

China's Progress in Implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

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1.1. To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals

- By 2010, terrestrially/ and 2012 in the marine area, a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected area system is established as a contribution to (i) the goal of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the World Summit on Sustainable Development of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; (ii) the Millennium Development Goals – particularly goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability; and (iii) the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- **First nature reserve was designated in 1956.**
- **As of the end of 2007, China had established a total of 2531 nature reserves with total area reaching 151.88 million hectares (Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao are not included), 15.2% of the total territory. 28 nature reserves have joined the World Man and Biosphere Protected Area Network, 30 nature reserves have been listed in the Inventory of Wetland of International Importance, a national network of in situ conservation has been preliminarily established.**



1.2. To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function.

- By 2015, all protected areas and protected area systems are integrated into the wider land- and seascape, and relevant sectors, by applying the ecosystem approach and taking into account ecological connectivity and the concept, where appropriate, of ecological networks.
- **National Plan for Nature Reserves in China (1996-2010):** number of nature reserves will reach 1200 by 2010, accounting for 10% of the national terrestrial land.
- **Plan for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves:** the number of nature reserves will reach 2000 by 2030, accounting for 16.8% of China's land area, protecting or restoring 60% of the population of nationally protected wild animals and plants.

1.3. To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries.

- Establish and strengthen by 2010/2012 transboundary protected areas, other forms of collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries and regional networks, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, implementing the ecosystem approach, and improving international cooperation.
- **Signed MOU on Nature Reserve among China, Russia and Mongolia in 1994, and conducted activities of monitoring, awareness raising, and information exchange for many years.**
- **Established working group on transboundary nature reserves and biodiversity conservation between China and Russia in 2006, signed agreement on the Xingkai Lake Nature Reserve in Heilongjiang, many nature reserves reached transboundary management agreements**
- **Cooperating on nature reserves with Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos under the Great Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Corridor Initiative**

1.4. To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management.

- All protected areas to have effective management in existence by 2012, using participatory and science-based site planning processes that incorporate clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programmes, drawing upon existing methodologies and a long-term management plan with active stakeholder involvement
- **Standard on appraisal of national nature reserves issued in 1999, indicators on planning and management established.**
- **Indicators for assessing management of national nature reserves developed in 2002, 20 indicators on management established;**
- **Guidelines on master planning of national nature reserves issued in 2002, providing guidance on the development and implementation of master planning of national nature reserves**

1.5. To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas.

- By 2008, effective mechanisms for identifying and preventing, and/or mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas are in place.
- **Law on EIA stipulates the EIA system in China, all construction projects and natural resources. EIA should be conducted for exploitation projects**
- **Rule on nature reserve management issued by MEP in 2004: EIA report of construction projects related to nature reserves should have a specific chapter to assess the impacts on nature reserves and present protection schemes**
- **Rule on environmental protection of hydropower activities issued by MEP and State Commission on Development and Reform in 2005: reduce the impact of hydropower development on the environment, especially for fish and terrestrial rare wildlife**

2.1. To promote equity and benefit-sharing.

- Establish by 2008 mechanisms for the equitable sharing of both costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of protected areas
- **Regulation on Nature Reserves stipulates that costs for the construction and management of nature reserves should be born by local governments; the state adopts economic, technical policies that are beneficial to nature reserves and mainstreaming nature reserves into national economy and social development planning; the construction and management of nature reserves should be in harmony with local economy and communities development**

2.2. To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders.

- Full and effective participation by 2008, of indigenous and local communities, in full respect of their rights and recognition of their responsibilities, consistent with national law and applicable international obligations, and the participation of relevant stakeholders, in the management of existing, and the establishment and management of new, protected areas
- **Law on Regional National Autonomy ensures the rights of minorities and local communities and their traditional lifestyle relevant to biodiversity conservation**
- **Public participation should be ensured during EIA. The designation and capacity building of nature reserves should consider the needs of local communities**
- **Participatory management system established for nature reserves, local communities can participate in the management of nature reserves and receive financial and technical support**

