

Non-State Actor Action (NSAA)

# Biodiversity Newsletter

## Special Issue of CBD COP15



(IISD Earth Negotiation Bulletin, 2018)

**Catalina Santamaria**

CBD Secretariat

Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary &  
Senior Program Management Officer

“ Advancing ecological and sustainable development goals requires a whole of society approach to stimulate transformational change within key sectors, in society and in the economy. With the expected adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework during the second part of the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2022, in Kunming, China, non-state actors are sending strong signals of commitment and urgency to build ambition and support the necessary transitions to put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030. It is in our best interest to take action. Be part of the movement and join the Sharm el Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda groundswell for Nature and People.

”

# Special Report: Summary of CBD COP15



## **Kunming Declaration**

On the afternoon of October 13, the ministerial plenary meeting of COP15 closed in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. *Kunming Declaration* was also adopted at the closing ceremony.

[Kunming Declaration \(Chinese\)](#)

[Kunming Declaration \(English\)](#)

## **Keynote speech by President Xi Jinping**

On the afternoon of October 12, Xi Jinping, Chairman of the Central Military Commission and President of the People's Republic of China, attended the COP15 Leaders Summit and delivered a keynote speech, and made commitments on behalf of the Chinese government.

[Keynote Speech](#)

## **Initiative for Biodiversity Conservation and Joint Construction of Global Ecological Civilization**

On October 15, the Ecological Civilization Forum of 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference (the First Stage) closed in Kunming, Yunnan. The event launched an initiative for biodiversity conservation and joint construction of global ecological civilization, and called on all parties to adhere to the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, work together and take action to build a beautiful world where everything could coexist in harmony.

[Read more](#)

## **Initiative for Independent Commitments of Non-state Actors**

On September 28, the two-day NGO Forum of the COP15 was successfully closed. NGO representatives from all over the world jointly launched the Initiative for Independent Commitments of Non-state Actors with the theme of “Towards Kunming: My Promise to Nature”, and solemnly promised to make unremitting efforts for biodiversity conservation.

[Read more](#)

## **Consensus and Commitment of COP15 NGO Forum**

On September 28, the two-day NGO Forum of COP15 was successfully closed, and NGOs from all over the world reached consensus and put forward suggestions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. On October 15, at the closing ceremony of the first phase of COP15, 10 Chinese environmental protection social organizations and enterprises that participated in the NGO Forum made a joint commitment.

[Read more](#)



## Background

---

### CBD COP15

The Convention on Biological Diversity (the Convention or CBD) is an international convention on protecting global biological resources that entered into force starting from December 29, 1993. With 196 parties, it has the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits under its framework. The CBD Secretariat is a standing organization to the Convention affiliated to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is located in Montreal, Canada.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention is the mechanism at the highest-level for proceedings and decision-making, comprising the formal meeting, high-level segments, sideline meetings and exhibitions. The formal conference is divided into three sub-conferences, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties to the Protocol on Biosafety, and the Conference of the Parties to the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources. The first two cover mechanisms, strategies, actions and concrete policies, as well as scientific and technological issues related to the Convention and the Protocol. High-level segments are participated by officials above the ministerial-level who are seeking consensuses by engaging in high-level policy dialogues which revolve around specific topics. CBD COP is organized every two years and has been held 14 times so far. CBD COP 14 was held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018.

According to the decision made by the presidium of COP 14 and upon approval of the Chinese government, CBD COP 15 under the auspice of its Secretariat will be organized by the People's Republic of China as the host country. COP 15 is an important conference of contracting parties and aims to fix the target of global biodiversity conservation by 2030 via formulating the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). There are two stages for COP 15. The first stage was held October 11-15, 2021, in Kunming, Yunnan, participated by overseas attendees online and domestic participants offline. On its agenda, there are the opening ceremony, Leaders' Summit, and the ministerial segments. It reviewed general items on the agenda and released the Kunming Declaration and other documents. Meanwhile, supporting events including the Forum on Biological Civilization and exhibitions were held. The second stage will be held in the first half of 2022 in Kunming as an occasion for all parties to engage in wide and in-depth discussions out of which broad consensuses and an ambitious, practical and actionable framework are expected to be born.

Upon approval of the State Council of China, a COP 15 organization committee (the Organization Committee), and a COP 15 execution committee (Execution Committee) were established for the preparation of this event, consisting 34 units and institutions at the central-government and local levels.

# Special Report: CBD COP15



## Agenda

---

### **Kunming Moment: Planning for Biodiversity Governance Together**

Yunnan province is located in a region globally known for its biodiversity and thus is playing a key role in biodiversity conservation in China or around the world. It is praised as the Kingdom of Plants and Animals as well as the Gene Bank for Species. Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan, is a significant window for the opening-up of South China to the Southeast Asia. It is located on a low latitude plateau with beautiful scenery and pleasant climate, known to all as the Capital of Spring and City of Flowers. With CBD COP 15, a grand international event, being held here and China serving as the hosting country, historical heritages will be left for the development of a beautiful China and a green name card could be created for Yunnan and Kunming.

Biodiversity matters to human's well-being and is the blood and root for a community of a shared future on this planet. Strengthening biodiversity conservation and advancing global environmental governance require unremitting efforts. Currently, the world is repeatedly hit by the pandemic resurrection. However, against all odds, joint efforts from all parties make CBD COP 15 a great success. This is a conference that plans for global biodiversity governance in the next decade, an occasion to unite wisdom and for all to rise up to challenges in biodiversity conservation. This conference is beneficial for advancing ecological civilization and building a community of shared future on this planet.





### Opening Ceremony

Participants arrived at Kunming and registered for CBD COP 15 on October 9-11. On the afternoon of October 11, 2021, the opening ceremony of COP 15 was formally held in Kunming Dianchi Lake International Convention and Exhibition Centre on the east bank of Dianchi Lake with an exciting documentary film of migrant elephants and performances. Over 5,000 delegates from more than 140 parties and over 30 international organizations and units participated in the event both online and offline. At this rendezvous in the City of Spring, there were around 1,500 attendees offline. During the opening ceremony, the floor was open to everyone to unite international forces in biodiversity conservation. The theme is “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”.



Yasmine Fouad, Egyptian Minister of Environment and President of COP 14, handed over a dark mallet to Huang Runqiu, Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, signaling that China formally began to serve as the hosting country to COP 15 and that Minister Huang as President of COP 15.



Han Zheng, Member of the Political Bureau to the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, attended and addressed the opening ceremony. He indicated that China would formulate the national strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation in a new era, coordinating integration and synergy of biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development. Advancing major engineering projects of biodiversity conservation on a continued basis means to comprehensively protect ecosystems, biological species and genetic resources. As the host country for COP 15, China would make further commitments to practices on biodiversity conservation in the next decade at COP 15 by proposing the Chinese Solution.

He made three proposals: 1. Building consensus and reinvigorating ambitions. Multiculturalism is a must-do and political supports together with dialogues and communication also have to be enhanced. The road forward needs to be ambitious and pragmatic which might be embodied by science-based post-2020 action targets. 2. Making more inputs and mobilizing resources. Channels will be expanded for the inflow of funds, providing greater support to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. 3. Accelerating reforms and generating synergy. Biodiversity conservation has to be prioritized by active measures to promote transformation and reform. Protection and restoration of nature and ecosystems have to be enhanced and global environmental challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and food security require coordinated efforts.



Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of CBD Secretariat, addressed the conference. Inger Andersen said that efforts made by human society were not sufficient to reverse damages done to nature but reviewing the Post-2020 GBF at COP 15 would be a chance for us all as we need to take clarified and concrete actions to realize this framework. According to Inger Andersen, we need to put nature at the center of decision-making and correct and address shortcomings of the market. According to Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, China was praised as a model for its efforts in the past decades in pollution prevention and treatment, as well as afforestation and poverty alleviation.

Huang Runqiu, Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment and President of COP 15, indicated that facing the pandemic, the world need act as one in reflecting on the relations between humanity and nature and taking decisive actions to prevent and reserve the trend of biodiversity loss, and that we need reinvigorate confidence in the cause of biodiversity. This is the main purpose for China to hold the first stage of COP 15.

Ruan Chengfa, Provincial Party Secretary of Yunnan, declared during the opening ceremony that Yunnan took the lead in China in introducing regulations on biodiversity conservation, sorting out management mechanisms of natural reserves and enhancing global cooperation on biodiversity conservation. Yunnan took actions to protect and rescue endangered and valuable species including Asian elephants and golden monkeys.

Representatives from Africa, Asia-Pacific Region, CEEC, Latin America and Caribbean countries, the EU, Western Europe and other contracting parties and regions, as well as delegated of Hani minority in China, the indigenous people and local communities, local governments, women, international NGOs, business community, the young group, and the Chinese youth representative from Beijing Forestry University (Chu Wenwen) delivered speeches. Voices from different groups sound the same: we need to stem and reverse the trend of biodiversity loss.

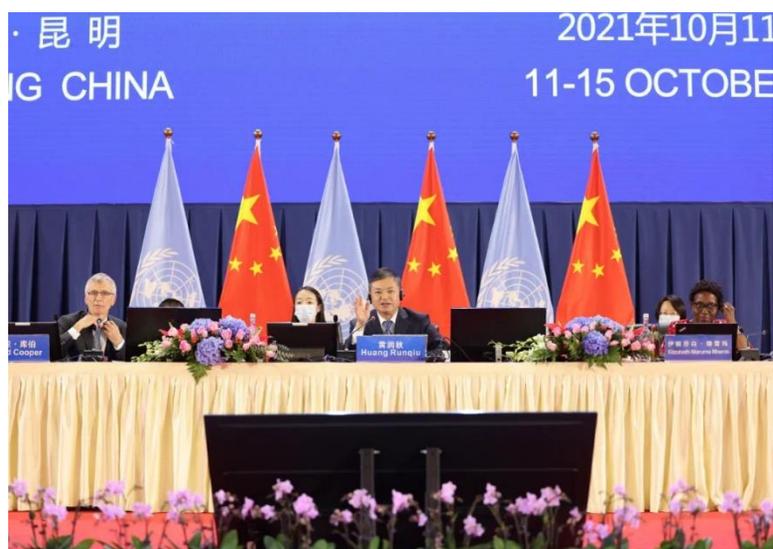
At the opening ceremony, the Egyptian government, UNEP, CBD Secretariat, representatives from Latin America and Caribbean countries, CEEC, the EU, Africa, Asia-Pacific Region, developed countries outside the EU, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, indigenous people’s forum of CBD, CBD alliance, CBD women’s group, the environmental action council for local governments, and the international biodiversity network for the young people, all made declarations which are displayed on the CBD official website.

[Read More Conference Document](#)



### Plenary Session

On the afternoon of October 11, 2021, Huang Runqiu, COP 15 President and Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, presided over the COP 15 plenary session as well as plenary sessions for CP/MOP10 and NP/MOP4, together with joint plenary meetings for COP 15, CP/MOP10 and NP/MOP4.



According to the Proceedings of CBD COP, agendas for plenary sessions of COP15, CP/MOP10 and NP/MOP4, items to be addressed in the first stage concerning the itinerary, organization, reports on credentials for parties participating CBD COP 15, management of the convention and budget for trust funds, reports by auxiliary institutions and regional preparation meetings, along with other unsettled matters were reviewed and approved.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of CBD Secretariat, attended the meeting. Members to the Presidium to UN CBD, representatives of contracting parties and members from the Secretariat attended the event online or offline.

[Read More](#)

### Reception Dinner: Invitation from Kunming

Huang Runqiu, COP 15 President and Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, presided over the reception dinner under the theme of Invitation from Kunming on the evening of October 11, 2021. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of CBD Secretariat, and Wang Yubo, Yunan Provincial Governor, delivered welcome speeches.



### Field Visit

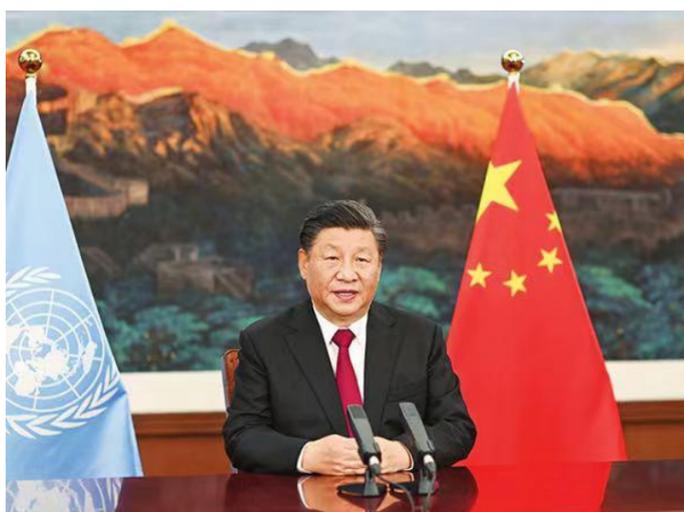
On the morning of October 12, delegates visited Fuligong, a biodiversity experience park of Kunming Institute of Botany (CAS), and Baofeng Wetland in Guandu District, Kunming.





### High-level Conference: Leaders' Summit

On the afternoon of October 12, Huang Runqiu, Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, presided over the Leaders' Summit. H.E. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, and President of People's Republic of China, attended the Summit and delivered a keynote speech.



According to Xi, biodiversity makes the world full of vitality and is the foundation for human survival and development. CBD COP 15 in Kunming sets targets of global biodiversity conservation and clarifies paths into the future. This event is as a result of great significance. The international community need to strengthen cooperation and build a community for a shared planet.

Xi emphasized that people need to live in harmonious coexistence with nature by accelerating green development, achieving win-win results in economic growth and environmental protection, and balancing the economy and the environment on our shared planet. We are in a challenging but promising age. For our shared future, we need to work hand in hand in starting a journey of high-quality development. China under the guidance of ecological civilization will make efforts to coordinate human and nature. We will take green transformation as the driver to support global sustainability and share results of green development with all parties. We will center on people's benefits and underpin social justice and fairness. We will safeguard an equitable and rational international governing system with the international law as the basis.

In addition, Han Zheng, Member of the Political Bureau to the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, addressed the Summit. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Biodiversity Civilization, China is firmly pursuing green, low-carbon and sustainable development. As the largest developing country in the world, China will comprehensively advance its modernization featuring harmonious coexistence between human and nature by taking more effective and practical policies and measures to protect the ecological environment and actively assuming international responsibilities according to its development level and capabilities, so as to make its due contribution to the governance of global biodiversity.

[Keynote Speech](#)

[Read More](#)

Leaders' Summit was held both online and offline, participated by heads of state and government via video link including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, French President Emmanuel Macron, Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov, Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape and Britain's Prince Charles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed that Russia has always been committed to responsible, consistent and systematic biodiversity conservation. Russia is implementing its comprehensive sustainable development strategies to protect and breed endangered and rare plants and animals, and further reinforce development of protected natural reserves. Protecting nature matters to all countries even the entire humanity. Russia fully supports to enhance international cooperation in protecting flora and fauna, the atmosphere and water resources. And this cooperation should be based on recognized scientific data and a clear and comprehensive legal framework while respecting national sovereignty over respective natural resources and economic activities. We also need to consider prioritized direction for national development and national conditions, and accommodate needs of developing and least developed countries.

Turkey will hold COP 16 next year and serve as the presidency to the Convention from 2022-2024. It will take the lead in promoting biodiversity conservation with necessary actions and hopes to find fair, rational and concrete solutions to global challenges. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reckoned that facing climate change and environmental issues, we can't only reply on some countries. Nations need to assume responsibilities regardless of economic strength, geological locations or historical liabilities.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that more biodiversity protection could mitigate the impact of climate change on humanity. France will initiate a research project for animal diseases with the participation of more than 30 countries. He also briefed on a Mediterranean Project, NBS actions, restoration of ecosystem, Green Wall, and assistance to the Sahara region. He is committed to fulfilling EUR 18 billion and preventing deforestation, as well as refraining from importing more products from countries that destroy forests by 2030. He called on EU members to fulfill relevant commitments and join campaigns. At the beginning of 2022, France will hold a marine summit engaging the public and private sectors to release a global initiative to protect 30% of land and oceans in the world; restore 30% of damaged ecosystems; and encourage investment into biodiversity conservation with 30% of climate funds supporting biodiversity conservation.

Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape likened his country as the last front line for biodiversity as it owns 13% of tropical rainforest and 6% of biodiversity resources across the world. As the last land on this planet discovered by the European civilization, Papua New Guinea has some of the remaining wild flora and fauna. If attention paid to this issue is not enough, they might disappear forever. He also emphasized that Papua New Guinean has to achieve economic independence by development and make its due contribution to biodiversity conservation.

