**Strengthening Coordinated Approaches to Reduce Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Threats to Globally Significant Agrobiodiversity and Agroecosystems in China**

**(C-SAP 2) PIMS 5821**

**Livelihood Action Framework**

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# 1. Introduction

1. This Livelihood Action Framework has been prepared for Strengthening Coordinated Approaches to Reduce Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Threats to Globally Significant Agrobiodiversity and Agroecosystems in China (C-SAP 2).
2. The Project has been screened vis-à-vis UNDP’s Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and was categorized overall as “Moderate Risk”. The Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist, Standard 5 (Displacement and Resettlement), Question 5.2 (economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation) was ticked Yes since local communities may have reduced access to IAS as their source of animal fodder. The question highlights the risk of individuals or communities losing or having reduced access to natural resources on which they depend for their livelihoods and sustenance, including agricultural lands, water, forests, clean air, etc., in this case, access to IAS as animal fodder or as source of livelihood. Reduced access in this case occurred because of improved IAS management. This reduction in access may be temporary or permanent.
3. Specifically, Risk 2 of the SESP Checklist indicated that “Efforts to halt/minimize the threats of IAS to agrobiodiversity, including use of traditional varieties and genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), do not materialize or are insufficient, leading to reduced productivity of land with adverse impacts on local farmers’ livelihoods”. It was assessed that in the course of implementation of IAS management plans, there are potential risks that efforts to halt or minimize the threats of IAS will not be realized or insufficient, leading to further reduction of land productivity that may cause economic displacement on local farmers.
4. Moreover, Risk 6 indicated that local communities and minority communities that traditionally use IAS as animal fodder may be negatively impacted by strengthened IAS prevention, control and management efforts, with strengthened quarantine process and reduced access to land, as IAS are used traditionally as animal fodder.
5. To ensure that local communities that depend on IAS as animal fodder or as source of income, this Livelihood Action Framework aims to set out the requirements of UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Standard 5 (Displacement and Resettlement), specifically on economic displacement.

# 2. Potential Impacts and Affected Persons

1. There are potential risks that the improved IAS management in demonstration areas in Longfei Village in Chongqing and Hulu village in Hainan (Output 3.2, about 60 ha) and the two target agricultural landscapes in Wenchang and Bishan (Output 3.4, about 35,000 ha) will lead to economic displacement for local communities that depend on IAS as animal fodder or as source of income, because of its reduced availability. Affected persons include local communities and possibly ethnic minorities that depend on IAS as their source of animal fodder or income.
2. In both demonstration areas, currently there are no known persons that rely on IAS as animal fodder. In Chongqing Bishan demonstration area for example, the tips of seedling stems of wild aster (*Symphyotrichum subulatum*) are occasionally eaten as a seasonal vegetable by some local people. Less than 0.1% of the total population take it as food. In local market, there are occasional cases of Brazilian turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and snapping eels (*Atractosteus spatula*) being sold and raised as pets in fish tank, accounting for less than 1% of commodity in the market. In Hainan Wenchang demonstration area, there is one household relying on tilapia fish breeding, accounting for 0.18% of local population. Aster, Brazilian turtle, snapping eels and tilapia are listed as IAS but not within the targeted control and prevention species under the project.

# 3. UNDP SES Standard 5 Requirements

1. The Guidance Note requires that if it was determined that Standard 5 is or maybe applicable for the remaining phase of the project, requirements need to be met in project design and implementation, including application of management and mitigation measures, stakeholder engagement and monitoring activities. In addition, the assessment and management measures must respond to relevant requirements of all applicable SES Principles and/or Standards, not just those of Standard 5.
2. Further, the Guidance Note requires Moderate Risk Projects targeted forms of social and environmental assessment. Given the potential adverse impacts to communities from economic displacement, although remote right now, the project must first seek to avoid displacement in activities it supports. To accomplish this, UNDP must identify and consider options that avoid displacement, including the ‘no action’ scenario (i.e. what would be the situation absent any project intervention). When displacement cannot be avoided, UNDP and project proponents must identify, evaluate, and pursue options that are least impactful and/or most beneficial.
3. In addition, the project must involve affected local communities to participate in decisions related to economic displacement, ensuring that there are mechanisms in place to redress for impacts to rights, establishing risk-informed plans for displacement, and ensuring adequate compensation, incentives and rehabilitation assistance. Standard 5 requires that projects involving displacement seek to improve the standards of living and overall socioeconomic status displaced poor and other groups.
4. In all cases the required social and environmental assessment and adoption of appropriate mitigation and management plans/measures must be completed, disclosed, and discussed with stakeholders prior to implementation of any activities that may cause adverse social and environmental impacts.