3.1. To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas.

- By 2008 review and revise policies as appropriate, including use of social and economic valuation and incentives, to provide a supportive enabling environment for more effective establishment and management of protected areas and protected areas systems.
- **National Plan for Nature reserves in China (1996-2010) issued in 1997 and now is being updated**
- **Plan for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves approved in 2000, invested 2.6 billion RMB by the end of 2006**
- **Wetland Conservation Program (2002-2030) approved by the State Council in 2003**

3.2. To build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas .

- By 2010, comprehensive capacity-building programmes and initiatives are implemented to develop knowledge and skills at individual, community and institutional levels, and raise professional standards
- **National Plan for Nature reserves in China (1996-2010) and the Plan for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves played a key role in promoting establishment and management of nature reserves**
- **The project on nature reserves management, project on wetland conservation and sustainable use supported by GEF, and other projects supported by WWF, CI, TNC etc., improved management capacities of protected areas**

3.3. To develop, apply and transfer appropriate technologies for protected areas.

- By 2010 the development, validation, and transfer of appropriate technologies and innovative approaches for the effective management of protected areas is substantially improved, taking into account decisions of the Conference of the Parties on technology transfer and cooperation.
- **Training workshops organized by environmental, forestry and agricultural departments disseminated and improved techniques and management tools**
- **The project on nature reserves management, project on wetland conservation and sustainable use supported by GEF improved capacity both at national and provincial levels and international advanced models and tools are introduced and applied**
- **Nature reserves' capacity of species monitoring improved through cooperation with universities, research institutes and WWF, TNC etc**

3.4. To ensure financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas.

- By 2008, sufficient financial, technical and other resources to meet the costs to effectively implement and manage national and regional systems of protected areas are secured, including both from national and international sources, particularly to support the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and small island developing States.
- **Fund for capacity building of national nature reserves since 1998, invested 340 million RMB by the end of 2007**
- **Plan for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves invested 2.6 billion RMB between 2001-2006**
- **Natural Forests Protection Program initiated in 1999, supports relevant nature reserves**
- **Fund for national key forests of public welfare initiated in 2003 supports relevant national nature reserves**
- **Plan for implementing the national wetland protection program approved by the State Council in 2005, 222 wetland nature reserves will be supported**

3.5. To strengthen communication, education and public awareness.

- By 2008 public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the importance and benefits of protected areas is significantly increased
- **Awareness raising initiated both at national and local levels, on International Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, etc**

4.1. To develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems.

- By 2008, standards, criteria, and best practices for planning, selecting, establishing, managing and governance of national and regional systems of protected areas are developed and adopted.
- **MEP is developing the Standard for Capacity Building of National Nature Reserves, in which requirements and guidelines will be stipulated for national nature reserves**

4.2. To evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management.

- By 2010, frameworks for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national and regional systems, and transboundary protected area levels adopted and implemented by Parties
- **Rule on supervision and evaluation of national nature reserves issued in 2006**
- **Indicators for assessing management of national nature reserves developed in 2002. Evaluation of nature reserves conducted in 8 provinces, and will be completed for all national nature reserves by 2012**
- **Conducted several law enforcement inspection, prevented illegal development and damage to nature reserves**

4.3. To assess and monitor protected area status and trends.

- By 2010, national and regional systems are established to enable effective monitoring of protected-area coverage, status and trends at national, regional and global scales, and to assist in evaluating progress in meeting global biodiversity targets
- **National and regional surveys on natural resources initiated in early 1950s**
- **Flora of China and the Fauna of China are published**
- **National Environmental Monitoring system established, with 2389 stations**
- **National Forest monitoring systems established**
- **Agricultural monitoring systems established with 800 stations;**
- **Coastal , marine and air based national marine monitoring systems established**
- **China ecosystem research network established with 36 ecosystem research stations**

4.4 To ensure that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems.

- Scientific knowledge relevant to protected areas is further developed as a contribution to their establishment, effectiveness, and management
- **Survey, research and inventory on biological resources were conducted since 1949, which produced a great deal of biodiversity data and knowledge and laid sound foundation for the designation and management of nature reserves**

Thank you !