[Read More](#)

In the end, Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, indicated that humanity is facing apocalyptic species extinction. The collapse of global ecosystem would deal a heavy blow to developing countries. But COP 15 could be an opportunity for humanity and nature to come to a truce.

Hosted by China, COP 15 will formulate the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which clarifies the direction for the protection of biodiversity. In this framework, there are bold actions to be taken in five areas: 1. The Framework needs to support legitimate rights of everyone in accessing a healthy environment, including the indigenous people who understand biodiversity the most; 2. The Framework needs to support national policies and plans that aim to address the loss of biodiversity, especially unsustainable consumption and production; 3. The Framework needs to promote the transformation of a calculation system both nationally and globally so as to count in the true impact of economic activities on nature and climate; 4. It has to provide developing countries with a basket of measures including important financial resources and technology transfer; 5. Irrational subsidies to sectors including agriculture have to stop and relevant funds should flow to the restoration of ecological environment.

[Read More](#)



### High-level Conference: Ministerial Plenary Meeting

On the afternoon of October 12, Huang Runqiu, Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, presided over the ministerial plenary session following the conclusion of Leaders' Summit. Minister Huang Runqiu, Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of CBD Secretariat, addressed the meeting. Inger Andersen said that the combination of Chinese economic growth and biodiversity conservation provided the world with beneficial experience. According to Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, China had always been a strong supporter and contributor to global biodiversity agenda. China in proposing to hold COP 15 and releasing the Kunming Declaration at COP 15 clearly demonstrated its leadership and commitment to biodiversity conservation. The Chinese concept of ecological civilization offers experience to the world.

[Read More](#)

#### Special Discussions: “Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”

Special Discussions: “Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. The ensuing session was divided into four special discussions. Minister Huang Runqiu presided over the event. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of IPBES, and Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Forum on Indigenous Issues participated in the discussion under the theme of “Ecological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. With the Chinese concept of ecological civilization being recognized, a blueprint of ecological protection was jointly painted.

#### Panel 1: What does Ecological Civilization mean for food, health, jobs, trade and education?

Qu Dongyu, Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweal, Director-General of WTO, Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO) and Qu Xing, Deputy Director-General, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) addressed and participated in Panel 1 on “What does Ecological Civilization mean for food, health, jobs, trade and education?”

Qu Dongyu said that human survival is closely connected to the ecological environment and many countries represented by developing countries are facing severe challenges in grain and food security. He is committed to uniting forces of all parties as much as possible within the UN system to promote actions for the next decade in formulating a more effective, resilient and sustainable grain and agriculture system. Zsuzsanna Jakab proposed a healthy initiative that aims to build an ecological civilization that ensures clean air, fresh water and a sound environment for people. Ecological civilization gives people nutrition and health diets help cope with risks rising from biodiversity loss, climate change and diseases. Qu Xing proposed that during the formulation of Post-2020 GBF, we need to count in interaction between humanity and nature. Producing a solution to the survival of humanity and biosphere, enhancing the sharing of heritages and figuring out a better way to live with nature are all very important.

Delegates in in-depth discussions emphasized that to realize Post-2020 GBF targets, taking concrete actions is the most important step. Biodiversity conservation needs to be prioritized in policy formulation and implementation. Effective measures shall be taken in regard of food system, investment in infrastructure construction, energy and utilization so as to spur transformation. Resources from public and private sectors shall be mobilized and an open and transparent execution mechanism needs to be established to reverse biodiversity loss and achieve the grand target of harmonious coexistence with nature.

#### Panel 2: Aligning finance and building capacity for an ecological civilization

David Malpass, President of World Bank, IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chair of GEF, and Achim Steiner, Administrator of UN Development Programme (UNDP), attended the Panel 2 on Aligning finance and building capacity for an ecological civilization.

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez believed that contracting parties stand a great chance and are responsible in reaching an ambitious and efficient Post-2020 GBF in Kunming and that GEF would devote its utmost efforts in supporting all countries to protect biodiversity. Achim Steiner said that according to the 2020 Human Development Report, this is the moment for all countries to rethink and plan its development path and that finance is the core to this transformation. UNDP is helping countries and communities to drive forward nature-positive investments and working with main partners. It is putting funds in and guiding finance into the management of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation so as to strongly support nature-based solutions. Meanwhile, UNDP, UNEP and GEF are committed to amplifying financial and technological support to contracting parties when the Post-2020 GBF is officially fixed next year.

#### Panel 3: Promoting synergistic action for biodiversity, climate, land and oceans

Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Bruno Oberle, Director General of IUCN, Rebecca Lent, Executive Secretary of International Whaling Commission (IWC) and Josefa Cariño Tauli, Youth Indigenous Leader on behalf of the GYBN addressed Panel 3 on Promoting synergistic action for biodiversity, climate, land and oceans.

All panelists emphasized that cooperation is the only way to reach win-win results. Ibrahim Thiaw advocated that all human beings should take land degradation seriously and restore damaged ecosystems and lands. For humanity, there is no 50 years or 100 years left. Patricia Espinosa claimed that nature is the closest ally for human beings to cope with climate change. Researches reveal that more countries are taking biodiversity conservation and ecosystems as priorities in sustainable development. This is such a relief. Josefa Cariño Tauli's words that, we care about the land and we have to protect it because land is the source of life for all of us and that all human beings are a part of nature and all species are living on this planet together, were echoed by the audience. He also said that a clean, safe, healthy and sustainable environment is a promising future for all young people.

In addition, panelists exchanged their commitments, measures taken and achievements in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, displaying wisdom from every party about biodiversity governance. This provides the Post-2020 GFB with valuable experience. And then, the first stage for COP 15 ministerial high-level segment was closed.

[Read More](#)





### High-level Conference Ministerial Parallel Roundtable II

On the morning of October 13, the second phase of the high-level parallel roundtable for ministers was held. There were two separated themes and two corresponding roundtables at the same time.

#### Roundtable C: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

This roundtable was co-chaired by Zhang Zhanhai, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Natural Resources, China, and Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkey. Luthando Dziba, Co-Chair, IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, South Africa, and Gao Jixi, Director General, Satellite Environment Application Centre, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, delivered orientational speeches.

According to Zhang Zhanhai, biodiversity protection is beneficial for protecting the earth and the homeland and advancing harmonious development of mankind. China puts biodiversity conservation in an important place, giving nature time to rest and recover itself, promoting green transition and upgrading of lifestyle and production modes, seeking new opportunities for development, and realizing win-win results in biodiversity and socioeconomic growth.

Akif Özkaldi believed that the destructive pandemic reveals the gradual loss of biodiversity. Only by reinforcing biodiversity could we protect the earth. Turkey has introduced national policies in biodiversity conservation for this purpose and is delivering on its commitments by expanding the forest area continuously.

Dr. Luthando Dziba pointed out that it is nature that makes development for mankind possible. However, endless demands of human beings have damaged biodiversity. The degradation of 20% of original species across the world can be traced down to changes and pollution caused by utilization of land and ocean. Besides, many indirect factors lead to the degradation of species. An important part of biodiversity conservation is to link SDGs with socioeconomic development as this could directly connect biodiversity with grains, foods, resources and household income.

Gao Jixi expressed that no country could remain intact and isolated facing the issue of biodiversity. That's why we should be united to protect biodiversity. In recent years, China has reinforced the protection of biodiversity, providing the world with the Chinese model of biodiversity conservation and offering a template of ecological and economic development.

Later, ministerial representatives from Sweden, Serbia, Belgium, Singapore and Argentina delivered speeches via video link or offline, sharing their achievements and opinions about biodiversity conservation.

Swedish representative claimed that Sweden applies integrated policies to protect nature and adopted a protection model based on nature. The successful COP 15 will generate a series of actionable solutions to join forces in protecting nature and drawing attention to the living environment for the next generation. Young people will also be engaged in the process.

Serbia has enacted a series of policies to support and safeguard biodiversity conservation, aiming to realize harmonious coexistence between Serbia and nature by 2050.

The ministerial representative from Singapore said that Singapore applies innovative methods in integrating nature into city life by planting 1 million trees on the island.

Argentine delegate proposed to approach biodiversity conservation with an innovative thinking. Since it generates great taxation pressure to protect biodiversity, the framework of protection should be pragmatic and able to take off the ground.

Representative from Peru said that Peru has always emphasized on the importance of biodiversity conservation while orderly protecting and breeding species. It has adopted international norms and engaged in international cooperation to bring benefits to its people. Venezuela is dedicated to building national parks and protecting endangered river species on the verge of extinction.

Rising up to challenges, Malaysia has successfully protected biodiversity and expanded protected forest areas and conservation areas through programs such as planting 100 million trees. It also takes financing measures and combines protection and development in the principle of fairness and benefit-sharing. In the end, Bekir Pakdemirli concluded this session.

#### Roundtable D: Knowledge, innovation and benefit-sharing

Roundtable D on Knowledge, Innovation and Benefit-sharing was co-chaired by Zhang Yaping, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Ricardo José LOZANO, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development in Colombia. Ma Keping, Researcher in Botany Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Rachel Wynberg, University of Cape Town, South Africa, delivered orientational speeches.

Zhang Yaping said that in recent years the CBD Secretariat and stakeholders have taken a series of initiatives and actions in promoting knowledge, innovation and technology transfer in biodiversity, which has provided valuable experience and suggestions to strengthening scientific and technological innovation.

Ma Keping expressed that technology, knowledge, benefit-sharing and innovation will play a more important role. It is developing countries that are contributing a major share to biodiversity conservation. And developing countries need support and technology transfer from developed countries to better use biodiversity resources. It is necessary to ensure implementation of all provisions in CBD and take urgent actions to respond to emergencies.

Biodiversity conservation and its importance have been fully reflected in speeches delivered by ministerial representatives. The ministerial representative from South Africa said that rich biodiversity is a significant heritage and economic asset for people in South Africa. African countries including South Africa are fully aware of benefits of this biodiversity.

The ministerial representative from Saudi Arabia noted that the focus of attention is on biodiversity and sustainable development of the environment with a basket of measures being introduced for example establishing a dedicated environmental center, setting up environmental funds and realizing smarter environmental protection.

Delegate from Maldives shared with the audience challenges of land loss due to the rising sea level.

According to the representative from UAE, there are economic, social, climate and land challenges, especially issues caused by the lose of traditional resources.

Iran representative stated that the Provision 16 of CBD calls on all parties to transfer technology to developing countries without any procedures in place to ensure that developing countries could access these technologies. Environmental issues know no boundaries. And the pandemic is a case in point. Fighting COVID-10 requires cooperation of all countries. So developing countries wish to initiate relevant procedures to address this issue.

Austrian representative believed that we need share technologies and its benefits in a fair and square manner. Effective strategies about biodiversity conservation can't be realized without support from government and society. All countries need to coordinate their efforts.

Ministerial representative of Ghana and Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to stress the importance of sharing knowledge and experience because this is beneficial for developing countries. We need a healthy planet and a beautiful homeland for generations to come. In the end, Ricardo José LOZANO concluded the session.

[Read More](#)



### Closing Ceremony of High-level Ministerial Plenary Meeting

On the afternoon of October 13, the Ministerial Plenary Meeting of the 15th Conference of Parties on Convention on Biological Diversity was concluded in Kunming City of Yunnan, China. The closing ceremony was held by the Huang Runqiu, the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China. At the ceremony, Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, Ms. Barbara Pompili, Minister of the Ecological Transition of France, Dr Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey and Mr. Ricardo José Lozano, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia respectively summarized the four prior ministerial parallel round table meetings. Also at the closing ceremony the Kunming Declaration (the “Declaration”) was adopted.

The Declaration recalls the relevance of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity: “Living in harmony with nature” and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizes that its full achievement across the environmental, social and economic dimensions is necessary to enable the realization of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, emphasizes that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin our human and planetary health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development. It also acknowledges with grave concern that the unprecedented and interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and desertification, ocean degradation, and pollution, and increasing risks to human health and food security, pose an existential threat to our society, our culture, our prosperity and our planet, recognizes that main direct drivers of biodiversity loss are land/sea use change, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, and acknowledges that indigenous peoples and local communities contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the application of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and through their stewardship of biodiversity on their traditional lands and territories. The Declaration also stresses that urgent and integrated action is needed, for transformative change, across all sectors of the economy and all parts of society, as well as notes the need of a combination of measures is needed to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and the call of many countries to protect and conserve 30 percent of land and sea areas by 2030.

On such basis, the Declaration has made 17 specific commitments, including accelerating and strengthen the development and update of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans; enhancing and establishing effective systems of protected areas ; actively enhancing the global environmental legal framework and strengthen environmental law at the national level; increasing the provision of financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries necessary to implement the post 2020 global biodiversity framework; further enhancing collaboration and coordinated actions with ongoing multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to promote the protection, conservation, sustainable management and restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity.

[Read More](#)

[Kunming Declaration \(Chinese\)](#)

[Kunming Declaration \(English\)](#)

Then, the representatives of Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Middle and Eastern Europe, Latin American and Caribbean States, European Union, and JUSCANZ group delivered speeches. Meanwhile, the representatives from indigenous affairs organisations (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity), civil societies (the Alliance of the Convention on Biological Diversity), local governments (ICLEI), Amelia Arreguín the Coordinator of the CBD Women’s Caucus & Argentine Environment and Nature Resources Foundation, Patricia Zurita the CEO of Birdlife International, the representative of Nature Affairs of Natura &Co, Lu Minfang the CEO of Mengniu Group and International Dairy Association & Chair of International Dairy Federation, financial representatives (Crédit Agricole Asset Management), Ellen Renee Stofan the Under Secretary for Science and Research at The Smithsonian and Swisha Stotla Basham the Global Southern Contact Point of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network gave comments on the topics.

[Read More](#)

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of Convention on Ecological Biodiversity and the Minister Huang Runqiu delivered summary speeches for the conference. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema expressed that the worsening loss of the biological diversity is exacerbating the risks to which human beings’ welfare, economies and earth are exposed, and it is urgent as never before to take actions before the closure of the window of opportunities. We must work together to ensure every country to spare no effort to stop the loss of biological diversity and return it onto the track towards realization of the 2030 goals. Huang Runqiu noted that ministers actively discussed around the theme of “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. And ministers shared their insights, experiences and practices about the “the road to restore biodiversity”, “bridging the financial gap and ensuring implementation measures”, “biological diversity protection and sustainable development” and the “knowledge, innovation and benefit-sharing”. The meeting has brought fruitful results. He also note with great emphasis that, in the face of challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, parties has presented sterling wisdom, rich experience and utmost sincerity and flexibility to achieving the Kunming Declaration.

[Read More](#)

At the press conference, Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment held that, this high-level meeting has successfully accomplished the set tasks, improve the global political resolve in protecting biological diversity, unite efforts in global biodiversity governance and provide a political guarantee for negotiations on “post 2020 global biodiversity framework”.

Then, Zhao introduced three major achievements obtained at the high-level meeting during the first stage of the COP 15: (1) Provision of top-level political motivation for global biodiversity governance, as leaders of countries and international organization called for united and practical actions to be taken by counties to enhance the global governance over biodiversity and ecological environment; (2) release of the Kunming Declaration, the one of most important outcome of the conference, which shall inject new motivation into the global governance with a view to global advance towards the 2050 Vision where human beings live with nature in a harmony way; and (3) the announcement of a series of measures to adopted by China to protect biological diversity.

The high-level meeting has successfully accomplished tasks and played a significant role in these three aspects: (1) improving the global political resolve in protecting biological diversity; (2) uniting efforts in global biodiversity governance; and (3) providing a political guarantee for negotiations on “post 2020 global biodiversity framework”.

[Read More](#)



## Forum Info

### Opening Ceremony of COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum

On October 14, the 2020 UN CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum kicked off in Kunming of Yunnan, China. The Forum was themed by “Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”, and was the only offline parallel event during the period. Huang Runqiu, the Minister of Ecology and Environment of China & President of CBD COP15 Ruan Chengfa, the Secretary of the Communist Party of China Yunnan Provincial Committee, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Wang Yubo, Governor of Yunnan Provincial People’s Government, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote report. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech.



Mr. Huang pointed out that, the speech given by President Xi Jinping at the Leaders’ Summit of COP15 via video link, which calls for the international society to take the development of ecological civilization as the guide, build a homeland of common development of all countries and start a new journey of high-quality development for humanity and announce a series of Host Country actions, presenting China’s resolve and confidence in building a global ecological civilization with the international society and reflecting China’s undertakings. China, carrying forward fine Chinese traditional culture and in response to the characteristic of the times and people’s will, proposed ecological civilization concepts and places high priorities on building ecological civilization in the overall efforts, resulting in advance in the building a beautiful China as well as social consensus and concerted efforts under the philosophy that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. China consistently upholds the concept of building a shared destiny for humankind, actively undertakes international responsibility matched with its conditions and capacity, and engages in global environment governance, reflecting China’s undertakings. Looking into the future, China shall insist on ecological civilization concept, modernise harmony living of human with nature, and work with the international society to conserve the shared home of Earth.

