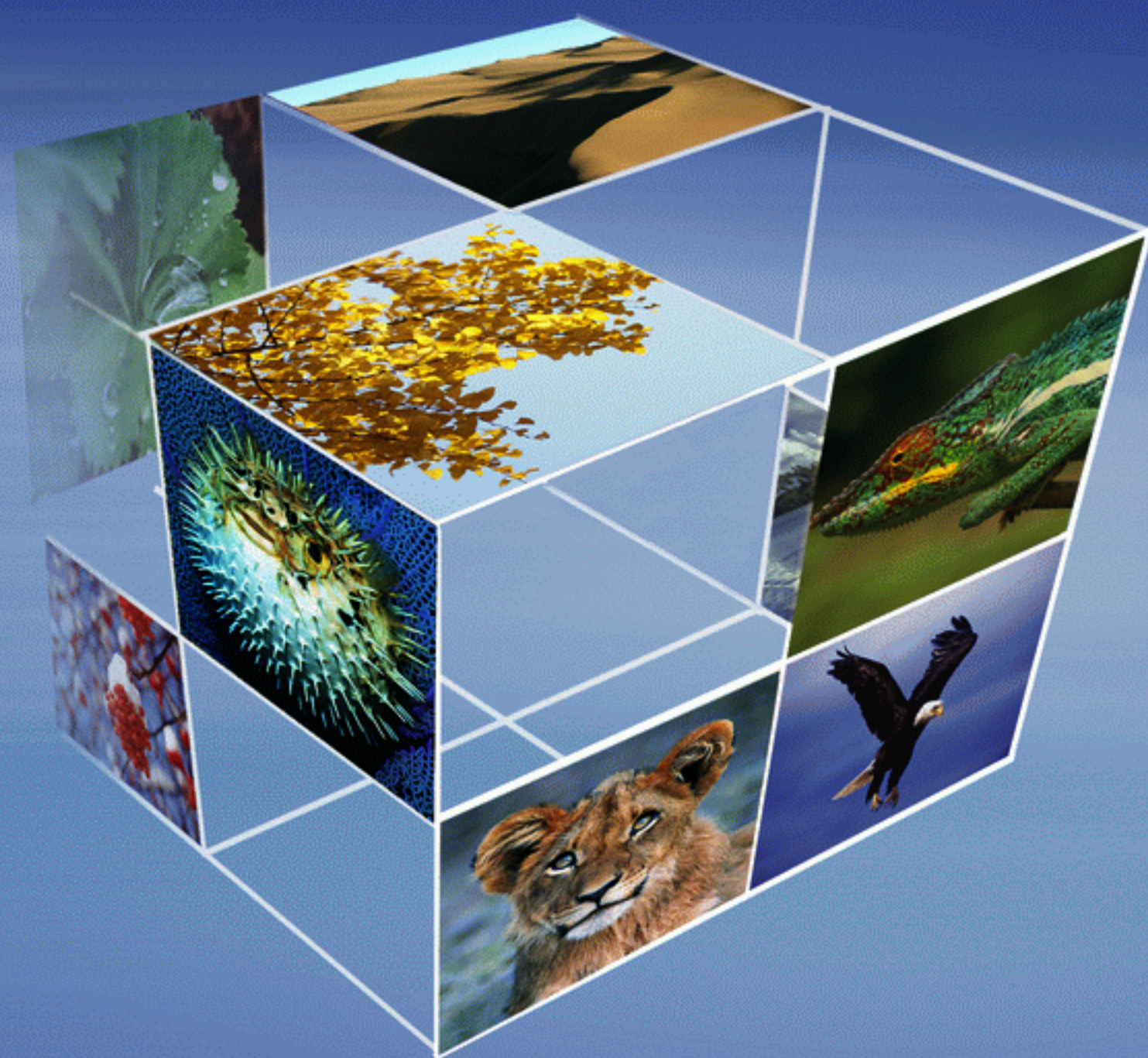


EU-CHINA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME 中国-欧盟生物多样性项目



BULLETIN
简报



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EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) Joint National Programme Office

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Foreword

EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) was officially signed on November 7, 2005. Thanks to the support and help from Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the joint National Programme Office (NPO) was established and started to work on May, 2006. By strengthening China's capability of implementing on Biological Diversity Convention, improving relevant policies and regulations, conducting field projects and raising visibility and public awareness, ECBP intends to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in China.

Now that the programme is at the inception stage of full-scale implementation when all aspects of work are achieving progress, it is important to track the implementation in a timely, detailed and accurate manner, to share experience gained and solve problems encountered through discussing key techniques and measures. To this end, a Bulletin for the EU-China Biodiversity Programme is hereby edited and issued. It is not only an outcome but also a tool for ECBP to achieve good communication, get suggestions, and make up gaps, so that efficiency can be promoted and progress can be informed of to each stakeholder for their attention, understanding, support, supervision and participation in our work of implementing ECBP. With joint diligence and efforts from all those involved, we hope this Bulletin would become a bridge between you and us through which the ultimate aim of good communication can be achieved. Your attention, recommendation, suggestion and participation dedicated to ECBP would be much appreciated. Let's try our best to make contribution to China's biodiversity conservation cause and sustainable development of human being.



