not also a major concern as mentioned by the key informants and as observed during the field visits in the villages. The villages were observed to be clean, no flies as compared to the urban area. There are small garbage stations per village group made of concrete, and garbage is collected on a regular basis, while other garbage is burned.
- (e) On **willingness to pay and affordability for improved solid and/or wastewater facilities**, the key informants perceived that there will be no problem with the households if the amount is low (not too high) and will be done gradually. There may be no resistance for an increased sewage tariff among the households in urban center (township) as they are currently paying for sewage fee at minimal amount. However, the households in the villages are not paying a single amount for sewage fee.
- (f) Among the proposed projects that will be implemented in the township/villages that the Yao village secretary prefers, is the **river course rehabilitation project**. He explained to the TA consultants the current situation (major problems of the households with paddy land and houses located very close to the river). During the site visit, he showed to the TA consultants how water from the river overflow to the paddy land situated in low-lying areas during heavy rains and typhoons. This explains the significance of the proposed project. It will increase the agricultural production and will address problems related to flood. The Yao village secretary recalled that sometime in 1995, the flood reached about 2 meters high in the urban center of Lianping township. Floods occur every 3 years or during typhoons and heavy rains. During the floods in year 2000, there were more than 10 (or less than 20 casualties) and more than 100 households were affected. Their agricultural lands and houses were affected. The flood was worsened when a portion of the mountain had landslide due to heavy rains. Debris had blocked the river water flow.
- (g) On **Fire Prevention/Forestry Project** (or expansion of forest areas by planting trees, etc.), the key informants appreciated this project components and/or activities. For the

past 10 years, there was no major fire incident in the township. However, there are few cases of small fire incidents that happen in some forest areas, generally about 1–2 *mu* were affected. The fire occurred when one farmer burned dried rice stalks or hays usually after harvest season and the fires spread so fast.

- (h) The level of awareness of the people on fire prevention was ranked by the key informants in level 5 (highest level of awareness) because the township regularly conducts fire prevention public awareness campaign (using a public address system where they repetitively announced measures to prevent fire in all villages). The township government allocates budget for IEC materials (i.e., fliers, posters, etc.) distributed to the local people.

## **7. On gender analysis and gender mainstreaming:**

- (a) Roles performed by women are shared with the male household members especially in economic activities. There is division of labor (in far forest areas, the husbands are usually the ones who work in bamboo reforestation/timber forest areas while the women help their husbands in planting and/or taking care of other crops (i.e., rice, corn, vegetables in the backyard or in gardens located adjacent to the houses, and taking care of livestock (pigs, chicken and ducks). Pigs are usually for additional income but poultry is mainly for household's food consumption.
- (b) Males are usually the ones who go to the market as they are driving motorcycles. Markets are located far from the villages but women are mostly the ones keeping the money in the household. Sometimes women also go to the market in villages not far from the market, and if women knows how to drive motorcycles or bicycles.
- (c) For those with shops or engaged in selling, both men and women shared responsibilities for managing the business or performing the livelihood activity.
- (d) Performing household chores are also joint household responsibility, and children (regardless of gender) assist the parents (i.e., cooking, garbage disposal, fetching water). Fetching water is not a problem in the township and villages. In the township, water pipes are connected to the kitchen and/or toilets. In the villages, improvised water pipes made of bamboo and water hose are connected to the kitchen and toilets.

## **B.2 CONSULTATION WITH THE VILLAGE WOMEN LEADERS IN LIANPING TOWNSHIP**

**Date and Time:** Afternoon, October 29, 2014

**Venue:** Lianping Township Conference Room

**Persons Consulted:**

1. Ms. Zhang Shuanglian, Jintang Village Women Section Officer (mobile no.: 15873531999)
2. Ms. He Guixiang, Chengkang Village Women Section Officer (mobile no.: 13549521358)
3. Ms. Zhong Juanfeng, Tianping Village Women Section Officer (mobile no.: 13667474418)

**TA Consultants (Facilitator):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian, National Social Development and Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Development / Gender Specialist

**Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To gather data needed for the proposed projects, specifically for poverty and social assessment (PSA), gender assessment, and assessment of the Yao ethnic minorities' situation in selected villages and/or townships covered by the proposed project.
2. To consult the women on their perceived benefits or impacts of the proposed project on the local people including women as well as men (i.e., bamboo reforestation, solid waste project, river course rehabilitation project and forestry project), and elicit recommendations on the kind of training or assistance the women would be interested to attend, how to maximize women's participation during project implementation.