Mr. Ruan noted that, Yunnan province shall thoroughly applied Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, keeping firmly in mind President Xi Pillaring requirements of “building China into a leading power in ecological civilizations”, spare no effort in biodiversity protection, persist on the path of green development with priorities on ecology, insist on the principle that ecological development is good for, in favour of and fundamentally serves people, applied the finest system and the strictest law and regulations on ecology environment, and stand firm to safeguard Yunnan’s ecological environment, and muster every effort to put in place the post 2020 Global Biological Diversity Framework, so as to contribute to building a shared home for human and nature on earth.

As Wang pointed out in the keynote report, Yunnan has the richest biodiversity in China, and the fine ecology is the biggest resources, the most important advantage, the most inclusive benefits and most valuable treasure to Yunnan. Yunnan shall take Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization as the guide, thoroughly applied the spirit contained President Xi Pillaring keynote speech at the COP15 Leaders’ Summit, spare no efforts to build the ecological civilization and protect ecological environment, strive to lead the ecological civilization development nationwide, and contribute more to the building a shared community for lives on earth and a clean and beautiful world.

Elizabeth expressed that biodiversity is the key to current global challenges and plays an important role in responding to climate change, eliminating poverty and realizing sustainable development. China has set specific goals for building ecological civilization and has practically devoted to it, finding a systematic path of sustainable development with a focus on ecology, whose philosophies of practicalness, environmental protection and sustainability as well as innovative development are valuable assets to draw on. It is hoped that parties may find solutions from the experiences and insights shared on the forum and entered inter-industries cooperation to push ahead the restoration of biodiversity and realize harmony relationship between human and nature.



Achim Steiner the Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, Yang Linping the Vice President of Supreme People’s Court, Susan Gardener the Director of Ecosystems Division of United Nations Environmental Program, Zhang Yudong the Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Masatsugu Asakawa the President of the Asian Development Bank, Zhang Zhanhai the Chief Engineer of Ministry of Natural Resources, Bruno Oberle the Director General International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Zhang Jiwen the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Sanjayan the CEO of Conservation International and Zhou Liujun the Vice Chair of China International Development Cooperation Agency addressed the meeting via video or on site.

At the opening ceremony, 100 of the 5th batch of ecological civilization demonstration areas and 49 the 5th batch of “lucid waters and green mountains are invaluable treasures” practical innovation bases were awarded. At last, Wang Yubo the Governor of the Yunnan Provincial People’s Government, Marco Lambertini the Director General of WWF, Wang Lixia the Chair of Inner Mongolia, Lu Shan the Vice Governor of the Zhejinag People’s Government, Chang Zhanghua the Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen Municipality, Gretchen Daily the Professor of Stanford University & the Academician of National Academy of Sciences, Zhang Yaping the Vice President of Chinese Academy of Science and Wang Jinnan the Academician of Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment have presented keynote reports.

The Forum is divided into 7 forums aimed at adequate exploration of different topics. Leaders from the ministries and commission of China, the heads of international organisations and agencies, leaders of province, region and municipalities, Li Xiaosan the under secretary of the provincial committee, Li Jiang Chair of the Yunnan People’s Political Consultative Conference as well as more than 2,000 guests from institutes, financial institutions, enterprises and media attended the forum in flesh or online.

[Read More](#)



### COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum I

#### “Response to Climate Change (Carbon Peaking and Neutrality) and Biodiversity Protection”

On the afternoon of October 14, the forum I of UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum: “Response to Climate Change (Carbon Peaking and Neutrality) and Biodiversity Protection” was held at Kunming Dianchi Lake International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The forum was organized by Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Tsinghua University, WWF and CGTN Think Tank, and supported by the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, The Nature Conservancy, and Baofeng Energy’s Institute of Carbon Neutrality. The forum comprises opening remarks, keynote report, publications and conservations.



Cui Maohu the Vice Governor of the Yunnan Provincial People’s Government, David Cooper the Vice Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity, Xie Zhenhua the Special Climate Envoy of China, Zac Goldsmith the Minister for Pacific and the Environment, Li Zheng the Standing Vice President of Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of the Tsinghua University, and Manuel Pulgar-Vidal the Global Leader of Climate & Energy at WWF delivered speeches. The opening ceremony was held by the Tian Wei, journalist of CMG.

Cui Maohu noted that Yunnan in recent years has fully applied Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, actively integrated ecological civilization construction into the development of economic society, and has advanced significantly in climate change response and biodiversity protection. In Yunnan’s next step, efforts will be pooled into realization of carbon peaking and neutrality, promotion of biodiversity governance system, modernization of governance capabilities, prevention and treatment of pollution and ecological protection, and harmony between human and nature, through which Yunnan shall contribute to and share its experiences for global environmental protection.

David Cooper mentioned that our future challenges are biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation and response to health crisis. He stressed that climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss, while the protection and sustainable utilization of biodiversity play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. He also called for concerted efforts in response to challenges to form a cycle of virtues where ecological system’s resilience improves and biodiversity is maintained, and then climate change will be mitigated.

Mr. Xie Zhenhua expressed his congratulations to the thematic forum via video, and stressed that, current efforts in carbon peaking and neutrality has been incorporated into the overall layout of ecological civilization as the well-established economy system with green circular development proved to be one of the most fundamental strategic moves. He also observed the trend of intensifying synergy between global biodiversity protection and climate change response.

Mr. Zac Goldsmith appreciated the Chinese efforts in nature protection and restoration as well as nature-based solution in his speech. He also shared the UK’s practices around nature as the host country of COP 26. He pointed out that our first priority is to respond to climate change and biodiversity loss.



Li Zheng, in his field speech, extended a warm welcome to parties on behalf of organisers and supporters of the forums, and introduced Global Youth Summit on Net-zero Carbon Future to be held on October 25 by Global Alliance of Universities, which was initiated by Tsinghua University’s initiated, to promote synergy between climate change response and other sustainable development goals. This summit will present more than 30 dialogue among 15 world-class universities from 9 countries on 5 continents spanning 18 time zones, providing an exchange platform for global youth generation and assistance in their becoming the pillar of realizing carbon neutrality.

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal mentioned the significance of nature-based solution to climate and natural crises. As he pointed out, the nature-based solution is a key concept. But we need to interfere nature in a sustainable manner to ensure net gains in the biodiversity and the integrity of ecological system. Meanwhile, he stressed the significance of key actions, including further clarification of NBS and financing expansion.



Then, Anne Larigauderie the Executive Secretary of IPBES, Wang Yi the Vice President of Institute of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Science, Lei Guangchun the Chair of Scientific and Technological Review Panel of Ramsar Convention & Dean of the School of Nature Conservation of Beijing Forestry University, Jennifer Morris the CEO of the TNC, Partha Sarathi Dasgupta the Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Cambridge, and Cheng Zhiqiang the Deputy Secretary-General of the Global Energy Internet Development Cooperation Organization presented their keynote reports. Lu Lunyan, Chief Operating Officer at WWF Beijing Office, hosted the process.

Ms. Anne Larigauderie presented a keynote report titled IPBES: Scientific Reference for Biodiversity Policies and Reference. She pointed out in the report that nature is decaying at unprecedented speed and scale in the human history. Each party should take actions to protect biodiversity through nature-based solutions under the premises of solving inequity and poverty.



Mr. Wang Yi represented a keynote speech titled Climate Change Response and Synergistic Governance on Biodiversity amid Dual-Carbon Efforts He noted that, the sustainable development worldwide is welcoming a new era of carbon neutrality and diversity protection, where China takes the lead and brings new motivations. Mr. Wang also stressed the guiding role of “1+N” top-level design and mid-long term carbon neutrality strategies in realizing dual-carbon visions, and introduced the priorities in achieving carbon neutrality and biodiversity protection, i.e., forming a spatial development and conservation pattern of national lands and a nature conservation area system. In addition to that, the efforts should also be put into trade, investments and international cooperation.

Lei Guangchun, in his key report titled Protection and Restoration of Wetland Ecological System to Global Climate Change, pointed out the wetland degradation has led to a huge dollop of GHG, accounting for 11% of global emission in a year. Nature-based solutions must be wielded to protect and sustainably manage wetlands, restore rivers and biodiversity, and conserve water resources to respond to the climate change.

In the keynote speech titled Contribution of Nature-based Solutions to Carbon Neutrality, Ms. Jennifer Morris stressed that nature plays an important role in realizing carbon neutrality. Research findings suggests that nature-based solutions would reduce 11 billion tons of carbon every year. What’s more, through restructuring or reducing sovereign debts, governments providing loans may release great enormous finance space, which may strengthen climate and protection actions of countries in debt. China can take a lead in this aspect.

Partha Sarathi Dasgupta pointed out that economies are rooted in nature rather stay outside of it. People should reconsider their criteria for economic success and update their systems. Mr. Cheng Zhiqiang has presented a report titled On Promoting Climate Change and Biodiversity Synergistic Governance, in which he specified the relationship between biodiversity and power revolution and noted that low carbon transformation of energy toward cleanness, electrification and Internet-connection has thus become the key in promoting climate change and biodiversity synergistic governance.



When it came to achievements release, Chen Xingan, Doctor of Water Conservation of Tsinghua University, and Ava Waitz, Schwarzman Scholars at Tsinghua University & Graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology released that Youth Declaration on Climate Change and Biodiversity Protection amid Carbon Neutrality Efforts in four aspects, namely, “Become a Better Actor”, “Become a Better Sharer”, “Become a Better Researcher” and “Become a Better Advocate”. The declaration pointed out that it is incumbent on youth to promote global climate change governance and build a shared community of human and nature. At the forum there were drawings of children nation wide collected by Shenzhen Damei Youth and Teen Development Center to show the beautiful world in the children’s eyes.

The second achievement to be released is the brief of general version of Report on Nature-based Solution in Response to Climate Change (C+NBS) Chinese and the Global Cases Report in English by Yang Xiu, Director and Deputy Research of the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Tsinghua University. At the forum, the global program collecting nature-based solutions cases in response to climate change in 2022 kicked off.



During the dialogue themed on “Climate Change and Biodiversity: Prospect of Nature-based Solutions”, representatives from three member universities of the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate Change, David Ackerly the Dean of the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley, Nathalie Seddon the Founding Director of Nature-based Solutions Initiative of University & co-lead of the Biodiversity and Society Programme of Oxford, and Guy Midgley the Professor of Department of Botany and Zoology of Stellenbosch University shared their updates of research on nature-based solution and insights via video links.

Under the theme of “Climate Change and Biodiversity: Enterprise Innovation”, there were enlightening dialogues between Tian Wei, Host and CMG and Dou Ruigang, the Executive Secretary of Tencent Charity Foundation, Tai Wen, the Forestry Manager of IKEA East Asia and East Russia, Zhang Jiantao, Vice-President of Coca-Cola Greater China and Mongolia, Li Zhengu, Founder and President of LONGi Green Energy Technology, Yang Peidan, Executive Director of C Team, Lan Zhenzhen, L’Oréal North Asia and China’s Vice President, Hugues De La Marnierre, Group Country Head and CEO for Societe Generale in China as well as Gao Guan, Deputy Chair of China Meat Association. After the release of second achievement, the forum was successfully concluded.

[Read More](#)



### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum II “Ecological Civilization and Biodiversity Mainstreaming”

On the afternoon of October 14, the Thematic Forum II of CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum: “Ecological Civilization and Biodiversity Mainstreaming” was successfully held at Kunming Dianchi Convention & Exhibition Center. The event was organized by the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES). The moderator was Xu Haigen, Deputy Director-General, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES). Five guests attended the forum and delivered speeches, including Zhang Zhili, Vice Governor of Yunnan province; Cui Shuhong, Director General of Department of Natural Ecological Protection, Ministry of Ecology and Environment; Huang Jianhua, Counsel, National Forestry and Grassland Administration; Ahmed Saeed, Vice President of Asian Development Bank; and Aniruddha Dasgupta, President and CEO, World Resources Institute (WRI).



Cui Shuhong said that China has made a lot of efforts and made remarkable achievements in ecological civilization and biodiversity conservation, integrating biodiversity conservation into all aspects and the entire process of economic and social development, systematically promoting the integrated protection and restoration of mountains, water resources, forests, fields, lakes, grasslands and deserts, establishing a conservation system with national parks as the main body, and enhancing the awareness and participation of the public in biodiversity conservation.

According to Huang Jianhua, in order to protect biodiversity, the Chinese government has strengthened the policy design at the national level, amended the List of National Key Protected Wild Plants, and incorporated biodiversity conservation into the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the work plans of government departments at all levels.

Ahmed Saeed shared the information on the biodiversity funding projects carried out by Asian Development Bank globally, and on the ecological restoration and wetland conservation projects for the Yangtze and Yellow rivers implemented by the Bank in cooperation with China. Aniruddha Dasgupta emphasized the importance of biodiversity conservation to the achievement of human development goals.

The subsequent keynote speech session was still moderated by Mr. Xu Haigen. Wei Fuwen, Academician, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Executive Director, Endangered Species Scientific Commission, PRC, delivered a keynote report entitled “Addressing biodiversity conservation integrated into the system of ecological civilization”. He said that ecological civilization and sustainable development are closely linked. He hoped that the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity could strengthen synergies and cooperation to help build a global ecological civilization; promote Chinese solutions to biodiversity conservation through the Belt and Road Initiative; and strengthen top-level policy design, spatial planning of land resources and platform construction, to promote the construction of national marine parks and improve scientific management of wildlife populations.

Ma Keping, Chairman of the Asian Membership Committee of IUCN and Vice Chair and Secretary General of Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences, delivered the keynote speech entitled “Institutional promotion system of biodiversity conservation”. He suggested that national land could be classified into priority development zones, key development zones, limited development zones and prohibited development zones for ecological protection with priorities. Ecological red lines could be defined within the ecological space, and a similar approach could be adopted for beach protection. At the same time, he suggested establishing a nature protection system, implementing major ecological projects and promoting sustainable production.

Craig Hanson, Vice President for Food, Forest, Water & the Ocean, World Resources Institute (WRI), delivered the keynote speech entitled “Conserving biodiversity in a world needing more food ambitions”. He said that the world's population is growing and humans need more food to sustain life. They need to protect the ecological environment, stop agricultural expansion and reduce food waste, while making the available arable land produce more food.



Zhao Keqiang, Director-General, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES), delivered the keynote speech entitled “Rural ecological civilization construction boosts biodiversity conservation”. He said rural ecological environment is related to the achievement of biodiversity conservation goals. Developing organic industries can help biodiversity protection. To cite an example, Jingning county, Zhejiang province takes biodiversity as an important measure for "building an eco-friendly county", and is exploring the synergy between biodiversity protection and high-quality development.

Ren Hai, Director-General, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (SCIB), delivered the keynote speech entitled “Promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and nature with ecological civilization and biodiversity mainstreaming”, in which he said that although China has made great achievements in biodiversity conservation, many species are still under threat and that there are still problems in conservation, which are related to the fact that biodiversity conservation has not yet been mainstreamed. He suggested strengthening support with laws and regulations and policies, increasing technological support, introducing indicator systems and guidelines and improving publicity and education, to continuously promote the mainstreaming of global biodiversity conservation.

The forum concluded with three dialogue sessions. Participants of the session “Promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and nature with biodiversity mainstreaming” shared their experiences and suggestions on the topics of “Ecological Civilization and Global Biodiversity Conservation”, “Practice and Progress of biodiversity mainstreaming” and “Biodiversity mainstreaming and Livelihoods in wetlands”.

Dialogue I was moderated by Fang Li, Country Director, World Resources Institute (WRI) China, and addressed by Christoffer Grønstad, Counsellor, Environment, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing; Carlos Watson, FAO Representative to the People's Republic of China; Li Haidong, Researcher, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIES), Ministry of Ecology and Environment; Li Shuisheng, Director-General of Ecology Environment Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality; Fan Shenggen, Dean, Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU); Lei Hongpeng, Director, Climate Change/Chief Representative of China, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF); Giovanni Ruta, Lead Environmental Economist, Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice, World Bank; and Zhao Xin, Vice President of Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co., Ltd.