# 4. Recommended Management Measures to Minimize Economic Displacement Impacts Caused by Improved IAS Management

1. The following are the recommended management measures to minimize potential for economic displacement impacts on local communities that rely on IAS as animal fodder and their source of livelihood.
2. **Identification of alternative feed sources.** Although MARA PMO emphasized that targeted IAS under the project such as mile-a-minute and alligator weed will not lead to economic displacement of people as they are not using these as alternative feed sources, it is recommended that Under Output 3.1 (Farming communities, including cooperatives, agricultural enterprises and other relevant stakeholders are capacitated through training building the knowledge and skills base of all groups to work together to address IAS threats to agroecosystems), training should include identification of alternative feed sources that can replace the affected species. MARA can advise affected local communities on the use of crop residues readily available in the demonstration areas and 2 agricultural landscapes under the project, or the use of non-invasive grasses, legumes or shrubs that grow locally. Although not as replacement of IAS, crop residues can be used as animal fodder in both demonstration areas, including those of maize, rice and sweet potato.
3. **Promotion of conservation agriculture.** To ensure additional sources of feeds for animals, it is also recommended to strengthen conservation agriculture practices. These include minimum tillage, intercropping and crop rotation to help farmers conserve soil moisture and nutrients. Farmers may also practice zero-grazing to allow livestock to graze on crop residues.
4. In Chongqing Bishan demonstration area, different practices related to conservation agriculture are applied by farmers, which can be replicated in other areas. Some control the golden apple snails in paddy field by raising ducks in the field; some prevent and control weeds by raising chickens or geese in citrus orchards; some plant vegetables and forage under the citrus trees in the orchards to harvest vegetables and forage for their own consumptions. These practices somehow play a role in controlling IAS while bring economic benefit for farmers.
5. In Hainan Wenchang demonstration area, farmers practice minimum tillage and crop rotation as a conservation measure. Most paddy fields are planted with only one season of rice a year, and leave the land uncultivated during June to November. A small percentage of paddy fields practice crop rotation of rice and vegetables (plant squash and vegetables in winter and rice in spring). The purpose of fallow is to maintain the nutrients in soil, and the purpose of rotation is to reduce the level of crop pests and diseases. Farmers raise cattle, geese and ducks directly in the field during fallow season and allow them to graze on crop residues and weeds.
6. MARA has also implemented conservation agriculture related project under GEF-5 in other provinces such as Henan and Anhui. MARA also carried out ecological agricultural practices in Chongqing. These practices can be replicated in the two demonstration areas.
7. **Strengthen farmers’ capacity and awareness.** Under Output 3.1, the project may include additional training programs on alternative feed sources, conservation agriculture and value addition.

# 5. Alignment with Other Management Plans / Frameworks Developed

1. The project should consider the Expanded Stakeholder Engagement Plan, to include Social Inclusion Plan for Ethnic Minorities developed for the project to ensure that project activities are conducted in an inclusive fashion, building from the consultations conducted during the preparation phase, and assuring broad representation of local stakeholders, including the ethnic minority in Longfei Village, 7 of which are women. The project should also consider the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Framework developed if ethnic minorities will be affected.

# 6. Grievance Redress Mechanism

1. The project will follow the Grievance Redress Mechanism developed under the FPIC Implementation Framework.