**Highlights of the Consultation and/or Data Gathered:**

**1. Profile of the Female Participants and the Villages**

- (a) The three women are women officers (cadres) in their respective villages. The participant from Jintang Village belongs to the Yao ethnic minority group while the two are Han (Chinese). They seem to have harmonious relationship and very active during the FGD. They affirmed that they know each other and they are friends, and there is no much difference between the Yao and the Han. The Yao EM people dominate the villages in Lianping Township.
- (b) Jintang Village has five cadres or officers (one female); Chengkang village has four officers (one female) and Tianping village has six officers (one female). Village cadres or officers are elected by the villagers. They have regular meeting in the village at least once a week. Village cadres or leaders have monthly honoraria or stipend, as follows:
  - (i) General Secretary – RMB760/month
  - (ii) Village Head – RMB680/month

- (iii) Secretary – RMB530/month
  - (iv) Women Village Officer – RMB530/month and
  - (v) Part-time Cadre – RMB500/month
- (c) The three female participants have two children each. The Yao participant has two kids (boy and girl); the 2nd participant has two daughters and the 3rd participant has two sons.
- (d) Average household size is four.
- (e) **Major source of household income of the participants.** Farming in addition to the the honoraria they received, except the village officer from Tianping who has a business (providing electricity to the village group).
- (f) Jintang Village is considered as upland, Chengkang Village is located in midstream, while Tianping Village is located in the downstream and is always affected by flood during heavy rains. The three villages are agricultural areas.

## 2. Socioeconomic Condition of the Villages

- (a) Income status of the majority of the households in the three villages was assessed by the participants as follows: (i) Jianping Village—about 45 % poor (same as the assessment of the Yao village secretary); (ii) Chengkang Village—about 70% belong to average and 30% are poor; and Tianping Village—the same assessment as in Chengkang Village.
- (b) Primary source of household income in the three villages is farming. Major crops grown are rice, corn, vegetables, bamboos, timber, and various kinds of trees in the mountains.
- (c) Most common livelihood of women in the villages is farming and/or agriculture and selling.
- (d) For major crops (i.e., rice, corn, and vegetables), farmers in Chengkang and Tianping villages are using organic fertilizers (human and animal wastes). Jintang Village farmers do not use human and/or animal wastes for fertilizers as it is more convenient for farmers to buy non-organic fertilizers in the market and/or commercial center in the township.
- (e) Paddy land is not irrigated. Farming is only one cropping season.
- (f) A few households are engaged in fishing in the river (covered by the river course rehabilitation project) for food consumption during off-farming season.
- (g) Additional source of income among some households is financial support from children working in other cities and/or urban areas.

### 3. Accessibility to Basic Social Services

- (a) Source of drinking water of the majority of the households in the three villages is spring with water pipes connected to the water source, and direct to the kitchen and/or toilets of the households. In the township proper, there is a water tank and water pipes connected to the house. In the villages, some households use improvised bamboo and water hose from the spring to the kitchen and/or toilets. Several water tanks were provided/constructed by the township government.
- (b) **No payment for water facilities in the villages.**
- (c) Water quality of drinking water is considered clean and no case of diarrhea or water-borne diseases in the villages. Water is also sufficient; they have no problem in water supply.
- (d) **Solid waste disposal.** Concrete garbage boxes constructed in the village group (with funds provided by the township government); some garbage are burned, while others are recycled and/or segregated. **There is no sewage tariff or garbage collection fee charged from the households.**
- (e) Toilets of the majority of households in the villages are the “traditional type” (with a hole and no septic tank), but newly constructed houses already have toilets with flush and have septic tanks.
- (f) The majority of households in the three villages are using gas and electricity for cooking. Electricity is commonly used for boiling water for tea, which also serves as water purifying technique. Around 10 households use biogas as fuel for cooking.
- (g) **Accessibility from the village to the township.** About 10 km (accessible by land transportation, e.g., bicycles, bus, etc.) and fare is RMB10.00/trip.
- (h) Lighting facility of the majority of households in the villages is electricity. Electricity rate is RMB0.5 to RMB0.6 per kilowatt. Monthly average electric bill of majority of households is RMB100.

### 4. Perception on the Proposed Projects

- (a) The three female participants have limited information on the proposed projects. They heard about the project components and/or activities from the township officials and village head. One participant heard about the project from the Bamboo Farmers' Collective (as bamboo collectives were requested to submit proposals for bamboo reforestation project). On solid waste project, one participant heard about it from the village official; while the two females have never heard about it yet.
- (b) Among the proposed project components and/or activities, the three female participants are highly in favor of the **river course rehabilitation project**. They mentioned that the villagers would be very happy if river embankments will be constructed or river course will be rehabilitated to prevent flood causing heavy damages on agricultural lands and

properties of households located adjacent to the river. They do not know the name of the river. Dredging was not suggested by the key informants (more of improvement of river bank or cleaning so as not to obstruct water flow).