Dialogue II was moderated by Li Runming, Secretary General of China Wild Plant Conservation Association (CWPCA), and addressed by Peter Wyse Jackson, Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC); Paul Smith, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI); Anastasiya Timoshyna, Trade Records Analysis of Fauna & Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC); Liu Yan, Researcher, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES); Long Chunlin, Professor, Minzu University of China (MUC); Dong Guixin, Secretary-general, Guangdong Chimelong Charity Foundation; Yang Jie, Vice Chairman, Bytedance Public Welfare Foundation, and General Manager of Bytedance (China) for Corporate Social Responsibility Department; and Zhang Xincheng, Representative of social activists, Chinese young actor.

Dialogue III was co-moderated by Bruno Carrasco, Director General of SDCC, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Xu Haigen, Deputy Director-General, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES), and addressed by Woochong Um, Director General of Management, Asian Development Bank; President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Masatsugu Asakawa; CEO of GEF Carlos Manuel; Hank Paulson, Chairman, Paulson Institute; Guo Huijun, President, Southwest Forestry University; Shi Junchao, Researcher, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, and expert on Honghe Hani Rice Terraces; Patricia Zurita, CEO, BirdLife International; and Robb Kaler, Chair, East Asia-Australia Migration Routes Partnership (EAAFP). The Sub-forum 2 was ended by the closing remarks by Zhao Keqiang, Director-General, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE (NIES).

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum III “Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains are Invaluable Assets: from Concept to Practice”

On the afternoon of October 14, Thematic Forum III of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)-Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains are Invaluable Assets: from Concept to Practice was successfully held at Kunming Dianchi International Convention & Exhibition Center. Cui Shuhong, Director of the Department of Natural Environmental Conservation of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, presided over the forum. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Wang Xiangang, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, Wang Linggui, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Doreen Robinson, Head of Biodiversity and Land Affairs of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Diane Holdorf, President of Food and Nature of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development attended and addressed the forum.



Vice Minister Zhao Yingmin stated that the Chinese nation always respects and loves nature, and therefore a favorable ecological environment is not only a fair public product, but also a well-being for the people.

Vice President Wang Linggui said that the construction of Beautiful China has added more "Chinese green" to mother earth. "Yunnan has made great progress, with numerous highlights and achievements in promoting the sustainable utilization of biological resources. I believe that with the help of COP15 platform, there will be a colorful and lively future for biodiversity and ecological civilization construction.

Doreen Robinson said that ecology and environment are vital to the well-being of humans, so investment is actually for our own life and future. I sincerely hope that a brand-new "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" will be adopted at the second stage next year, and sustainable development will become our common aspiration by then.



The subsequent keynote report session was presided over by Liu Qingsong, Vice President and Secretary General of CECRPA. Zhu Youyong, academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Honorary President of Yunnan University, delivered a keynote report titled "Agricultural biodiversity helps farmers in mountainous areas to reduce poverty", and described several cases vividly based on his own experience in scientific research.

Zhang Yongsheng, Director of the Research Institute for Eco-civilization, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, made a keynote speech titled "How Ecological Civilization Promotes People's Livelihood and Welfare", aiming at practicing ecological civilization and thoroughly transforming the development mode. Looking into China's new development concepts, ecological civilization and other concepts, we can see a profound reflection on these issues.

Thomas Panella, ADB's Director of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, East Asia Department and Chair of Water Sector Committee, delivered a keynote speech titled "How Ecological Civilization Promotes People's Livelihood". He said that natural resource management, environmental and ecological conservation and climate change responses shall be combined to support high-quality green development.

Zhu Zhaoyun, R&D Director of Innovation R&D Center of Yunnan Baiyao Group Co., Ltd. and Director of Yunnan Pharmaceutical Research Institute, shared "Ecological Civilization and Natural Medicine-Yunnan Case in China's Low Latitude Plateau Region". Su Yang, a researcher at the Development Research Center of the State Council, shared the "China's Story of the Coordinated Implementation of Three Objectives of CBD-Theory and Practice of Realizing the Value of Ecological Products in China's Protected Areas".

Zhang Linxiu, Director of UNEPIEMP, delivered a keynote report titled "Experience and Inspiration from Synergy among Acclimatation, Ecosystem Management and Sustainable Livelihood". He stated that in order to achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to adopt systematic thinking and comprehensive approaches to practice synergy. Regardless of the path, we need to integrate the development of green livelihood into biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration as one of the means to mainstream natural conservation.

Liu Qingsong, Vice President and Secretary General of CECRPA, presided over the case exchange session, and relevant officials from Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, Tengchong County, Yunnan Province, Xinggan League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, Mengyin County, Shandong Province, Shenzhen City and Zixi County, Jiangxi Province shared their cases. Yang Yanlong, Mayor and Deputy Secretary of CPC Tengchong Committee, shared Tengcong's experience in exploring the concept of "Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains are Invaluable Assets" from five aspects.

In the end, Zhang Yongsheng, Director of the Research Institute for Eco-civilization, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, presided over a dialogue, attended by Wang Xiangguo, Director of Sanjiangyuan National Park Administration, Yang Zhengquan, President of Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Gao Jungang, Chairman of Xiaocao Digital Company of Inner Mongolia M-Grass Ecology and Environment (Group) Co., Ltd., Du Juan, Director of Huawei TECH4ALL Digital Inclusion Office, Hou Xiaoting, Senior Research Fellow of International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) and Director of Ecosystem Climate Response Programme, Fang Zhi, Deputy Secretary General of China Environmental Protection Foundation, Lai Jiping, Chief Engineer of Yunnan Plateau Ecological Environmental Protection Foundation, Tian Lei, Project Director of Beijing Representative Office of PCD (Hong Kong), and Peng Yijie, President of Social Welfare and Green Development Group of Ant Technology Group Co., Ltd., based on the transformation mechanism and path selection for the concept of "Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains are Invaluable Assets". By then, Themed Forum III was successfully concluded.

[Read more](#)



### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum IV “Nature-based Solutions for Ecological Conservation and Restoration”

On the afternoon of October 14, the Thematic Forum IV of the Parallel Forum on Ecological Civilization of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), entitled “Nature-based Solutions for Ecological Conservation and Restoration”, was held simultaneously at Kunming Dianchi Lake International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Forum IV was moderated by Zhou Yuanbo, Director of the Department of Territorial Ecological Restoration, Ministry of Natural Resources of the People’s Republic of China, addressed by Li Malin, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, and Ren Junhao, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, and attended and addressed by Stewart Maginnis, Deputy Director-general, IUCN.

Ren Junhao said in his address that Nature-based Solution (NbS) conforms to Xi Jinping’s vision of ecological civilization, agrees with the ecological cultural tradition of the Chinese nation, and adapts itself to the national conditions of China. NbS has a stage for practice and application in the construction of Chinese ecological civilization.

Stewart Maginnis said that NbS is a powerful aid in meeting social challenges by investing in nature, protecting and restoring it. The idea of ecological civilization is deeply rooted in the traditional Chinese philosophy that conforms to nature. Given the current challenges, we need to show our greater courage in bringing this philosophy and its values to the forefront of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda.



Several experts were invited to give keynote presentations, moderated by Mr. Zhou Yuanbo thereafter. Zhang Zhanhai, Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People’s Republic of China, gave a presentation entitled “Actively Advancing Nature-based Solutions in China and Working to Enhance the Capability of Conservation and Restoration to Benefit the Human Beings” and introduced how China is actively accelerating NbS practices and endeavoring to upgrade conservation and restoration for the benefit of mankind. The NbS concept has a good field of practice in China and is in keeping with the ecological and cultural traditions of the Chinese nation, said he.

In his keynote speech, Fu Bojie, an academician of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that the ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems in territorial space is the principal pathway to optimize territorial space pattern, stabilize ecosystem health and upgrade ecosystem services, and is also a major measure to advance ecological civilization.

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the FAO, delivered a speech, which is entitled “UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and FAO’s Support for Ecosystem Restoration in China”, introducing the cooperation between China and the FAO. Specifically, in 17 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China, where FAO operates nine projects, Chinese government is active in boosting and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, addressing climate change and land degradation, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Zhang Xinsheng, Director of Hainan Institute of National Park, shared his dissertation under the title of “Biodiversity Conservation Based on Natural Restoration - A Case Study of Hainan Gibbon”. Lynn Scarlett, Chief External Affairs Officer of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, gave a report entitled “Nature-Based Solutions: Synergistic Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation”.

Fan Shuyin, Director of China Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Center, Ministry of Natural Resources, moderated the expert briefing session. Emmanuelle Cohen-Shacham, Leader of the NbS Expert Panel, IUCN-CEM, reported on “NbS: From Concept to Implementation”, in which NbS is defined actions taken to conserve, manage or restore natural or altered ecosystems to meet social challenges in an effective and adaptive manner and benefit human well-being and biodiversity. Meanwhile, NbS has also been a growing mainstream at the national level.

Gao Jixi, Director of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment Center for Satellite Application on Ecology and Environment, presented a report entitled “Innovating Ecological Conservation Approaches and Building New Models That Meet Biodiversity Conservation Goals”. Zhang Yuxing, President of the Survey, Planning and Design Institute, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, gave a presentation on “The Concept of NbS and Practices in Combating Desertification in China”. Alan Jenkins, Scientific Director of the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), delivered a speech on “Science Underpins NbS - UK CEH Science Strategy”.

Professor Yang Rui, from Tsinghua University, gave a presentation entitled “Rewilding: A New approach to Conservation and Restoration”. Value attached by the country to ecological civilization construction and ecological conservation and restoration is also a significant turning point and driving force for ecological restoration and rewilding research practice, according to him.

Zheng Binghui, a research fellow at Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, gave a report on “Practices in Managing Mountain, River, Forest, Field, Lake and Grass systems in the Dianchi Lake Basin”. Zhu Chunquan, Director of the World Economic Forum’s Rainforest and Ecological Civilization Program in Greater China, spoke in the Forum on “NbS Ecological Restoration to Underpin Food, Energy and Ecological Security”. Wang Yu, a senior engineer at the professor level, from Yunnan Geological Survey Administration, reported on “Exploration and Practices in the Ecological Restoration of Abandoned Mines in Yunnan Plateau Lake Watershed”. Xing Lei, Vice President of Beijing ZEHO Waterfront Ecological Environment Treatment Co.,Ltd., introduced the “NbS Lakeside Buffer Ecological Restoration Project”, which rehabilitates the lakeside buffer ecosystem structure and activates an overall sustainable and circular development model for the Erhai Lake watershed. Luo Ming, Deputy Director of China Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Center, Ministry of Natural Resources, delivered a speech entitled “The Latest Advances in Nature-based Solutions in China”. At this point, Thematic Forum IV has come to a close.

[Read more](#)



### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum V “Natural Capital Accounting and Ecological Product Value Realization”

Three other thematic forums were held simultaneously in the Ecological Civilization Forum of the UN Biodiversity Conference on the morning of October 15. Theme Forum V is entitled as “Value Realization of Natural Capital and Ecological Products”. This forum was moderated by Ouyang Zhiyun, Director and a research fellow of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and addressed by Ren Junhao, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, Zhou Yuanbo, Director of the Department of Territorial Ecological Restoration, Ministry of Natural Resources, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO of the GEF, and Bambang Susantono, Vice President of Asian Development Bank.

The accounting of natural capital is fundamental to push for the value realization of ecological products and quality ecological products are the most universal well-being of people, according to Ren Junhao.

Zhou Yuanbo said in his address that developing natural capital accounting and building a sound mechanism to realize the value of ecological products are key to practicing the concept that “Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets”. Natural resources, the noumenon of lucid waters and lush mountains, provide the most fundamental material basis and spatial guarantee for transformation of both natural resources and invaluable assets. The natural resources sector in China, via the third national land survey and unified registration of natural resources, actively plays the role of the accomplishing government and the efficient market in allocating resources and keeps exploring approaches and mechanisms to transform the natural resources and invaluable assets.

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez said in his address online that nature is the foundation of human survival. The following decade is of great value to global biodiversity conservation and policy and financial support will be crucial to the accomplishment of ecological conservation visions and goals, which highlights the significance of assessing and accounting for natural capital. Governments around the world must take active and concerted action to accelerate value accounting and conservation of natural capital.

“Biodiversity and ecosystems are our natural capital but we are not fully aware of the contributions of natural capital to economic development”, said Bambang Susantono. Asian Development Bank (ADB), a pioneer to explore accounting of natural capital, has been deeply involved in and helping with accomplishment of ecological product value in a wide variety of countries and regions. ADB has built a regional natural capital laboratory to help its developing members appreciate natural capital, intensify oversight, and leverage innovative financing to support investments that benefit nature.

Yolanda Fernandez Lommen, Chief ADB Representative in China, presided over the first keynote session. Zhang Qingfeng, ADB’s Industry Director for Rural Development and Food Security and Head of the Environmental Sustainability Department, gave a presentation entitled “Investing in Nature and the Natural Capital Laboratory in the Asia-Pacific Region”. Gregory Watson, Director for the Natural Capital Laboratory of Inter-American Development Bank, delivered a speech entitled “Investing in Nature and the Natural Capital Laboratory in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

Next came the dialogue on “Natural Capital and Natural Investment Transformation” between Gretchen Daily, a professor from Stanford University and a Fellow of the US National Academy of Sciences, Professor Stephan Polasky, Board Director of University of Minnesota, Martjin Wilder, Founding Partner of Pollination Climate Change Consulting and Investment Corporation, Ouyang Zhiyun, Director and a research fellow of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Ma Jun, Director of Green Finance Committee, China Society for Finance & Banking (GFC) and Director of the Center for Finance and Development, Tsinghua University.

The world has an annual funding gap of 80% to 90% for ecological investment, which needs to be filled by finance, according to Ma Jun. The exhaustion of natural resources will result in unsustainable operations in industries including agriculture, forestry and fishery, and the loss of biodiversity will cause physical and transformational risks for financing agencies. Hence, financial agencies must be concerned not just with the financial return and financial risk of investment projects but also with the impact of the projects on ecosystem and biodiversity.

Warren Evans, ADB Special Project Coordinator, presided over the second keynote session. Ma Qiang, Deputy Director General of the Department of Infrastructure Development of NDRC, reported on “Advances and Experience in China on Eco-product Value Realization Mechanism”. Yu Fang, Research Fellow of Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning (CAEP) of the National Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Director of the Research Center for Assessment and Evaluation of Ecological and Environmental Risk Damage, delivered a report entitled “Accounting Method and Application of Eco-environmental Value”. Zheng Hua, Research Fellow of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Deputy Director of the State Key Laboratory of Urban and Regional Ecology (SKLURE), delivered a presentation on “Ecosystem Gross Product Accounting and Policy Application”. Professor YangYuming from Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland Sciences gave a report entitled “Value Realization Model of Ecological Products”.

According to Ma Qiang, China has gathered, through exploration for years, a wealth of practical experience. Building a sound value realization mechanism for ecological products, however, is an utterly new mission of reform and exploration, encountering numerous difficulties and problems, including, but not limited to, non-uniform accounting standards, incomplete market transactions, inaccurate protection and compensation, and imperfect financial support. Yu Fang introduced the process and application of China to develop and optimize a cost accounting approach to environmental degradation with support from the World Bank. The first step in ecosystem and ecosystem total output accounting is to spatialize ecosystem products and spatial services to identify where the ecosystem provides the most significant ecosystem services and acquire a spatial pattern map of the spatial importance of national ecological conservation, according to Zheng Hua. Yang Mingyu stressed that the application of ecosystem gross product accounting and value realization of ecological products should be people foremost and human well-being centered in the course of handling problems and emphasized the goal of harmonious coexistence and co-development between man and nature.

Finally came the dialogue on “Application of Ecosystem Gross Product Accounting and Value Realization of Ecological Products” between Du Xinglin, Deputy Mayor of the People’s Government of Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, Wang Zhenquan, Deputy Magistrate of the People’s Government of Deqing County, Zhejiang Province, and Zhang Liang, Member of the Standing Committee of the County Party Committee and Deputy Magistrate of Weichang Manchu and Mongolian Autonomous County, Hebei Province.

[Read more](#)

Wang Jinnan, President of Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning (CAEP) of the National Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, presided over the third keynote session. M. Teresa Kho, Director for East Asia Bureau of Asian Development Bank, introduced the launch of *Green Development in China*. Mary Ruckelshaus, Executive Director of the Natural Capital Program at Stanford University, delivered the speech on “Natural Capital Program - Advances and Frontiers in Evaluation Methods since 2005”. Santiago Aparicio V., Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency of Colombia, delivered a lecture entitled “International Experience in Ecosystem Gross Product Accounting”.

According to M. Teresa Kho, China has made enormous strides in ecological civilization. China’s exploration embodies innovation as well as good use of digital technology and policy tools, which offers replicable and referential experience for other countries, other developing countries in particular. The ADB has been working closely with China and will continue to work together to explore eco-friendly growth, make endeavor in economic development, social welfare, biodiversity conservation, among others, and respond effectively to various challenges.