I. Project Background

Biodiversity in China has both global significance and considerable local economic and cultural value. It is one of the ten 'mega-diverse' countries, with approximately 10% of all species. It has many rare and endangered species that are of commercial importance to man, for agricultural and medicinal purposes. Most significantly, because of its vast size, more than most countries it has a wider diversity of ecosystems, from desert to rain forest, from fertile plain to mountain top, from grassland to coral reef. The biodiversity in each of those ecosystems is unique, and underpins the socio-economic development of the country.

In recent decades, China's biodiversity has been severely degraded. Forest, wetland, grassland, desert and agricultural ecosystems have all been affected. The trend continues and many remaining elements of biodiversity are under threat. Loss of biodiversity can undermine sustainable development both locally and nationally, and undermine China's commitments to the international community. While there are examples of reversing biodiversity loss in China, their contribution remains insignificant. The direct threats are destruction of vegetation, overexploitation of land and of key species, loss and fragmentation of habitat, pollution and foreign invasive species. The underlying causes include a lack of understanding of the role which biodiversity plays in underpinning society and the economy in China. Where there is recognition, mechanisms for making and implementing policy are weak.

Nevertheless, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to biodiversity conservation. China ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993, vowing to conserve and sustainably utilize its biodiversity resources. In the same year, a Coordination Group was established for the Implementation of CBD, headed by SEPA and involving 22 ministries and departments under the State Council. Since then, work has been done to implement international conventions and protect biodiver-

sity in China. In 1994, China prepared a national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). It has since developed a comprehensive legal framework, and established a responsive institutional framework at the national level for biodiversity conservation.

The Government of China, committed to reversing biodiversity loss across the country, is developing an innovative partnership of Chinese and international governmental and non-governmental agencies, with the overall goal of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in ways that contribute to poverty alleviation and livelihood development.

Against this background, the EU-China Biodiversity Programme was formally signed on November 7, 2005. According to the agreement, EU will provide 30 million euro to China over 5 years.

II. Project Impacts

The objective of the ECBP programme is to strengthen the capacity for China's implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, improve the monitoring system for biodiversity conservation, raise public awareness and further promote the development of biodiversity-related policy and legal systems in China. In order to achieve these results, ECBP will promote integration, innovation and partnership. Integration involves vertical coordination between the central policy level and local level field projects, as well as horizontal coordination among agencies. Biodiversity considerations must be more firmly integrated into the full range of social and economic development policies and programmes. They should be moved to the forefront of thinking at all levels of society. In this respect, it is of paramount importance to increase both public and political awareness of the value of biodiversity and the negative consequences of its loss. Innovation refers to developing new ways to promote biodiversity pro-



tection and partnership refers to an open implementation approach. Chinese and International partners will be invited to link up to the programme through a series of field projects. In this way, it will be possible to bring a number of key organisations into the EU-China Biodiversity Programme in order to fully exploit synergies. The success and the impact of the programme will to a large extent depend on how well the various partners and stakeholders work together, and share knowledge, experience and ideas. The EU-China Biodiversity Programme is a positive step along the road to mainstream biodiversity into other policies and human development in general, and this new programme will hopefully make a real difference to biodiversity in China.

III. Project Structure

The overall programme objective is to establish replicable mechanisms for biodiversity management in China. The programme will combine top-down and bottom-up approaches in five groups of activities

- 1. Effective programme planning, management and monitoring;***
- 2. Strengthening SEPA and China's Steering Committee for the Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity, which is responsible for coordinating biodiversity-related policy among sectors - support to work at the policy level;***

The EU-China Biodiversity Programme aims to strengthen sound biodiversity management in all sectors. The programme will develop the capacity of the secretariat of China Steering Committee to establish effective systems of monitoring and feedback and to implement the Convention on Biodiversity

Mechanisms will be developed for vertical

integration and strengthening of institutional mechanisms from national to provincial and from provincial to local levels where plans and practices which directly affect biodiversity on the ground take place. Each sector has its own institutional mechanisms which connect policy with implementation the vertical element but coordination between sectors the horizontal element will also be improved at each level. The coordination will extend to other projects, non-governmental institutions, relevant peoples' organisations, which may be strengthened where needed, and, in a collective sense, to individuals and their personal needs and aspirations.