- (c) The second proposed project that the participants like most is bamboo reforestation. They affirmed that bamboo is an important resource for the local people who mainly rely on bamboo production for livelihood. They cut bamboos which they sell to cooperatives, while bamboo shoots are both for food consumption and income. They sell bamboo shoots in the market. The villagers and the township and/or village leaders would like to increase **bamboo reforestation**. Since 2008 (after the natural disaster), bamboo forests have not yet been fully improved or recovered. They said the World Bank-funded project implemented in some villages are not for bamboo reforestation but for timber and other kinds of trees.
- (d) On **forest project**, the participants are also in favor of this project, although they perceived that benefits for the farmers is not immediate, thus may not be that attractive compared to the 1st two aforementioned projects (river course rehabilitation and bamboo reforestation).
- (e) Solid waste project is not considered as a priority project as of now in the villages because they have low volume or quantity of garbage, and could easily managed by burning and waste segregation. Collection of sewage fees may not be attractive among the households as they are not currently paying any sewage or garbage collection fee.
- (f) The **forest fire protection** is already considered as an important activity. They mentioned that the villagers have high level of awareness on prevention of forest fire due to intensive campaigns and active roles played by the township government, although they affirmed that sustained public awareness on this is imperative.

## 5. Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming

- (a) Division of labor in performing various roles is perceived by the female participants as fair or there is gender equality, as both men and women are engaged in economic and/or livelihood activities, performing household chores, attending to livestock, going to market, and other roles. It is interesting to note that men and women have joint roles in food preparation, taking care of children, etc.
- (b) When asked who keeps the money in the household, the three female participants mentioned that it is the women who keep and budget the household money. Other households have both husband and wife keeping and budgeting the money.
- (c) The women perceived that about 30% of women (unskilled) would be willing to work in civil works or during the implementation of the projects (river course rehabilitation, planting bamboos and/or timber, etc.) and attend livelihood skills capacity building. They say that women would like to work as long as they will be paid.

- (d) Suggested alternative jobs/livelihood skills training: (i) provide capita assistance for business, (ii) livestock and/or poultry raising, (iii) bamboo crafts, and (iv) internet business.

### **B.3 CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICIALS AND STAFF OF QINGJIANG TOWNSHIP**

**Date and Time:** Whole Day, October 30, 2014

**Venue:** Qingjiang Township Office / Conference Room

**Persons Consulted:** 1. Mr. He Zhiqiang, Vice Director of Township Government  
(mobile no.: 18975720316)  
2. Mr. Li Yaodong, Chairman of Township People's Congress  
(mobile no.: 13087355255)  
3. Plus two (2) staff of the Township Government

**TA Consultants (Facilitator):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian , National Social Development/Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Development /Gender

Specialist

**Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To gather data needed for the proposed projects, specifically for poverty and social assessment (PSA), gender assessment, and assessment of the Yao ethnic minorities' situation in selected villages/townships covered by the proposed project.
2. To gather information about the Yao ethnic minorities in 1 village.
3. To inform and consult the Township Government on the proposed project, and elicit their comments/perception on project impacts and how they will be benefited; and recommendations.

**Highlights of the Consultation / Data Gathered:**

**1. Profile about Qingjiang Township:**

- (a) Total population in the township is 15,008 including the 358 population in the Yao village.
- (b) There is no Yao employee in the Township Government. 100% are Hans (Chinese).
- (c) 8 villages are located along the Dongjiang Lake.
- (d) **Additional information about Qingjiang Township (as part of the welcome address/remarks of the Vice Director of Qingjiang Township Government.**
- (e) Qingjiang township is located in Dongjiang lake basin. There are 17 Administrative villages, 1 neighborhood committee, 138 Villagers Group. Has a total population of 12,000, total land area of 154 Square kilometers, and a water area of 40,000 mu.
  - (i) In 2013, the township DDP was RMB 4.59 million. The farmers have an average annual income up to RMB 12,756, and the township's social fixed assets investment amounted to RMB 616.3 million.
  - (ii) Qingjiang township is one of the largest production base of fruit industry in Zixing City. Its main products are loquat, bayberry, peach, plum, pear, orange, grapefruit,

and so on. Areas planted with various kinds of fruit is about 2.87 acres, of which mainly are planted with orange trees. Citrus area is up to 2.56 acres in the township, with an annual output of over 60,000 tons of citrus, and the output value is more than two hundred million yuan.(iv) Qingjiang township is one of a leisure travel destination in Dongjiang lake basin.