Next came the dialogue on “Value Realization of Ecological Products and Enterprise Contributions” between Mary Ruckelshaus, Executive Director of the Natural Capital Program at Stanford University, Li Pengcheng, CEO of Mengniu Group, Xu Youjie, Chief Sustainability Officer and Vice President of Communications and Public Relations for P & G Greater China, and Zhao Jinling, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Elion Resources Group.

Li Pengcheng said that Mengniu Group, the leading dairy company in China, is taking the lead in ecological conservation, reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting consensus on biodiversity, and boosting sustainable development in an all-round way to achieve the coordinated development of ecology and industry.

Finally, the forum concluded with the presentation by David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary of the *Convention* and Jinnan Wang, President of Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning (CAEP) of the National Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering. The push for development of the “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” is encouraging, China has made substantial progress in natural capital accounting and value realization of ecological products in recent years, universities, research institutions, and government planning departments are actively involved, and pilot programs at various levels in provinces, cities and counties are working well, said David Cooper. It is imperative that stakeholders across the globe work together to promote ecological conservation values based on gaining an insight into and respecting the wisdom and ways of life in local communities and build a global community of life.

Wang Jinnan concluded that the current international economic environment is rather complex, that the pandemic is still spreading globally and that it is all the more necessary for stakeholders around the world to enhance cooperation and jointly shoulder the responsibility for the welfare of mankind. He called on countries around the world to explore constantly natural capital accounting and the realization of the value of ecological products and work together to advance ecological civilization.

[Read more](#)

### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum VI “Ecological Civilization and Ecological Security of the Tibetan Plateau”

Three other thematic forums were held simultaneously in the Ecological Civilization Forum of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020 on the morning of October 15. The forum VI was themed “Ecological Civilization and Ecological Security of the Tibetan Plateau”. Co-organized by Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (TIP), Alliance of International Science Organizations in the Belt and Road Region (ANSO), South China Institute of Environmental Science (SCIES), The Geographical Society of China (GSC) and The China Society of Tibetan Plateau (CSTP), this forum was chaired by Chen Fahu, an academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and saw speeches addressed by academician Bai Chunli, Chairman of ANSO, Prof. Michael Meadows, Chairman of IGU, Mohammad Qasim Jan, former Dean of Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Vice Chairman of ANSO, Zhang Yaping, Vice President of CAS, Zhang Zhili, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province and Liu Tao, Vice Governor of Qinghai Province.

According to Bai Chunli, TWAS, established as led by CAS, has its Secretariat set at TIP, and now has made active efforts and contributions to the legislation of ecological protection of Tibetan Plateau, international planning of third pole environment and other aspects due to such geological advantage.

According to Michael Meadows, as evidenced by the 6th Appraisal Report issued by IPCC, humanity now faces complicated biodiversity crises as human activities have changed the nature and trajectory of global climate change. In this context, we must respond to the severe challenges confronting us through cooperation and integration. The Chinese vision of ecological civilization construction has indicated the goal we will pursue, namely, building a shared future for all life on earth.

As highlighted by Mohammad Qasim Jan, the sustainable ecological progress and security worldwide is inseparable from the harmonious co-existence between humanity and nature. In essence, ecological civilization calls on us to attach great significance to the relationship between humanity and environment and between humanity and society, to achieve the harmonious development between humanity and nature, and to make both ecological environment and social advancement sustainable eventually.

According to Zhang Yaping, the promotion of scientific research is essential for ecological civilization and security of the Tibetan Plateau. As a national strategic scientific and technological force, CAS has initiated the Class-A Pilot Project titled “Pan Third Pole Environmental Change and Green Silk Road Construction”, which focuses on the process and mechanism of changes in the Tibetan Plateau as well as their influence on human society over the past 50 years, conducts the full-chain scientific integration of green development paths incorporating basic research, applied research, technical demonstration and decision-making support, and has obtained a slew of significant achievements, thus rendering vigorous technical support to high-quality development of the Tibetan Plateau, and promotion of domestic ecological civilization construction and globally ecological environment protection.

As introduced by Zhang Zhili, thanks to the vigorous support and assistance of relevant departments and entities like CAS, the local government has carried out quite a few efficient work over the past years oriented at the ecological civilization and security in northwest Yunnan, and has succeeded in increasing vegetation coverage and rainwater storage, reducing soil erosion and improving the quality of ecological environment. Furthermore, biological genes and ecosystem types have been properly protected to initially form the good situation of harmonious development with nature.

According to Liu Tao, the local government in Qinghai will take ecological environmental protection as the fundamental premise and rigid constraint of regional development, and unswervingly shoulder the responsibility for safeguarding ecological security and protecting the source of three rivers to guard the water tower of China. Furthermore, unceasing efforts will be made to improve the ecological civilization system, to systematically implement biodiversity conservation and recovery and control of ecological environment, and to gain further achievements in driving the ecological civilization and security of the Tibetan Plateau.



Academician Chen Fahu presided over the keynote speech, where “Breakthrough in Major Achievements of Tibetan Scientific Investigation” was shared by Academician Yao Tandong from TIP, the leader of the second Tibetan Scientific Investigation Team. Besides, Lyu Yonglong, Professor of Xiamen University and Academician of TWAS, Deepak Ayal, Professor of Trubhuvan University and Academician of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Pu Shilong, Researcher of Peking University and TIP, Georg Mije, Professor of University of Marburg and Wang Xiaodan, Researcher of Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS presented brilliant academic reports themed by “Ecological Risks and Control under Diversified Environmental Pressures”, “Influence of Climate Change on the Water Resource in the Middle Region of the Himalayas”, “Case Study of the Carbon Neutrality Demonstration Zone in the Tibetan Plateau”, “Approaches to Find Human Footprints in the Alpine Ecosystem” and “Construction of Ecological Security Barrier for the Tibetan Plateau” respectively.

Academician Yao Tandong stressed that, “ice” must be taken into consideration in the ecosystem planning of the Tibetan Plateau, so as to improve the system and capability of comprehensive observation of glacier change from the perspective of the global system, and to fuel the protection, restoration and control of the earth system integrating “mountain, water, forestry, field, lake, grass, sand and ice”. In the report of Xiaodan Wang, it is mentioned that, over the past near 20 years, a lot of major ecological projects, represented by the ecological security barrier construction in Tibet, have been implemented, which result in the efficient protection of ecological environment of the Tibetan Plateau as well as the remarkable improvement of comprehensive benefits.

The subsequent dialogue meeting was chaired by Liu Xiaowen, Deputy Director of SCIES, which saw the presence of An Lizhe, Principal of Beijing Forestry University, Cen Chaoping, Researcher of SCIES, Guo Jiaji, Researcher of Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Hu Weimin, Secretary of the Leading Party Members’ Group and Deputy Director-general of Development of Ecology and Environment of Tibet Autonomous Region, Xu Jianchu, Researcher of Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS, Zhao Haiping, Deputy Director of Qinghai Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Chilai Taji, Secretary of the County Committee of Qushui County, Tibet Autonomous Region, Zhaxi Cairang, Governor of Huangnan District, Qinghai Province, Zhuoma Quxi, Secretary of Office of Science and Technology of the People’s Government of Changdu, Tibet Autonomous Region and Gasang Jiakai, Chairman of Tibet Haerde Ecological Animal Husbandry Development Co., Ltd.

Eventually, series of books such as Annual Report on the Development of “Belt and Road” Innovation (2021), compiled subject to the organization of ANSO Secretariat, were released at this forum, which furnish power and wisdom for the ecological conservation in the Tibetan Plateau and even worldwide. These series are themed by sustainable development goals and building a community with shared future for mankind highlighted by the United Nations, and feature research and discussion of such significant science and technology themes as related to human development and human well-being. As the first report of these series, Annual Report on the Development of “Belt and Road” Innovation (2021) focuses on the theme of “community with shared future for human health along the ‘Belt and Road’”, reviews the work progress of ANSO, and introduces advances in major scientific research fields (i.e. pandemic fighting via science and technology, environmental health, green development, innovation path, sustainable development of food security, and food security) that are related to building a community with shared future for human health along the “Belt and Road” against global outbreak and spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the conclusion of the forum, Chen Fahu indicated that, the remarkable effect already achieved in the ecological civilization construction of the Tibetan Plateau has led to more stable functions of the ecological security barrier of the Tibetan Plateau and more sustainable regional development. However, he also urged us to face up to severe challenges confronting the Tibetan Plateau, such as glacial recession, permafrost melting and other potential threats caused by global warming. He called on as many people as possible to plunge into the construction of beautiful Tibetan Plateau. Relying upon the built-in advantage of the Tibetan Plateau, it’s promising for us to develop the pilot comprehensive demonstration area of zero emission and the model area of sustainable development, and to build an ecological civilization highland with global demonstration significance.

[Read more](#)



### CBD COP15 Ecological Civilization Forum - Thematic Forum VII “Financial Sector Supporting Biodiversity”

Three other thematic forums were held simultaneously in the Ecological Civilization Forum of the UN Biodiversity Conference on the morning of October 15. The forum VII is themed “Financial Sector Supporting Biodiversity”. This forum was chaired by Pan Guangwei, Secretary of the Party Committee and Full-time Vice Chairman of China Banking Association, and saw speeches addressed by Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, Zong Guoying, Executive Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, Liu Liange, President of Bank of China and Vice Chairman of China Banking Association, Beate Trankmann, Representative of NUDP in China, Tian Guoli, President of China Construction Bank and Chairman of China Banking Association, Zhang Qingsong, President of Agricultural Bank of China, Wei Liu, Principal of Renmin University of China and Filip Vujanovi, Honorary President of Montenegro.



According to Zhao Yingmin, finance is of utmost significance for biodiversity conservation, because the fund for biodiversity relies upon the investment from public sectors and private sectors. It's essential for us to continuously perfect the circulation mechanism for ecological products, promote the seamless connection among parties supplying, demanding, offering resources of and making investment in ecological products, develop “Liangshan (ecological civilization)” bases into the sample plate of value realization of ecological products, and take the lead in shaping the path for green development that enables ecological environment protection and economic development to promote and benefit each other.

According to Liu Liange, finance support is crucial for ecosystem recovery and species protection. It's essential for us to incorporate biodiversity into the strategic planning of banking institutions, expand the quota of green credit fund, diversify the fund-raising channels for biodiversity conservation fund, and enhance the cooperation and communication among international financial institutions.

According to Beate Trankmann, investment in nature may ensure our future. Joint efforts must be made to rescue the nature by quickening the capital flow among public, private and financial institutions, and by bringing government, enterprise and bank together. With the inclusion of ICBC and BOC (the largest two banks in China) into the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the leading position of China in green finance has been increasingly recognized. All countries are expected to prioritize climate and biodiversity on the allocation of national budget and encourage enterprises to make investment and financing beneficial for the nature as much as possible.

According to Zhang Qingsong, biodiversity conservation is inseparable from the fund support and wisdom of financial institutions. Due to the natural and close contact with biodiversity conservation, Agricultural Bank of China has developed and built such financial development modes as harmoniously co-existing with nature, and furnished the financial support for the improvement of regional ecological environment.

According to Liu Wei, Principal of Renmin University of China, in recent years, Renmin University of China has acquired substantial achievements in biodiversity conservation economics and governance due to its discipline of population resources and environmental economics, and has remarkably contributed to the recovery of global green economy by actively facilitating the mutual reference of green cultural exchange and green civilization and jointly finding the driving power for green development.

According to Tian Guoli, financial institutions are expected to shoulder their responsibility for biodiversity conservation, give play to their own advantages, mobilize social funds, and engage in the globally environmental protection, so as to drive biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of resources. In the meantime, due attention shall be paid to prevent investment and financing from exerting adverse influence on biodiversity and causing financial risks.

Liu Jiandong, Chief Risk Officer of Bank of China presided over the keynote speech, where Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Financing, COP26 Financial Adviser and former President of Bank of England, Martin Raiser, Director of World Bank Group China, ROK and Mongolia Branches, Liu Yuanchun, Vice Principal of Renmin University of China, Ingrid Van Wees, Vice President of Asian Development Bank, Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Chief Scientist of Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection and Bai Guoqiang, Deputy Director of Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment presented wonderful reports themed by “Make Globally Financial Institutions Move toward Net Zero”, “Green Financing and Green Finance – Two Approaches to Natural Financing”, “Carbon Neutrality and Biodiversity Conservation”, “Positive Investment of International Development Banks in Biodiversity”, “Challenges and Opportunities of Biodiversity and Principal Countermeasures of Israel” and “Pilot Carbon Finance in Shanghai Beneficial for Peak Carbon Dioxide Emissions, Carbon Neutrality and Biodiversity” respectively.

Mark Carney called on the financial sector to make transformation to respond to the global climate crisis aggravated by ecological destruction. Specifically, financial institutions shall work out nature-based solutions, take biodiversity conservation into consideration in setting goals and products, and attach greater significance to natural assessment and risk management, so as to carry out financial investment in a greener way.

Martin Raiser suggested seizing the opportunity of green investment and financing, expanding the scale of green investment and financing, achieving green finance, appraising natural risks, and timely guiding fund flow to protect biodiversity projects.

According to Ingrid Van Wees, Vice President of Asian Development Bank, the transformation of nature means more business opportunities, and it's time to appraise investment changes and integrate investment and financing innovation with biodiversity conservation in a closer manner.

According to Noga Kronfeld-Schor, it's essential to make the utilization of land and water resources more efficient, establish government fund for ecosystem recovery, integrate with business to use resources within the reasonable scope and set up measures to stimulate sustainable utilization of resources.

Bai Guoqiang shared practices of pilot carbon finance as well as innovative achievements beneficial for urban biodiversity conservation and realization of goals like “peak carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality”.

The subsequent dialogue and communication was chaired by Ma Chaode, Representative of NUDP in China, which saw the presence of Ye Yanfei, First-class Inspector of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission Policy Research Bureau, Fang Wenjian, President of BOC London Branch, Randall Riopelle, Chief Representative of The International Finance Corporation in China, ROK and Mongolia, Wu Jian, Professor of School of Environment & Natural Resources Renmin University of China, Wang Yao, Dean of International Institute of Green Finance, CUFU, D. Paul Schuilwerve, President of Rabo Bank Nederl-Ands, Wang Wei, CEO of Bank of America in China, Rhian-Mari Thomas, CEO of UK Green Finance Institute and Lu Lunyan, Chief Representative of World Wide Fund for Nature (Switzerland) Beijing Office.

Eventually, the “Theme Forum of Financial Sector Supporting Biodiversity”, co-organized by China Banking Association, National Academy of Development and Strategy, RUC, and The United National Development Programme, kicked off in Yunnan. It was at this forum that Pan Guangwei, Secretary of the Party Committee and Full-time Vice Chairman of China Banking Association released the Joint Declaration of Banking Sector to Support Biodiversity Conservation on behalf of 36 Chinese-funded banking financial institutions and 24 foreign-funded banks and international organizations.



### Closing Ceremony of COP 15 Ecological Civilization Forum

On the forenoon of October 15, all seven thematic forums came to a successful conclusion. The closing ceremony of CBD COP15 was held in Kunming and chaired by Zhao Yingmin, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China. The Ecological Civilization Forum lasted one and a half days, and comprised seven thematic forums with a dozen of achievements developed thereon. At the closing ceremony, a youth delegate in Yunnan Province read out the Initiative for “Protecting Biodiversity for A Shared Global Ecological Civilization”, which calls on us to contribute to protecting biodiversity for a shared global ecological civilization from such aspects as social and natural structure, laws and regulations systems, scientific research, financial and commercial institutions, media and social organizations.



The closing ceremony saw the presence of and speeches addressed by Wang Yubo, Governor of Yunnan Province, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Meng Dong, Deputy Director of National Radio and Television Administration, Liao Lin, President of ICBC and Aniruddha Dasgupta, Global President and CEO of World Resources Institute online and offline. Furthermore, Zong Guoying, Executive Vice Governor and Wang Xiangang and Ren Junhao, Vice Governors of Yunnan Province were present in person. Besides, representatives from parties to the Convention, international institutions and organizations, domestic government departments, local government, financial institutions, research institutes, social organizations, the masses, enterprises and media attended the meeting online and offline.

According to Wang Yubo, representatives from all walks of life have deepened their discussion oriented at forum themes and developed prospective, pioneering, strategic and constructive consensus, which will benefit the ecological environmental management on a global scale. As Yunnan boasts the most abundant biodiversity throughout China and even worldwide, the local government will, subject to Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, thoroughly implement the keynote speech delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the leaders’ summit of COP15, and remain committed to developing new concepts, promoting the harmonious co-existence between human and nature, propelling the comprehensive and green transformation of economic and social development, satisfying the demand of people of all nationalities for comfortable ecological environment, and serving and integrating into the construction of green “Belt and Road” to contribute to ecological civilization construction and furnish wisdom and support for building a shared future for all life on earth.