- (f) It enjoys geographic advantages, and with convenient land and water transportation. There are over 30 rural tourism companies with certain scale, which includes a provincial four stars rural tourist company and three provincial three stars rural tourist companies. Currently there are two large scale holiday village buildings. One includes five villages called **Qingjiang Wan**, it has a wide land and water area; with a Lake line suitable for holding a variety of outdoor activities. In 2012 to 2013, it held the bicycle race around the lake, and Qingjiang Dongjiang lake China orange testing activity. It is a potential holiday village. Another one is **Shangbao Peninsula** holiday village, it mainly running Chalet Inn, Cave explorers, ecological waterfall, farming experience and striving to develop this holiday village to be a the biggest rural tourist place.

## 2. Economic Data

- (a) Primary source of income of the majority of households is farming (planting oranges, vegetables, rice and corn). The majority of the farmers are engaged in growing oranges. The township is mainly an orange trees plantation.
- (b) The Township ranks number 1 in terms of income in Zixing City by township level. The majority of the households in the township belongs to average economic condition as assessed by the Vice Director of the Township Government. Households in the township are relatively rich. About 5 to 10% of the households are classified as poor. The farmers from the villages usually have 2 houses (1 in the village and 1 in the urban center or in the township proper)
- (c) Average annual household income of the majority of the households in the township is RMB12,000.00. Some households may even have higher income but they do not declare it openly.
- (d) There are few farmers in some villages located along Dongjiang Lake who are engaged in fishing. No available data during the interview.
- (e) In addition to farming planting oranges, vegetables, rice and other crops), households are also engaged in selling fruits (oranges) and vegetables along the road, while others have shops selling assorted goods.
- (f) Some households in the villages are raising livestock (pigs, chicken, ducks and goats).
- (g) Farmers are still organic fertilizers (human and animal wastes) which they buy in fertilizers factories/commercial areas. Farmers don't like pig manure for fertilizer, they prefer cow manure and human wastes.

- (h) Use of pesticides is limited. Farmers prefer to use pesticide control techniques such as using lights to drive away insects, stickers to trap insects, etc. Farmers are aware of the negative effects of pesticides on health.
- (i) Younger household members prefer to work or migrate to other provinces for employment reason. They work in factories, service sector, shops and construction. Their remittances serve as additional income for the household. Older ones are left in the villages, engage in farming and attend to grandchildren.

### **3. Access to Social Services and Credit Facilities**

- (a) Source of drinking water in the township is spring (they have a township water supply plant).
- (b) Township government contracted the services of a private sanitation company with 8 staff (5 are cleaners and 3 of them are females). There are trucks that collect garbage from the households daily. Frequency of collection of garbage from the garbage stations is 3 - 4 times per week and these will be dumped in a landfill located 2-3 km from the township proper. The current location of the landfill is only temporary. It was constructed only last year. The township government is currently looking for another landfill site. They want their garbage/wastes to be taken out of their township, and the township government is willing to pay.
- (c) Households who are permanent residence pay RMB60 per year while temporary residents about RMB5.0/month per HH. Temporary residents pay RMB30.00/year (or about RMB 2.5 per month). For some government units or line agencies, credit cooperatives, resettlement office, etc. the sewage bill is RMB1,500 per year.
- (d) Each village group hires 1 cleaner, with a monthly salary or wage between RM200 – 300 per month (shouldered by the village).
- (f) Each household is provided with 2 plastic garbage containers (do not have lid), 1 is for recycled wastes and the other 1 is un-recycled wastes (which could still be burned). Each village group has a garbage concrete box structure, where households by village group dump garbage that could be burned. These concrete garbage structures were funded by the township government.
- (g) The majority of the households in the township proper have sanitary toilets with flush and septic tanks. However, the majority of the houses in the villages are still using the traditional toilet (with hole, without flush and septic tanks).
- (h) Source of power for lighting by the majority of households is electricity.
- (i) Fuel for cooking by the majority of the households is gas and electricity. Some poor households in the villages also use firewood as alternate for electricity (which they usually use for boiling water for tea). Few households use bio-gas as fuel for cooking.

- (j) Collectives of orange farmers exist in the township. There are about 10 collectives operating in the entire township. The majority of the farmers are members of the collectives. There are still few farmers who are not yet members of the collectives.
- (k) The majority of the people in the township have high level of awareness on the importance of proper health and sanitation practices. No reported case of diarrhea and other waterborne diseases.

#### **4. Perception on the proposed project components/activities**

- (a) The key informants are aware of the proposed projects in the township but they know only few information about the project description/activities. They heard about the proposed solid/waste water project and forestry/fire prevention project.
- (b) They are in favor of the proposed projects especially the solid /waste water treatment projects, because it will solve the township problem on garbage collection. Current landfill site is only temporary and small, and they want the garbage to be dumped outside of the township in order to maximize their land area for planting oranges, timber and other crops.
- (c) On willingness of the households to pay the garbage or sewage tariff once the garbage station facilities are improved, the township officers perceived that it will be a problem in collecting the amount or service fee in the villages as they are not paying sewage fee as of now. In the township/urban areas, there will be no problem with the households as they are currently being charged for garbage collection fee. They suggested that the people/households should be informed and consulted first before increasing the rate, and implementation of the new rate should be done gradually (not abruptly). It would take time for the people to understand the reason for the increase of rate.
- (d) On forest fire protection project, the township government is active in implementing public awareness campaign for fire prevention. During the field visit in the township, there was an ongoing campaign on fire protection (including forest fire prevention), where a government vehicle roams around the villages, using public broadcasting, streamers and posters. Some houses in the villages also have posters on fire prevention posted on the walls of some houses.
- (e) No negative impact of the proposed solid waste project and forest project was mentioned. Overall, the township government is in favor of the proposed projects in the township.

#### **5. Suggestions to help the poor households improve their economic condition**

- (a) Provide social assistance and/or social security as safety nets for the poor households especially in remote villages, including the Yao ethnic minority village. Poor households are qualified to avail of subsidy and/or assistance.
- (b) Rich villages could provide support to poor villages.

## **B.4 CONSULTATION WITH THE YAO ETHNIC MINORITIES (EM) IN QINGJIANG TOWNSHIP**

**Date and Time:** Afternoon, October 30, 2014

**Venue:** Yao Ethnic Minorities Village in Qingjiang Township

**Persons Consulted:**

1. Mr. Li Guo Tai, 67 Years old (Yao EM) – husband
2. Ms. Ki Shiu Kun, 59 years old (Yao EM) – wife
3. Village Secretary (Yao EM) - male
4. Two (2) Yao EM farmers (males)
5. Mr. He Zhiqiang, Vice Director of Township Government (mobile no.: 18975720316)
6. Three (3) staff of Quinjiang Township Government (all males)

**TA Consultants (Facilitator):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian, National Social Development and Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Development / Gender Specialist

**Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To gather information about the Yao ethnic minorities in 1 village.
2. To inform the Yao EM on the proposed projects/ and consult them on their perception about the project, elicit comments on potential benefits or project impacts and recommendations.

**Highlights of the Consultation and/or Data Gathered:**

**1. Profile of the Yao Village and the People**

- (a) Total population of the Yao village is 358 with about 89 households. Average household size is four members. The Yao people comprised less than 2% of the township's total population (15,008). The township consists of 16 villages.
- (b) Average household size in the village is four. The couple who participated in the FGD have three children (all girls), all married, working and living in the township proper. They go home every weekend to visit the parents because they have to take care of their children who go to school in the township proper.
- (c) The Yao village is predominantly inhabited by **more than 80%), and about 20% are Han**. There are no schools in the Yao ethnic minority village. All schools exist in the township proper.

Religion of the Yao is Dao. Others are Buddhists while some do not have religion (like the couple who participated in the FGD).

- (d) The village has four cadres (1 female and 3 males).

## 2. Socioeconomic condition of the Households in the Yao village

- (a) The primary livelihood of the households in the Yao village is farming. Major crops grown are oranges, vegetables (squash or pumpkins, pepper, eggplants, onions, cabbage, and other kinds of vegetables). The people in the village used to plant rice and corn before, but the land is very dry as they rely on rain-fed farming. The majority of the farmers shifted to growing orange trees because it is more profitable compared to planting rice and corn. Their rice fields were converted to orange tree plantation. Mountains are planted also with oranges. Vegetable gardens could still be found near the houses, mainly for food consumption. When asked if the farmers will still plant rice during rainy season, they replied that they prefer to plant orange trees and vegetables instead of rice and corn as it is more profitable. They also find planting timber, bamboos as less profitable in their village compared to the quick benefits that they get from oranges production, where they have regular income yearly.
- (b) Additional source of income for the Yao people and/or households in the village (aside from oranges and vegetables) are various kinds of fruits.
- (c) No bamboos could be seen in the village and in most parts of the township (unlike in Lianping township where bamboos could be seen in the mountains and along the road). Quinjiang township's villages are predominantly orange trees plantations.
- (d) The economic condition of the Yao ethnic minorities (and the entire households in the village) is dependent on several factors:
  - (i) **Age.** If they are still young they could engage in more productive jobs, such as the children below 40 years old migrate to other places to work in factories, and/or engage in various kinds of jobs. They send money to their old parents left in the village to take care of the farm and the house;
  - (ii) **Nature of labor or jobs available in the villages.** There are limited job opportunities in the village (mostly dependent on orange tree planting, picking up oranges during harvest season, and planting vegetables). Jobs where they could get higher salary are available in the townships and other cities and/or provinces where there are factories, more shops, and service-related kinds of jobs.
- (e) Major problem in the village is water for irrigation. Soil is very dry. Another problem observed in the village is sanitation as the majority of the households' type of toilet is the traditional one (with a hole, no flush and septic tanks). Beside the toilets are individual pig pens (that could accommodate 2 or 3 pigs) which households raise to serve as additional source of income. Chicken could be seen roaming around the villages, but are raised mostly for food consumption. Drainage from the kitchen, latrines and pig pens flow through open canals or drainage. This explains why foul smell is emitted from the open drainage, toilets and pig pens.