The concept of harmonious co-existence between human and nature, upheld in China, is highly recognized by Elizabeth Maruma Mrema. According to her, the Chinese government has embraced remarkable achievements in implementing the overall policy for biodiversity conservation to deal with biodiversity loss, ecosystem degeneration, pollution, climate change and other global crises. In the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, all the stakeholders are encouraged to support plans for global biodiversity conservation boldly. Parties to the Convention adopted a new global biodiversity framework for goals to be realized in 2030, according to which coordination shall be carried out in interconnected work domains, and sustainable development goals and other inter-governmental objectives shall be considered to jointly reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and to achieve biodiversity recovery prior to 2030.

The Joint Initiative on Protection of Biodiversity was released by Meng Dong on behalf of National Radio and Television Administration, together with such international organizations as Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Arab States Broadcasting Union, African Broadcasting Union and European Broadcasting Union. He said, in the subsequent two months, media organizations will exhibit audio-visual program works themed by biodiversity worldwide, for the purpose of vividly presenting global audiences with magnificent ecological landscape and abundant biological resources, and spreading the value of building a shared future for all life on earth.

According to Aniruddha Dasgupta, ecosystem degeneration may endanger human health, for which the settlement of global biodiversity loss and ecosystem degeneration is imperative and everyone is expected to resolve such problems by moving toward higher objectives and taking more vigorous actions.



Eventually, Huang Runqiu, Chairman of CBD COP15 and Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, attended the closing ceremony and made a summary speech. He pointed out that, at the leaders’ summit of the COP15, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on countries around the world to join hands to build a shared future for all life on earth. Representatives present carried out dialogue and discussion oriented at forum themes, shared their experience and practices, and came to the conclusion that the building of an earth home featuring harmonious co-existence between human and nature requires us to prioritize ecological civilization construction and biodiversity conservation in economic and social development and to quicken the development of such ecosystem as highlighting nature and green development. Furthermore, we must uphold the harmonious co-existence between human and nature, vigorously drive green and low-carbon development as well as multilateralism, and actively build the global environmental governance system, so as to fulfill the ambitious yet feasible Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. To balance the economic development and environmental protection, it’s essential for us to realize that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, to boost the green transformation of economic and social development, and to stick to the path of ecology first and green development. In the meantime, all parties must join hands to respond to severe environmental problems confronting countries worldwide, strive to build the global environmental management system featuring fairness, rationality and win-win cooperation, improve the global environmental protection capability, and jointly create a clean and beautiful world.

[Read more](#)



## Agenda

---

### Closing Ceremony of First Stage of COP15

On October 15, the closing ceremony of the first stage of CBD COP15 was held and the press conference of COP15 convened on that night. The closing ceremony was chaired by Minister Huang Runqiu, where relevant principals respectively reported details about high-level meetings and plenipotentiary credentials, passed 2022 provisional consolidated budgets and other matters, deliberated and approved reports of the first stage of relevant meetings submitted by reporters. Subsequently, representatives of many district groups and other delegations addressed offering concluding remarks, and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed the closing ceremony. Finally, Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment and COP15 Chairman, delivered a speech and announced adjournment.

[Conference Document](#)

Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment and COP15 Chairman, and Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity attended the following news conference on achievements of the first stage of meetings of COP15.

Minister Huang Runqiu said all the tasks of the first stage of COP15 have been fulfilled successfully. COP15 completed the general agenda, convened leaders' summit and ministerial plenary meeting of COP15 as well as ecological civilization forum, and featured compact arrangement and efficient discussion, for which it was ambitious, pragmatic, efficient and fruitful.

According to Huang Runqiu, biodiversity sustains human survival and development. Since the execution and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the global biodiversity conservation has been steadily progressed and the international cooperation has been unceasingly deepened due to the joint efforts of the international community. On a large scale, however, global biodiversity still faces severe challenges, and quite a few difficulties and challenges are yet to be resolved with respect to the three objectives of the Convention, namely, protection, utilization and meeting sharing. The international community looks forward that COP15 will play a critical role in reversing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degeneration, just like The Paris Summit for climate change, and that COP15 will conclude the ambitious yet pragmatic and balanced "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" to lead the progress of global biodiversity conservation. The high-level segment of the first stage of COP15 adopted the Kunming Declaration, and Ecological Civilization Forum released the Initiative for "Protecting Biodiversity for a Shared Global Ecological Civilization", which have built broad consensus on and laid solid foundation for the formulation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the second stage to be convened in the next year.

[Read more](#)

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema expressed her thanks to and appreciation for the COP15 hosted by the Chinese government. According to her, Kunming now enjoys the symbolic significance of global ecological civilization. The success of the first stage of COP15 also prompts all parties to jointly protect culture, tradition and biodiversity, and to build a shared future for all life on earth. At meetings, the global community has made their political commitments for the recovery of biodiversity, and expressed their aspiration for writing a new chapter for our earth and history by virtue of COP15. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema called all parties to the Convention to continuously enhance their communications and cooperation at the next stage, to jointly conclude the "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", and to extend their communications and cooperation to fields like finance, business and health care. That's how to put an end to the aggravation of biodiversity loss by 2030 and to realize the harmonious co-existence between human and nature by 2050.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### Introduction to NGO Forum

NGO Forum, one of the eight parallel forums of CBD COP15, was officially held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from September 27 to 28 in 2021, Beijing time. More than 400 representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, enterprises, younger generations, women, aborigines, local governments and the public from more than 30 countries of five continents participated in the online and offline meetings.

NGO Forum is sponsored by the Secretariat of CBD, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, and co-organized by six institutions, including China Environmental Protection Foundation, Paradise Foundation, Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation, Sustainable Global Environment Research Institute, China Environmental Protection Federation and ClientEarth. As one of the eight parallel events of CBD COP15, it is an important event of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. It provides a platform for non-state actors, especially NGOs, to participate in biodiversity conservation dialogues and share their experiences.

The forum consists of five themed forums, including “Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change-Construction of China-ASEAN Mangrove Eco-corridor”, “Support of ENGOs for Biodiversity Mainstreaming”, “Release and Discussion of 100+ Cases of Global Biodiversity”, “Independent Contribution of Non-state Actors and Post-2020 Biodiversity Conservation Goals” and “Support of Foundations for Biodiversity Conservation”.



## Forum Info

### Opening Ceremony of NGO Forum and Roundtable Dialogue

On the forenoon of September 27, 2021, the opening ceremony of NGO Forum was officially held. It was chaired by Liu Ning, negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, and saw speeches addressed by Huang Runqiu, Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Chen Zhou, Vice Minister of The International Department of CPC Central Committee respectively.



While addressing via video link, Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu said, biodiversity sustains human survival and development. Confronted with the global environmental crisis, it's imperative for us to carefully consider and review the relationship between human and nature, and to respect, live in harmony with and protect nature for the purpose of guarding our only earth home. As an efficient bridge that unifies government with enterprises and the masses, non-governmental organizations play an important role in boosting ecological environment protection and green, low-carbon and sustainable development. Now non-governmental organizations have furnished unique perspectives, profound thinking and useful experience for the global biodiversity protection in such ways as spreading biodiversity knowledge, improving the environmental protection awareness among the masses, or carrying out observation, research, protection and restoration in various protected areas. He hoped that, this forum would make greater contributions to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



While addressing the opening ceremony, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said, either for the Convention on Biological Diversity or for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, non-governmental organizations have played a critical role in making actions for biodiversity conservation more efficient, whose opinions and actions are of utmost significance for driving the post-2020 biodiversity conservation progress, realizing the biodiversity goal and facilitating biodiversity recovery. Furthermore, she wished this forum a success.



Chen Zhou, Vice Minister of The International Department of CPC Central Committee respectively initially congratulated the successful conclusion of the Ecological Civilization Forum, and then introduced China NGO Network for International Exchanges, one of the sponsors of the Ecological Civilization Forum, which remains committed to reinforcing the exchange and cooperation between Chinese non-governmental organizations and international ones in ecological environment protection and other fields. Furthermore, he advised to uphold the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, enable people of different countries to exchange their views, strengthen environmental cooperation in the ecological environment protection field, and endeavor to achieve Sustainable Development Goals of UN.

Upon conclusion of the opening ceremony, representatives of government organizations and enterprises, oriented at relevant matters of Convention on Biological Diversity, carried out dialogue and communication with officers from Secretariat of CBD Convention and COP15 Executive Committee of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, which was chaired by Fang Zhi, Deputy Secretary General of China Environmental Protection Foundation, saw the presence of and speeches addressed by Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Representative of CBD Secretariat, Liu Ning, negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, Jean-Paul Paddock, Global Network Development Director of WWF, Sun Lili, President of SEE Conservation and Executive Director of SEE Foundation, Lyu Zhi, Founder of Shan Shui Conservation Center and Professor of Peking University School of Life Sciences, Chen Yimei, Chairman of China Environmental Grantmakers Alliance (CEGA), Jiang Cheng, General Manager of Ant Forest, Executive Director of Global Environmental Institute and Jin Jiaman, Deputy Secretary General of Global Action against Climate Change.

[Read more](#)



## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Thematic Forum I

#### “Nature-based Solutions: the Establishment of China-ASEAN Mangrove Eco-corridor”

As one of the organizers of the conference, the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) hosted the first thematic forum on the morning of September 27 themed on “Nature-based Solutions: the Establishment of China-ASEAN Mangrove Eco-corridor”. Mr. Li Haiyan, Secretary General of Global Climate Action Initiative (GCAI), presided over this thematic forum. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Special Envoy of China for Climate Change and Chairman of GCAI, Ms. Rachel Anne Herrera, Member of the Climate Change Committee of the Philippines, and Dr. Thet Thet Zin, former Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Myanmar and Chairman of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, delivered video messages.



Mr. Xie Zhenhua said “nature” is not only a “victim” of climate change but also stands for a “key area” to deal with climate change. Nature-based solutions advocate relying on nature to cope with climate risks. By means of promoting ecological protection and ecological restoration and bettering ecological management, ecological service functions can be improved, greenhouse gas emissions can be controlled, carbon sinks can be increased, and climate resilience can be enhanced. It is a synergistic means to mitigate and adapt to climate change and protect biodiversity. Mr. Xie Zhenhua commented that he is glad to see the non-governmental forces in China and ASEAN countries are actively preparing for the establishment of the “China-ASEAN Mangrove Eco-corridor”.

Ms. Rachel Anne Herrera thought that this mangrove thematic forum presents opportunities for an important and timely discussion for the ASEAN region and other regions in the world. At a time when world leaders made strong commitments to tackle climate change at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Forum will help China-ASEAN explore more effective nature-based solutions. She hoped that with the help of this forum and the “China-ASEAN Mangrove Protection Initiative” to be announced today, China-ASEAN regional cooperation in other environmental protection fields including dealing with plastic pollution and marine litter will be strengthened and deepened.

Dr. Thet Thet Zin believed that there are still many challenges in mangrove protection and biodiversity conservation in Myanmar and that traditional knowledge, customs and participation of indigenous communities are all good solutions to biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, women also play an important role in biodiversity conservation. She said that women all over the world are actively participating in environmental protection, especially those living in coastal areas. From mangrove breeding, mangrove planting, eco-tourism to mangrove product production, women have provided more diversified perspectives for mangrove protection and biodiversity conservation and promoted the protection and restoration of ecosystems. She added non-governmental actors play a very important role in promoting community-based mangrove conservation and natural resource management, especially in enhancing the capability of women, indigenous people and local communities to conserve biodiversity.



Next, Mr. Chen Dehai, Secretary General of China-ASEAN Center, delivered a keynote speech on China-ASEAN regional sustainable development and cooperation. Mr. Chen expressed that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue between China and ASEAN. Actually, in the past 30 years, China-ASEAN relations have developed harmoniously in the direction of pursuing win-win results, bringing tangible benefits to more than 2 billion people in 11 countries. And sustainable development always holds the key to the success of cooperation between China and ASEAN in various fields. He articulated the two sides will continue to strengthen cooperation in the fields of ecological environment protection, disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and poverty reduction, and work together to achieve the goals of biodiversity conservation, ecological protection, cleaner production and environment-friendly city development.

Dr. Chen Guangcheng, Researcher at the Third Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, gave a keynote presentation on the current situation of mangrove forests in China-ASEAN. According to him, the planting area of mangroves in the ASEAN area accounts for nearly 30% of the world's total, but under the pressure of regional development, the rate of mangrove forests loss in this area is much higher than the world average. In his opinion, what's worth mentioning is that the way people work and live is the main reason to blame for mangrove destruction. He admitted mangrove protection depends on multi-party to make multi-dimensional actions and needs the participation of government leaders, NGO actors and communities. However, people involved also confront many challenges such as the contradiction between protection and development, insufficient information for scientific management of mangroves, and insufficient financial support and so on.

In the following first round-table dialogue, Mr. Wang Lei, Deputy Director of the Department of Territorial Ecological Restoration, Ministry of Natural Resources of the People’s Republic of China, Mr. Datu Tungko Saikol, Director of the Biodiversity Administration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, Mr. Meas Rithy, Deputy Director of the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, Mr. Than Monomoyith, Deputy Director of the Office, and Mr. Hery Daulay, Deputy Director of the Coastal Zone and Island Utilization Office of Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia discussed the current mangrove status and protection gap between China and ASEAN. Mr. Fang Zhi presided over the case sharing session, and NGO representatives from Myanmar, Indonesia and China shared relevant work cases on local mangrove protection actions.

The second roundtable dialogue of the Forum was chaired by Dr. Wang Yi, Member of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People’s Congress and Vice President of the Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mr. Tang Dingding, Academic Member of International Finance Forum, Honorary Director Member of Green Trade and Investment Committee of Chinese Society For Environmental Sciences, Mr. Wang Wenqing, Associate Dean and Professor of School of Environment and Ecology, Xiamen University, Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Officer of Coastal Zone and Ocean, Science and Strategy Department of IUCN Asia Office, Ms. Xie Qian, launched localized nature experience activity and village vlog filming, and Mr. Jack Tordoff, Executive Director of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund discussed how multi-stakeholders can cooperate and carry out joint actions.



At the end of the forum, Mr. Ai Luming, one of the founders of the China-ASEAN Mangrove Protection Network, read out the “China-ASEAN Mangrove Protection Initiative” and announced the official release of the “China-ASEAN Mangrove Protection Initiative”. A total of 19 non-governmental organizations from China and other ASEAN countries, i.e. Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia joined the initiative through offline and online participation, which marked a new chapter in mangrove protection between China and ASEAN. GEI will cooperate with Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation, Shenzhen Mangrove Wetland Conservation Foundation and other relevant institutions proposing initiatives to jointly establish the “China-ASEAN Mangrove Protection Network”, and mobile social media to carry out international civil protection actions and cooperation, especially cooperation related to community-level demonstration projects in place, so as to support and promote the practice and popularization of climate solutions based on mangrove ecosystem in China-ASEAN region.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Thematic Forum II

#### “Environmental NGOs' Role in Biodiversity Mainstreaming”

The “Environmental NGOs’ Role in Biodiversity Mainstreaming” sponsored jointly by All-China Environment Federation (ACEF) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was opened on the afternoon of the 27th. The keynote speech of this forum was chaired by Xie Yuhong, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of ACEF.



At the forum, Liu Ning who is the Negotiator for COP15 from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment shared what the Chinese government has done for biodiversity convention since its accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity and showed his expectation for environmental NGOs' participation in biodiversity convention.

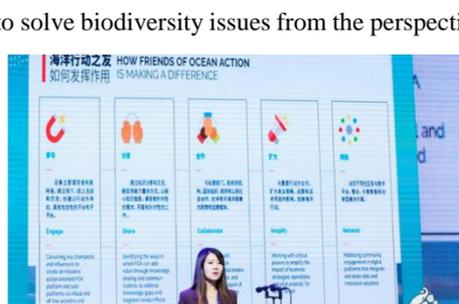


Zhang Yan, Director of IUCN Office in China, expressed his vision for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework based on the World Conservation Congress (WCC) that just ended, and gave his suggestion on how environmental NGOs work in the publicity and social mobilization.



Environmental NGOs working on ecological conservation, sustainable energy, pollution prevention and comprehensive issues were invited to share their own cutting-edge viewpoints in respect of advocating biodiversity conservation in the special sharing session that was chaired by Ni Yao, Deputy Director of International Department of ACEF.