- (f) The Yao people in the village describe themselves as poor to average economic condition. Those with average economic condition are households with children who are migrant workers, who provide financial support to their elderly parents left in the village.
- (g) Overall, the Yao people perceived that there is no much difference or inequality in the socio-economic condition of the Yao and the Han. In the village, there are Yao households who are in average economic condition and some are poor. Likewise, there are also Han households in the same economic condition. There is also no discrimination that exists between the Yao and the Han.

### **3. Accessibility to basic services and facilities**

- (a) Health center are available only at the township proper. The Yao village is located far from the township proper. Consultation fee (no medicines yet) ranges from RMB10.00 and if immunization or injection is included, the fee is RMB50.00. Medicines of the wife (Ki Shiu Kun), who has maintenance medicines for heart problems were purchased by her daughter who is working at the township proper. Her medicines alone cost RMB400 per month.
- (b) The participants of the FGD mentioned that there are no reported diarrhea cases nor water-borne diseases in the village.
- (c) Source of drinking water is spring with water hose/pipes and faucets located around 1–2 meters from the kitchen (outside the house).
- (d) Fuel for cooking is electricity which they use for boiling water every time they prepare tea and cooking rice (using electric rice cooker). They also use firewood for cooking feeds for livestock.
- (e) Lighting facilities of the households is electricity.
- (f) Each household has plastic garbage containers (no lid or cover), and garbage concrete structure along the road in each household group. Solid wastes are segregated (some are burned and others are collected by a garbage collector paid by the village/township government).
- (g) Children of the Yao no longer know the Yao language. They do not speak the Yao language, as they study in schools with students (Yao and non Yao).
- (h) Means of transportation from the village to the township are motorcycles, trucks used for collecting and transporting oranges direct from the farm and other private vehicles. Fare from the Yao village to the township is RMB12.00 per trip, which explains why they seldom go to the townships, and why their married children prefer to live in the township due to convenience in bringing their children to school and access to basic facilities.

#### 4. Cultural practices of the Yao ethnic minorities

- (a) The Yao people celebrate festivals similar to that of the Han people. They also celebrate or offer prayers to their ancestors but they do not butcher pigs nor chicken. They just offer prayers and eat together in the family (with simple kinds of foods).
- (b) Some of the Yao people intermarry other Ems, including the Han people. There are no laws or practices that prohibit the Yao from marrying somebody outside their minority group.
- (c) Yao family is closely knit or have close family ties.
- (d) **The Yao EMs live and behave like the Han people. No discrimination exists, children go to the same school in the township proper.**

#### 5. On gender roles and gender mainstreaming

- (a) Most of the tasks are performed jointly by male and female such as food preparation, taking care of livestock, farming, and other household chores. However, the participants mentioned that the majority of women are still inclined to cooking and taking care of children. However, for the parents whose children are already married or working, they usually shared the burden of performing economic activities and household chores. Cooperation or helping together in activities is a typical practice between husband and wife.
- (b) Going to the market is also a shared responsibility. For those with motorcycles, the husband is the one who go the market as he knows how to drive motorcycles. The wife is left at home or working in the orange plantation or in vegetable garden. The Yao people seldom go to market as they already have rice and vegetables in the village. There are some shops that exist in the village. They go to market located in the township proper occasionally, or if they will buy medicines, or they have no more rice and other important basic household commodities.
- (c) In attending meetings in the village, this is usually assigned to male or the head of the family. However, there are cases when females also attend meetings if their husbands are not available (e.g., they went to the collective to bring oranges/agricultural products, outside the township or working in other places, or is sick, etc.).
- (d) When asked if they are willing to work or participate in some activities relevant to the proposed projects (i.e., solid waste project, forestry project, or capacity building that may be organized in the future), the Yao participants mentioned that they will participate. If there will be job opportunities during civil works, they perceived that the local people including women will be encouraged to work if they will be paid. That will be a great help to them. Women are also interested in planting trees, although they prefer orange trees and other fruit bearing tress compared to timber. They could have immediate benefits for planting orange and other fruit bearing trees unlike in timber where they have to wait for several years before they could benefit. They are also willing to participate in public

awareness and training that will be organized by the village or township government in the future.

- (e) Overall, the participants are in favor of the proposed project components and activities. They could not think of negative impacts.

## **B.5 CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICERS OF HUANGCAO TOWN AND YAO VILLAGE LEADERS, HUANGCAO TOWN**

**Time:** November 13, 2014 (9:00-12:00 Noon)

**Venue:** Huangcao Town

**Persons Consulted:** 1. Mr. Song Dongbo, Chairman of Labor Union in Huangcao Town  
 2. Mr. Cao yang, town government staff focusing on environment protection  
 3. Mr. Chen Jibin, Party Secretary of Longxing Village  
 4. Mr. Cao Jiaowen, Secretary of Longxing Village Committee

### **TA Consultants(Facilitators):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian, National Social Devt./Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Devt./Gender Specialist
3. Miss Yang Ruixing, Survey Asst., Postgraduate of Hohai University

### **Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To inform about the proposed projects and elicit their comments and recommendations.
2. To gather information about the Yao EMs in Huangcao Town, and elicit their perceptions on the proposed project (comments/issues and recommendations)
3. To gather some socioeconomic perception on causes of pollution along Dongjiang Lake, etc.

### **Highlights of the Consultation/Data Gathered:**

1. The participants mentioned that they already heard about the proposed projects and/or subprojects, but not the details of the projects. They were informed by the Zixing City Government. The proposed projects in Huangcao Town include the following: (i) rural wastewater, (ii) wetland project, (iii) fish platform, (iv) public forest land, and (v) bamboo reforestation. The rural wastewater treatment project is proposed in the Yao Village.

2. Demographic data in the Yao Village, Huangcao Town:

(a) Total population = 870 **(356 or 41% are Yao people)**;

(b) Total number of households = 240

3. Economic activities: farming and/or agricultural activities are the primary sources of income of the HHs.

(a) The major crops grown are paddy rice, ginger, vegetables, etc. They also grow chestnuts, oranges and other kinds of fruit trees.

(b) No household is engaged in livestock and/or poultry raising.

(c) Only 10 HHs are engaged in fishing. Production and/or average income of the fishermen (HHs) is RMB20,000 per year from various species of fish. They sell the fish in the market.

- (d) (iv) farmers use chemical fertilizers for their major crops and oranges.
- (e) (v) Only 10% of HHs in the village eke out a living from bamboo production. The majority of HHs have members working outside Huangcao town.

#### **Sources of Pollution in Dongjiang Lake:**

4. The participants identified the following sources of pollutants in the Dongjiang Lake:

- (a) Domestic waste water due to common practice of households where they throw wastewater (from the kitchen, laundry, etc.) outside the house. Most of the houses do not have drainage.
- (b) The majority of HHs are still using traditional type of toilets without septic tanks. About 68 HHs use human manure for biogas (a project of the government for food production).
- (c) Garbage disposal is by burning. There are garbage box structures located outside the house.
- (d) There are no wastewater facility in the village. The village leaders are planning to constrict four WTPs in the area, but not sure yet when to implement.

#### **Source of Drinking Water:**

5. Households' source of drinking water is spring using bamboos or plastic hose as water pipes from the source to the house. Water source has good quality, and there are no reported waterborne diseases in the area. Other HHs boil water for drinking.

#### **Information about the Yao People in the Village:**

- 6. Total number of Yao people is 356 out of 870 total population or about 41%.
  - (a) The Yao children speak both the language of the Yao and the Han (Chinese). They have no Yao teacher in school. No discrimination or distinction or difference in cultural practices, lifestyle between the Yao and the Han as they have stayed in the village for so long (since birth) and they also considered themselves as Han or Chinese. Intermarriage between the Yao and the Han is a common practice, which explains why there is no more difference in cultural practices, socioeconomic condition between the Yao and the Han.
  - (b) The Yao do not have religion.
  - (c) The majority of the Yao people reached Junior Middle School. There is no primary school in the village. Children attend school in Huangcao Town.