Firstly from the perspective of ecological conservation, Liao Haohong who is the officer of Yunan Program of The Nature Conservancy and Shan Shuo who is the Deputy Director of Special Committee on the Sustainable Use of Plants, China Wild Plant Conservation Association presented two reports on conservation of endangered animals and sustainable use of plants respectively; then, Cheng Zhiqiang, Deputy Secretary General of Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO), and Liu Zuming, Council Member of China Renewable Energy Society, illustrated the role of the renewable energy industry in biodiversity conservation respectively based on the macro energy system construction and micro photovoltaic water cases. Besides, Deputy Secretary General Cheng Zhiqiang also stressed the work *Biodiversity and Revolution of Energy and Electric Power*, which is studied and published by GEIDCO and the global first work on how to solve biodiversity issues from the perspective of energy.



Xie Qian, person in charge of Friends of Ocean Action of World Economic Forum and Liu Sheng, Secretary General of Beijing Watcher Foundation, shared the mode and working method of Global Plastic Partnership and “Quhebian” public participation in river protection program respectively focusing on ocean and river pollution prevention and control.

During the comprehensive issue sharing session, Jocelyn Bleriot, Managing Director of MacArthur Foundation, introduced the connection between circular economy and biodiversity conservation and shared the latest research result - *A Must-do: How Circular Economy Copes with Biodiversity Loss*. Moreover, Lang Hua, Observer Representative of Sustainable Consumption Roundtable of China Chain-Store & Franchise Association (CCFA), introduced the practical experience in supply chain construction and consumer guidance based on the sustainable consumption.



Representatives from government departments, enterprises, and research institutions shared their respective efforts on the biodiversity conservation and discussed on the linkage mechanism with environmental NGOs in the roundtable discussion that was chaired by Wang Xiangyi, Vice President and Secretary General of China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO).

Mr. Christoffer Grønstad, Environmental Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy in China, firstly shared the works that the Norwegian government has done on the participation in Convention on Biological Diversity, proposal of Global Forest Initiative, etc., and stressed the experience of the Norwegian government cooperating with environmental organizations. Mr. Guan Zhaoyu, Secretary General of National Academy for “Belt and Road” Green Development of China International Culture Exchange Center, discussed with the roundtable participants about the role of think tank institutions in offering suggestions and cultivating talents during the construction of green “Belt and Road” development based on the civil think tank. Mr. Wang Hanyun of State Grid Huzhou Power Supply Co., Ltd. introduced the “Yangtze River Delta Ecological Energy Carbon Sink Fund” that is being promoted and their efforts of applying the model combined energy conservation & emission reduction and nature protection in the power sector based on carbon sink addition, emission reduction and ecological protection. Then, Ms. Wang Ying on behalf of HSBC introduced HSBC’s efforts in promoting sustainable development over the past two decades, and highlighted its practical cases in developing green and sustainable financial management products such as natural asset management. Ms. Liu Jia representing PR Newswire stressed their efforts of coping with climate change and biodiversity conservation with media cultivation and public communication as a nearly 70 years old news agency. At last, the fruit hunter Mr. Yang Xiaoyang, an uploader on Bilibili who participated in the roundtable discussion made us realize that the biodiversity is around us by linking the variety diversity to the commonly seen fruits: if we don’t put ourselves in conservation immediately, we’re going to miss out the fruit species that perfectly meet our taste forever.

In the end, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of ACEF issued the “Environmental NGOs’ Role in Biodiversity Conservation Mainstreaming Action Consensus”, which advocates all environmental NGOs to extensively spread the idea of biodiversity conservation and systematic solutions and pay attention to the impact of energy infrastructure construction on ecosystem, reduction of various pollutants entering the natural ecosystems and implementation of nature based climate solutions. Also, the Consensus stresses the coordination mechanism between the governments, enterprises and research institutions and environmental NGOs in terms of policy implementation, basic research and green supply chain construction.

[Read the source text](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Thematic Forum III

#### “100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World Publication and Roundtable Discussion”

NGO Forum III “100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World Publication and Roundtable Discussion” was opened on the afternoon of September 27. Under the guidance of the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity and Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office for CBD COP15, practices and actions collection was officially started on July 20 this year and then was published on such platforms as websites of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, CBD, Sina Weibo, IUCN member network platform, websites of Chinese and overseas partners, WeChat, Facebook and Twitter for 49 days. As of September 7, there were 258 practices and actions received from 196 applicants in 26 countries and regions globally. Among all practices and actions received 108 were awarded as “100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World” and 19 were awarded “Special 100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World” after the formal review, preliminary review by 4 experts and final review by 5 experts. Liu Ning who is the negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office said that the rich contents of these practices and actions fully represent the contribution of NGOs to the global biodiversity conservation target.

Half of these practices and actions are local protection, including animal, bird, aquatic, plant and other species protection, as well as ecosystem protection in forest, grassland, arid area, wetland and ocean, and the other half are other protection models like legal approach, public participation, communication and education, policy formulation and implementation, financial support mechanism, technical innovation, sustainable use, benefit sharing of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, etc. NGOs accounted for half of the applicants of practices and actions, enterprises for 20%, governments, public institutions and schools for 20%, and rural or urban communities for about 5%. “100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World” represent the long-term efforts on the biodiversity conservation all over the world and show the efforts and determination of all states and non-state actors in region with respect to the biodiversity conservation.

In this forum, 9 representatives from enterprises, research institutes, foundations and communities shared “100+ Biodiversity Positive Practices and Actions Around the World” from policy, technology, local practices, including the innovative program - Ecological Conservation Redline by Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the AI for Earth Protection shared by Microsoft China, the ecological conservation program - One Yangtze River shared by Huatai Securities, Save the Elephants program in Kenya and Ocean Community Protection in Scotland.



Later on, Professor Lyu Zhi hosted the practice exploration roundtable discussion on conservation of “biodiversity”. In the roundtable discussion, Ms. Yang Meihong, President of Ford Motor for Communication and Corporate Social Responsibility shared the endeavors of Ford Motor to protect biodiversity during the past 21 years. There, Yang Fangyi, Project Manager of IUCN Office in China, said that practices and actions collected this time include extensive international cases from various applicants and bring about certain international experiences. In addition, Kang Aili, Asian Program Executive Director of WCS, remarked a problem that there is fewer practices and actions of climate change based synergy despite of extensive amount of cases, which requires our more concerns. Peng Kui who is Project Manager of Global Environmental Institute said that practices and actions collected this time made more people know the real contributions made by NGOs to biodiversity conservation and promoted the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Lawyer Jiang Boya of ClientEarth stressed the importance of environmental regulations and rules, especially the role of preventive public litigation in biodiversity conservation. Last, Wang Changlin, head of Qianjiangyuan National Park Administration introduced the practices and actions that Qianjiangyuan National Park has done in respect of farmland easement reform and cooperation with multiple organizations. In addition to expressing their opinions on collected practices and actions, participants also discussed on promoting the development and practice of NGOs in aspects of empowerment, public participation, policy transformation and cooperation with governments.

Present representatives of 55 institutions or organizations were conferred with certificates and dolls on the scene by Liu Ning, the negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, Lyu Zhi, Professor of Peking University School of Life Sciences, Xu Guang, President of China Environmental Protection Foundation and Ma Jian, Vice President of The Paradise International Foundation, so as to encourage more local practices and let more biodiversity conservation stories heard by the public. These practices and actions sort out knowledge and experience in this field and show the local practices and efforts of all actors over the world into biodiversity conversation. Moreover, they deepen the theme of COP15 of “Biological Civilization - Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”, and express our wish for “building a shared future for all life on earth”.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Biodiversity Carnival Night

Biodiversity Carnival Night sponsored by SEE Foundation was held on the night of September 27. Domestic and international guests from all life of walk who work on and focus on biodiversity conservation were invited to share their efforts into and gains from biodiversity conservation and give their commitment and contribution to the post-2020 biodiversity protection goal. Li Binbin who is the Assistant Professor in environmental sciences of Duke Kunshan University and expert of IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) hosted the Carnival Night.



Liu Ning, who is the negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, pointed out that Chinese government implemented fishing ban in the mainstreams of Yangtze River for ten years, which took the leading role in the world. It's a hard decision-making for it will change the traditional life of more than 300,000 fishermen along the Yangtze River and force them to learn new skills but I believe it is certain to create immeasurable contributions to biodiversity conservation and extend a profound effect on future generations. Under the leadership of the government and cooperation of 300,000 fishermen, we have implemented China's biodiversity conservation policy.

Sun Lili, President of SEE Conservation and Executive President of SEE Foundation delivered the sponsor's speech that during the 5 years' growth of Jingcao Carnival, 14 SEE environmental project centers and 30 Jingcao peers joined in and made their efforts. It's their supports that make today's carnival. She said, it's hoped that the stories of these experts and protectors shared with the public would show there is a group of people who are making various efforts to protect our ecological environment and that these efforts may enlighten more people to protect biodiversity in their own way. And she hoped the carnival may affect everyone. Under the leadership of the government and cooperation of 300,000 fishermen, we have implemented China's biodiversity conservation policy.



Director General of Friends of Nature Zhang Boju shared his ways on how to get more people involved in biodiversity mainstreaming. Starting from the public science dissemination of pavo muticus, people from all walks of life may come in contact with species in daily life through various methods like real image and video, art and education, science popularization and communication, and cross-border cooperation so as to closely connect the biodiversity with the public. At the same time, non-profit public organizations worked on the front line shared their stories about projects through novel means of dissemination and got more people involved in the dissemination of popular science. Non-profit public organizations in Yunnan launched localized nature experience activity and village filming and aroused the public's emotion and respect for the nature.

Lyu Zhi, Professor of Peking University School of Life Sciences and founder of Shan Shui Conservation Center, said that we should create conditions for those working on protection. We should encourage the local communities and residents to take part in the conservation and management of the nature in a way that is familiar and acceptable to the public and through a combination of traditional and scientific wisdom. She pointed out that the traditional culture is positively correlated with the richness of biodiversity so the protection of traditional culture plays a vital role in the richness of biodiversity. Biodiversity can also be rich in urban clusters, largely depending on how we look at it and act. Change of biodiversity lies in the use of land, and the shared future for all life is a new value.

When it comes to the theme of ocean protection, Ji Liwei who is the Director General of Reef Check in Hong Kong and Dive4love said that the ocean has a very rich biodiversity, and as over 70% of the earth is covered by the ocean, lots of new species and varieties are found each year in the sea. There are over 220,000 ocean species known up to now. The recent global warming has a great impact on the oceans, especially on coral reefs. As the relationships between species are closely related, if the coral is gone, there is no place for many creatures that live in coral, such as fish, invertebrates and even some different types of algae. Therefore, to protect species like corals is of vital importance to the biodiversity of the oceans.

Dr. Wang Dajun from Peking University School of Life Sciences delivered a keynote speech titled "Wild animal protection in China from the story of several species". He presented their observation of pandas in a dozen years and research on snow leopards and procapra przewalskii for years, and concluded that the habitat is very important for population quantity stabilization and biodiversity conservation. What's more, those animals in lack of long-term concerns or those seeming to be "harmful animal" need our concerns and should live in symbiosis with humans for a long period.

Wang Sibao, Chinese representative of Light Painting World Alliance, gave a light painting performance themed on biodiversity, bringing us to understand the meaning of biodiversity in a novel way.



In the first roundtable discussion artists discussed on how to protect biodiversity through art. Before the second roundtable discussion started, Wildaid Public Welfare Ambassador Lang Lang called to action on an online video: "Let's protect the biodiversity in our own way to restore the nature, and the vividness of the earth depends on our actions." In the second roundtable discussion, representatives of all fields attending in person or via online channels explored the ways how to realize cross-border participation in biodiversity conservation.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Thematic Forum IV

#### “Independent Contributions from Non-state Actors and the Post-2020 Goal for Biodiversity Conservation”

COP15 NGO Forum IV themed on “Independent Contributions from Non-state Actors and the Post-2020 Goal for Biodiversity Conservation” was officially opened on the morning of September 28. This forum had three parts, story sharing, keynote speech and roundtable discussion.



Old Creek Nature Reserve in Pingwu County, Sichuan Province is the first social public reserve in China. Director of the Reserve Liu Xiaogeng shared his story of work in Old Creek Reserve for ten years. “Ten years ago there were a few animals in the Reserve due to rampant poach but now we can see 7 or 8 animal species at a time at night tour. Personally I got more satisfaction than I've ever had while working on the front line conservation.” Liu said.

U Htun Paw Oo Chairman of Myanmar Forest Association introduced the policies implemented by the Myanmar government with respect to biodiversity conservation and the achievements made by non-state actors in biodiversity conservation. He said: “The Myanmar government is considering summarizing the attempts and difficulties of conservation by agreement made by communities and including the conservation by agreement mode led by NGOs, especially by community, into the national statutory reserve system for the further related reserve policies of the government.”



There were four keynote speeches delivered by five experts during the second links. Wang Yi, Vice President of Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Peng Kui, Project Manager of Global Environmental Institute, presented their special research and introduced the contributions of global non-state actors to the crossing field of climate change and biodiversity conservation. In addition, they also issued the research report titled *A Survey on Contributions from Global Non-state Actors to Biodiversity Conservation*.

Jin Tong, member of Executive Committee of Alliance of Civil Protected Areas and Director for Science of The Nature Conservancy China Division, introduced the achievements that Chinese Alliance of Civil Protected Areas has made in four years. Alliance of Civil Protected Areas was co-established by 26 non-profit organizations who focus on civil protected areas in China in 2017. Its members has built 51 Land Trust Reserve in China by 2020 with the protected area of 10,311 square kilometers, which is another step toward the future goal of helping the state manage 1% of protected areas.

James N Levitt, Director of US International Land Trust Alliance and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, introduced the development of land trust all over the world. According to him, International Land Trust Alliance together with organizations and individuals in over 100 countries on six continents protects the protected areas using the land trust model with the area of more than 440,000 square kilometers protected by the land trust agencies, which greatly contributed to the global biodiversity conservation.



African Parks established in 2000 is a non-profit organization engaged in the management of protected areas in Africa. They have managed 19 protected areas in about 11 African countries by now with the protected area of 147,000 square kilometers. Ms. Jean Labuschagne, African Parks Director, Conservation Development and Assurance, shared the attempts that African Parks has done in the protected areas in respect of ecology conservation, sustainable development of community and sustainable mechanism.



The third part roundtable dialogue was hosted by David Foster of Harvard University Department of Forestry, during which some guests attended via online channels including Rosselli Londono, CI South American Protocol Conservation Project Manager, Mike Maunder, Director of University of Cambridge Conservation Centre, and Rocky Sanchez Tirona, Ruier International Philippine Fisheries Project Manager; and some guests attended in person including Wang Die, Project Manager of Tencent for the Planet, An Yaqiang, Secretary General of Lao Niu Foundation, Wang Dayan, Director of Bayuelin Reserve, The Paradise Foundation and Chen Yunzhu of Global Environmental Institute.

The roundtable dialogue covers a wide range of issues, including general issues on biodiversity conservation such as issues and challenges related to the participation of women and young men in biodiversity conservation, wetland conservation and ocean conservation. There also include special issues like how to coordinate community development and biodiversity conservation, how to mobilize local communities to become more actively involved in biodiversity conservation, and how to play the role of high technology in biodiversity conservation.

At last, Liu Ning, negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, introduced the launching and performance of from Sharm el Sheikh to Kunming Action platform. Mr. Wang Yi concluded the forum. He expressed that firstly non-state actors play an important role in the entire biodiversity conservation and they made the explorations on practice and tools that are very enlightening and useful to us. Secondly, non-state actors still face great difficulties and gaps in carrying out biodiversity conservation or community conservation, including those in system and law implementation, capability, funds, tools including technology and policy tools. There is still a gap between different countries and regions in dealing with the relationship between conservation and development which is lack of well-established data. Thirdly, against the new context, to build post-2020 biodiversity conservation strategic framework requires reform and innovation. For this matter we need to change the way of thinking and improve works in all respects including policy making and management which should be more inclusive or inclined to governance. On one hand, we need to build system basis and on the other hand, we should give play to the interaction of national market and community. Fourthly, only by taking common actions can we move forward on and jointly achieve the goal of sustainable biodiversity conservation.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Thematic Forum V

#### “Foundations Contributing to Biodiversity Conservation”

On the afternoon of September 28, the last thematic forum of the COP15 NGO Forum officially opened, with the theme of “Foundations Contributing to Biodiversity Conservation”. Guests have conducted dialogues and discussions with stakeholders at home and abroad on what role the foundations should play in biodiversity conservation, how to develop nature-based solutions and how to enhance effective marine management in an attempt to make coordinated efforts to promote the sustainable development of biodiversity.



In the opening speech, Wang Chunfeng, executive deputy director of the Foreign Cooperation Project Center of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, pointed out that it is very important for the foundations to further promote the enterprises to make pragmatic actions. He explained enterprises should realize that protecting biodiversity is not only beneficial for all mankind, but also for their own sustainable development. He added human beings' healthy lifestyle, the sustainable planet environment and the sound economic growth reinforce each other and that the pressure to solve the biodiversity crisis can be transformed into the driving force to improve the production mode of enterprises and realize sustainable development. In his opinion, the key to realizing the transformation lies in innovation.

David Cooper, Deputy Secretary of CBD Secretariat, stressed in his online speech that the cooperation between government and enterprises is necessary to make biodiversity back on track. He suggested the foundations play a very important role in recovering biodiversity, for it can mobilize resources, accelerate early actions, share more consensus and let everyone know that biodiversity is one of the global challenges human beings are facing now. He said currently, we human beings are confronted with a wide range of opportunities and challenges, resulting from the loss of biodiversity. Thus, we should further realize there exist opportunities to protect biodiversity in the process of enterprise operation, and ensure that the voices of recipient and donor countries can be spread and heard.

Klaus Milke, Chairman of F20, said in his online speech that Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) represents the environmental forces of the business community and that they are very important forces, fulfilling the social responsibilities of their respective enterprises, which is very important. Meanwhile, the pandemic has once again made us soberly aware that we must reach an agreement on climate issues, biodiversity conservation, and healthy and sustainable development. In addition, we jointly published a report, mainly based on nature-based solutions to deal with the crisis of biodiversity and climate change. What's more, he said we will work together to build a bridge for conducting exchanges on eco-climate change and further strive to achieve the goal of G20 so as to lay the foundation for CBD COP15. Considering the COP15 meeting will be held in Kunming soon, we must work together, hoping to contribute to the formulation of solutions and work hard for a better future.



Zhang Li, Secretary General of SEE Foundation and Professor of Ecology at Beijing Normal University, presided over the roundtable dialogue themed on “The Role of Foundations in Biodiversity Conservation in the Next Decade”. Five guests from China, North America, Africa and Latin America had an in-depth exchange on the role of foundations in biodiversity conservation in the next decade. Those guests are Sun Lili, President of SEE Conservation and Executive President of SEE Foundation, Fang Zhi, Deputy Secretary-General of China Environmental Protection Foundation, Brian O'Donnell, Director of Nature Conservation Initiative of Wyss Foundation, Frederick Kumah, Vice Chairman of African Wildlife Foundation, and Ramiro Fernandez, Director of Climate Change of Avina Foundation.

Zhang Li, Secretary-General of SEE Foundation and Professor of Ecology at Beijing Normal University, concluded that all foundations around the world have made remarkable work in biodiversity conservation and that all foundations have actively raised funds from various channels and cooperated closely with various stakeholders to find feasible solutions for solving problems challenging social development and environmental protection, which will play a vital role in the formulation and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



Zhang Yan, Director of IUCN Office in China, presided over the second thematic discussion of the forum themed on Nature-based Solutions - Making Coordinated Efforts to Cope with Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Change Crisis. He said that the core significance of the nature-based solutions is to protect the natural environment and conserve biodiversity while achieving sustainable management. But the goal is to meet the challenges faced by mankind. On the one hand, the solutions help mankind to tackle the challenges. On the other hand, they can bring positive impacts on biodiversity, whether based on nature or a people-oriented approach.

Che Jing, Researcher of Kunming Institute of Zoology, CAS and Member of Endangered Species Scientific Commission, P.R.C., gave a report themed on “Biodiversity Crisis and Efforts in Modern China”. She pointed out that today's society is facing a huge challenge - the global biodiversity loss crisis. She suggested at the national level, we need to establish a synergistic mechanism for the implementation of international conventions, hoping to strengthen the synergy among conventions and set the goal of climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation when measures are formulated. Secondly, we need to invest more in infrastructure and support decision-making management efforts with scientific research. Last but not least, we need the involvement of people from all walks of life. She believed only by witnessing the efforts of all parties, man and nature can coexist harmoniously.



Du Yongsheng, Chairman of China Green Carbon Foundation, Wang Ying, Director of Corporate Sustainable Development from HSBC (China) Company Limited, An Yaqiang, Secretary General of Inner Mongolia Lao Niu Foundation, Yang Biao, Deputy Secretary General of SEE Foundation, and Che Jing, Researcher of Kunming Institute of Zoology, CAS, attended the dialogue and made speeches.



Yang Biao, Deputy Secretary General of SEE Foundation, presided over the last thematic discussion of the forum themed on Enhancing the Effectiveness of Marine Protection and Management. He said the construction of various types of marine protected areas is the most common way of marine protection for mankind at present. According to WCPA data, the area of various types of marine protected areas in the world currently accounts for 7.8% of the total marine area, while the well-known goal is that the proportion should stand at 10%. The next ambitious goal we are discussing to set is to complete the coverage of various types of marine protected areas up to 30% of the global marine area by 2030.

Dr Kerstin Forsberg, Founder and Director of Planeta Océano, shared the thematic report “Contribution of Establishing Marine Protected Areas to Enhancing the Effectiveness of Marine Protection”, which provides solutions for protecting the ocean. He noted it is necessary to standardize the practice of biodiversity mainstreaming. Besides, many ambitious international agendas need to be practical before they are put into practice. Meanwhile, we need to protect, observe and share our ecological environment. We need to formulate solutions and help biodiversity become mainstreamed.

Su Jilan, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, also reflected and looked forward to the protection of global marine biodiversity. He pointed out reflecting on China's marine protection, we have established 160 marine conservation zone since 1990. In addition, we actively join the international conventions on marine protection and explore the protection system of the high seas.

Wang Ying, Director of Corporate Sustainable Development from HSBC (China) Company Limited, will be the host of this session and will participate in the roundtable dialogue themed on Enhancing the Effectiveness of Marine Protection and Management. She will discuss with representatives of the government, scientific research institutions, charitable foundations and relevant environmental protection organizations on how different stakeholders work together to enhance the effectiveness of marine protection and management and achieve the goal of marine protection.

As the forum was coming to an end, Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation (SEE Foundation) cooperated with Beijing Yishan Credit Management Co., Ltd. and other organizations to jointly publish the *Report on China's Grant-making for Biodiversity Conservation (2021)*, conducting data analysis on public welfare funding for biodiversity conservation in China for the first time. Data show that the amount of funds for China's biodiversity conservation accounts for the largest proportion of China's environmental public welfare donations, with the fastest growth rate.

[Read more](#)

## Forum Info

### NGO Forum - Closing Ceremony

On the afternoon of September 28, one of the CBD COP15 NGO Forums themed on “Independent Contributions from Non-state Actors and the Post-2020 Goal for Biodiversity Conservation” closed. The closing ceremony of this NGO forum was jointly organized by GEI, The Paradise International Foundation, China Environmental Protection Foundation, All-China Environment Federation, Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation, ClientEarth and China Environmental Grantmakers Alliance. At the closing ceremony, nearly 300 representatives of environmental public welfare organizations, youth groups, women groups, local community representatives and media representatives from different countries and regions attended the signing ceremony of the Independent Contribution Initiative by Non-state Actors.



Suocai, who is a herdsman from Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai province, performed a warm-up dance typical of “Zhuoganma”, a wonderful national intangible cultural heritage. While enjoying singing and dancing, the guests present wished for the common prosperity for both nature and mankind.

Subsequently, Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China (whose speech was actually delivered on behalf by Xu Guang, Chairman and Secretary General of China Environmental Protection Foundation), Liu Ning, negotiator for COP15 of Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Deputy Director of Preparatory and Organizing Committee Office, Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary of CBD Secretariat and Senior Project Management Officer, and Ms. Jennifer Morris, Global CEO of The Nature Conservancy, delivered addresses at the closing ceremony. They highly praised the efforts made by non-state actors, especially Chinese NGOs, in biodiversity conservation, congratulated the success of this forum, and witnessed the following ceremony for signing the Independent Contribution Initiative by Non-state Actors together with all the participants.



Guests present from GEI, African Wildlife Foundation, People Resources and Conservation Foundation, Australian Land Conservation Alliance, China Green Carbon Foundation, Inner Mongolia Lao Niu Foundation, Wild Bound, Farmers' Seed Network (China), Benkang Limin Cooperative in Maozhuang Township, Nangqian County, Qinghai Province, and LOHAS\_Magazine have made commitments for biodiversity conservation from the perspective of their work.



Then, 34 representatives of non-state actors from different countries went on stage together where they read and committed themselves to observe the *Independent Contribution Initiative by Non-state Actors*. Representatives of 8 leading institutions from the Citizens’ Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, together with offline and online guests, jointly launched the Independent Contribution Initiative by Non-state Actors themed on Towards Kunming: My Commitments for Nature.

The Initiative launched calls for rallying the general public who are willing to protect nature to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and advance the prosperity of the ecological economy by means of giving full play to the core position and contribution of indigenous people, local communities and women in biodiversity protection, strengthening efforts in public biodiversity science education, promoting the synergy between climate change response and biodiversity protection efforts, and continuing to mobilize more non-state actors from various countries to join and announce their own commitments, thus contributing to the post-2020 global biodiversity protection actions as well as the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



More than ten foundations, environmental organizations and platforms in China have taken the lead in making commitments that they will invest about RMB 2.45 billion in the next 10 years to launch the protection and ecological restoration focusing on key species and their habitats in China and around the world and promote some 100,000 square kilometers of protected areas to witness the protection efficiency get improved and that green ecological economy get booming. On this basis, they are leading more than 100 Chinese institutions to continue to carry out massive work to put the commitments of conserving biodiversity into practice. Finally, with a famous Ningxia song Flowers-Nature, the NGO Forum was successfully concluded.



This NGO forum has provided more comprehensive and in-depth reference and suggestions for post-2020 biodiversity conservation, and provided diversified and multi-dimensional nature-based solutions for climate change, mangrove conservation and community-based biodiversity conservation. At the forum, we have heard the voices of non-state actors from all over the world at different levels and launched the China-ASEAN Mangrove Conservation Initiative and call to action “Towards Kunming: My Commitments for Nature”. Although this forum has come to an end, the efforts made by non-state actors to participate in biodiversity conservation will not cease.

[Read more](#)



## Conference | Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the First Stage)

The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15) (the First Stage) was concluded in Beijing on October 26. Sun Jinlong, Secretary of the Leading Party Members Group of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, attended the event and delivered a speech. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment, was the moderator.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Conference | Webinar on Synthetic Biology Governance and Cooperation Opportunities

Through COP decision 14/19, the Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to further pursue cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives on issues related to synthetic biology, including the exchange of experiences and information.

[Conference regulations](#)

## Upcoming Conference | Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15) (the Second Stage)

The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15) (the Second Stage) will contribute to the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



## Conference | The 16th meeting of the Subcommittee for Environmental Cooperation under the Regular Prime Ministers' Meeting between China and Russia

The 16th meeting of the Subcommittee for Environmental Cooperation under the Regular Prime Ministers' Meeting between China and Russia was held on October 22 by video. The meeting was organized by the Chinese side. Huang Runqiu, Chinese Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, and Alexander Kozlov, Russian Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, led their delegations to attend the meeting and co-chaired the event.

[Read more](#)

## Conference | Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change

On October 18, 2021, the Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change hosted by Bolivia was held virtually. Xie Zhenhua, China's special envoy on climate change, and Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

[Read more](#)

## Activity | Third Carbon Emissions Trading Policy Dialogue between the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and the Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission

On October 19, 2021, the Third Carbon Emissions Trading Policy Dialogue was held by video between Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, and Mauro Petriccione, Director-General, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission. The two sides shared information on the latest progress in carbon emissions trading and exchanged their insights into the future cooperation between China and Europe in the field of carbon emissions trading.

[Read more](#)

## Conference | 2021 Annual Science and Technology Conference of the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences

The 2021 Annual Science and Technology Conference of the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences was held on October 20 in Tianjin. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and Sun Wenkui, Vice Mayor of Tianjin, attended the conference, together with academicians, experts, scholars and business representatives from the field of ecology and environment.

[Read more](#)

## Conference | 17th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting

The 17th ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting was held online on October 22, which reviewed the progress made in ASEAN-China-Japan-ROK environmental cooperation and reached consensus on the direction of future cooperation. The meeting was moderated by the Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. Representatives from the environment ministries of ten ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the environment ministries of China, Japan and Korea attended the meeting. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, addressed the meeting by video.

[Read more](#)

## Release | Opinions on Further Strengthening the Protection of Biodiversity

On October 19, 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Part of China together with the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Further Strengthening the Protection of Biodiversity".

[Read more](#)

## Release | Updated List of National Key Protected Wild Plants

Approved by the State Council, the updated List of National Key Protected Wild Plants was released on September 8, 2021, with 455 species and 40 taxa being included in the new list, bringing the total species to 1101.

[Read more](#)

## Release | Action Plan for Carbon Peaking by 2030

On October 24, 2021, the State Council of China printed and distributed the "Action Plan for Carbon Peaking by 2030" to the people's governments of all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and to all ministries, commissions and agencies directly under the State Council.

[Read more](#)

# Information Overview



## Construction | Five national forest parks

On October 21, China announced the formal establishment of the first batch of five national parks, including Sanjiangyuan National Park, Giant Panda National Park, Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park, Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park and Wuyishan National Park, involving 10 provinces with a protected area of 230,000 square kilometers, covering nearly 30% of the national key protected wildlife species within China's land territory.

[Read more](#)



## Release | 2021 Production Gap Report

The 2021 Production Gap Report jointly issued by the world's leading research institutions and UNEP points out that despite the ever-increasing global climate ambition and "Net Zero" commitment, the amount of fossil fuels to be mined according to the plans of all governments far exceeds the amount meeting the climate targets of the Paris Agreement.

[Read more](#)



## Release | Foodscapes: Planning the Food System Transformation—a Collaboration among The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and SYSTEMIQ

On October 16, 2021, the 40th World Food Day, Foodscapes: Planning the Food System Transformation—a Collaboration among The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and SYSTEMIQ was released.

[Read more](#)



## Release | Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem Approach (EA): Complementarity and Difference

IUCN released a reference document titled Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem Approach (EA): Complementarity and Difference.

[Read more](#)



## Event | "International Snow Leopard Day" publicity campaign for public benefit

On October 23, the 9th International Snow Leopard Day sponsored by China Wildlife Conservation Association was successfully held in Beijing. Leaders and guests from Wildlife Protection Department of National Forestry and Grassland Administration, by China Wildlife Conservation Association and CMG attended the opening ceremony.

[Read more](#)



## Awards | GEI won the "Organization of the Year" Award.

This September, GEI was included in the "2021 Best Social and Charity Organizations" jointly released by A Better Community (ABC) and Prophet, and won the title of "Recommended Organization".

[Read more](#)

Other  
Information

## News | North China leopards discovered in Luolong, Tibet

Leopards discovered in Luolong, Tibet have been identified as the North China leopards, an endangered species, and the largest known wild leopard population in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

[Read more](#)

## Meeting | Investing in Nature: Gathering New Driving Forces and Creating a New Future – Kick-off Meeting of Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance

On October 25, Investing in Nature: Gathering New Driving Forces and Creating a New Future – Kick-off Meeting of Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance was held in Beijing, and 13 co-sponsors also issued the Global Joint Initiative on the Partnership of Biodiversity and Finance.

[Read more](#)

# 本期支持机构



Civil Society Alliance for  
Biodiversity Conservation  
公民生物多样性  
保护联盟



社会公益保护地联盟



The Paradise  
International Foundation  
桃花源生态保护基金会



樂施會  
OXFAM  
Hong Kong | 無窮世界  
World  
Without  
Poverty



acba  
African CSOs  
Biodiversity Alliance



AFRICAN WILDLIFE  
FOUNDATION  
非洲野生动物基金会



Rockefeller  
Brothers Fund



自然之友  
FRIENDS OF NATURE



山水自然保护中心  
Shan Shui Conservation Center

# 发行机构



Global  
Environmental Institute  
北京市朝阳区永续全球环境研究所



## Cooperation Inquiries

Wang Qian ([qianwang@geichina.org](mailto:qianwang@geichina.org))

Programme Officer

Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development

Ji Lin ([linji@geichina.org](mailto:linji@geichina.org))

Executive Secretary of Liaison

Programme Development Office

The Global Environmental Institute (GEI)

Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building, # 14 Liangmahe South Road,

Unit 1, Suite 32, Chaoyang District

Beijing 100600, China

Editor: Wang Qian    Publicist: Ji Lin

Reviewer: Peng Kui    Layout editor& organiser: Tang Beijia, Wu Yuyang