#### **On bamboo reforestation:**

- 7. Average size of land for bamboo production is 30 to 40 *mu* per household. Maximum land size for bamboo production for HH is 100 *mu*.
  - (a) Cost of bamboo pole is RMB5.00 each.
  - (b) It takes 3 years before farmers could harvest bamboo.

- (c) Major problem raised on bamboo production is lack of transportation to bring the bamboos from the upland to the town where they will sell the bamboo poles.
- (d) They harvest bamboo shoots mainly for food of the households. Price of bamboo shoots in the market is RMB4.00 per half kilo.
- (e) There is no collective of farmers in the village. They used to have a farmers' collective before, but was abolished due to lack of business. Only 10% of the total HHs in the village relied on bamboo production. The majority have HH members working outside Huangcao Town.

**Other information:**

- 8. The participants are not so familiar of the details and location of the proposed wetland and forest protection project.
- 9. The village has five village cadres (three are Yao and two Han). Of the five village cadres, one is a female.

## B.6 CONSULTATION IN FENGLIN VILLAGE, HUANGCAO TOWN

**Time:** November 13, 2014 (1:30-3:30 PM)

**Venue:** Fenglin Village Office, Huangcao Township

**Persons Consulted:**

1. Mr. Lei Yuejun, Director of Fenglin Village Committee
2. Ms. Liu Mingxiu, Women Cadre of Fenglin Village Committee
3. Mr. Ouyang Ming, Villager
4. Village Staff (male)

**TA Consultant (Facilitators):**

1. Dr. Amy Yu Qingnian , National Social Devt./Gender Specialist
2. Ms. Ester M. Felix, International Social Devt./Gender Specialist
3. Miss Yang Ruixing, Survey Asst., Postgraduate of Hohai University

**Purpose of the Consultation:**

1. To inform about the proposed projects and elicit their comments and recommendations.
2. To gather some socioeconomic perception on causes of pollution along Dongjiang Lake, etc.

**Highlights of the Consultation/Data Gathered:**

1. The participants conformed that they already heard about the proposed projects from one specialist or consultant of the PPTA Team (could not remember the exact name and position). However, they do not know the details of the proposed projects and/or subprojects. The proposed projects in Huangcao Town include the following: (i) wetland forest, (ii) bamboo reforestation, and (iii) fish cage and/or breeding station. They are not sure the exact location of these projects, except the information that it will be in the Dongjiang Lake and in the shoreline of the lake.

**2. Livelihood activities:**

- (a) (i) There is one farmers' collective in the village (planting orchard), but no longer functional. Around 3 to 4 *mu* is planted with 200 orange trees. The collective was closed because it could not meet the financial requirements of the government. Price of oranges is RMB0.8 per half a kilo. Farmers use organic and chemical fertilizers. Cost of production for oranges is RMB1,000.
- (b) There are more than 10 fishermen (or less than 20) with an average HH income of RMB10,000 to RMB20,000. The majority of the HHs have members working outside the village and/or Huangcao Town; and a few HHs have hops and selling fish and other agricultural products in the Huangcao Town market.
- (c) About 18,000 *mu* is used for public forestry and 300 *mu* for bamboo production. Both are classified under public forestry, where the government prohibits cutting except during winter).
- (d) The village has 4 village cadres and 1 village head. There is 1 protection staff of the Forestry Department responsible for forestry protection in the village.

- (e) Other livelihood activities in the village: half of the HHs are laborers; others are involved in agriculture; and a few are engaged in tourism related livelihood such as rafting (about 20 persons); about 7 to 8 HHs have farm or guest houses that cater to tourists; and 10 HHs have shops/stalls in Huangcao market.

### **3. Demographic data:**

- (a) Total population = 1,409;
- (b) Total number of households = 438 (four are female-headed HHs; all recipients of MLS);
- (c) Total number of poor households = 60 (provided with MLS or financial support to poor HHs), and five are considered are guarantee or vulnerable individuals.

### **4. Suggestions raised by the participants:**

- (a) Construct a WTP to protect the environment. The village has plans to construct at least 3-4 WTPs within the year. There are about 30% of the households in the village who are still using traditional toilets without septic tanks and about 70% have sanitary toilets (with septic tanks).
- (b) They suggested having public awareness on environmental protection, pollution control, and public forest conservation.
- (c) Provide alternative livelihood to households especially the poor such as cooking for women (for restaurants or eateries); housecleaning services; food production. In the past, the village provided capacity building to women relevant to cooking and housecleaning (80% of the participants were females).
- (d) To develop tourism industry since Huangcao Town is a famous tourist destination. It is important to conduct skills training and jobs related to promoting tourism.