- 3. Mainstreaming biodiversity in the framework of strategic environmental assessments and of environmental impact assessments and other relevant policies (e.g. through capacity building for the relevant ministries);***

ECBP will seek to enhance and enlarge the scope of the policy-review think-tank within SEPA to cover policy, legislation and their implementation and to cover all sectors. The programme will review existing national biodiversity-related policies, their strengths, overlaps gaps, contradictions. It also encourages the development of bodies for independent review of environmental impacts on policy, laws and its implementation. In addition to policy, the programme will also review biodiversity-related laws/regulations, including gap identification.

- 4. Awareness raising;***

The programme is committed to raising environmental awareness and establishing a common platform for environmental communication and visibility. A separate Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC) will be contracted directly by the EC. To a greater or lesser degree, enhanced environmental awareness is a prerequisite for good decision-making. At national level, ECBP will review official Environmental Education curricula, develop recommendations for increased biodiversity content in Environmental Education, review existing training of

officials and prepare training module on biodiversity issues. At provincial level, this programme will implement an extensive biodiversity seminar programme for senior provincial officials in all sectors of selected programme areas and implement intensive public environmental awareness activities, which could include: courses in schools, general environmental awareness, enterprise-based use of minor biodiversity products, gathering and disseminating cultural and traditional uses of biodiversity.

5. *Field projects*

The purpose of the Field Projects is to test national policies and the structures and mechanisms for their implementation. The Field Projects are closely linked to ECBP activities designed to strengthen policy-making, testing the effects of policy in the field and monitoring their effects on biodiversity conservation. Field projects will develop innovative and replicable mechanisms for vertical integration and strengthening of institutional mechanisms from provincial to local level, to be implemented through a variety of institutional and ecological local settings. In addition, Field Projects will support development of multiple partnerships between international, national and local governmental and non-governmental agencies. The Field Projects will become agents of change; supporting and initiating appropriate changes to laws, policies, plans, programmes, procedures and practices at the national level.

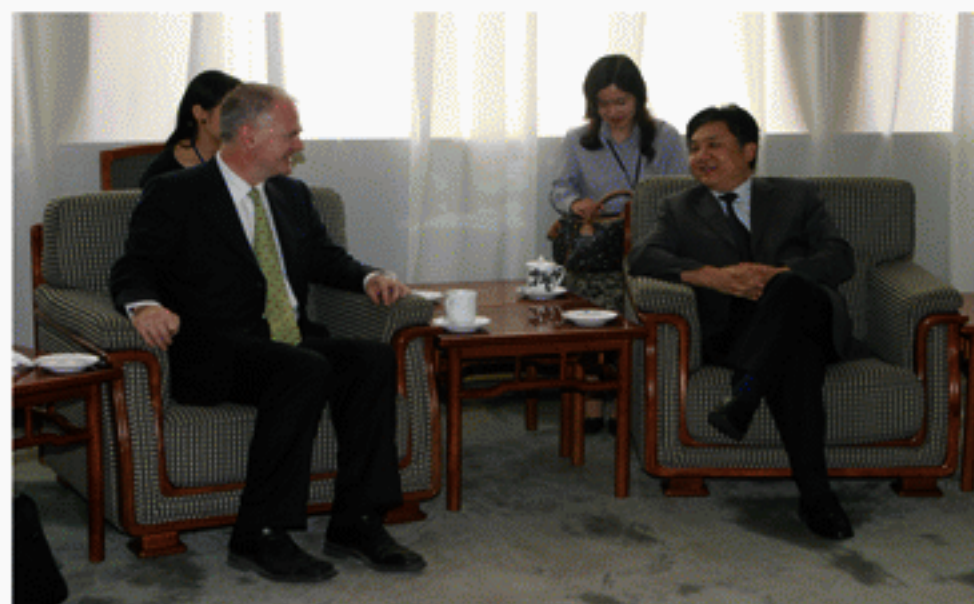
Government units at field level operate with land-use plans. Those plans should be the result of joint land-management decisions. Hence in the field Projects a major focus will be on land-use planning and on assuring due consideration of biodiversity in assessment of land suitability and potential, which is central to achieving rational major ecosystem management strategies. The local governments together with SEPA will coordinate the process in the provinces and will evaluate the learning strategically to draft new policies for biodiversity protection, ecosystem management and the maintenance of ecological services.

The results and outputs of the Field Projects demonstrating aspects indicated above will be brought to a policy platform whereby cross-sectoral and cross-institutional mechanisms can be brought to the fore as a basis for discussion for revision and reform of biodiversity related policies.

IV Project Progress

1. *Launching Ceremony of ECBP*

May 22nd is the world's International Day for Biological Diversity. As one of the important parts of the celebration for 2006, MOFCOM, SEPA, EU and UNDP co-held the launching ceremony of ECBP in the Great Hall of the People. Representatives from relevant parties of the programme attended the ceremony and gave speeches including: Mr. Wu Xiaoping - Vice Minister of SEPA, Mr. Franz Jessen-Deputy Head of Delegation of European Commission of EU in China, Mr. Kishan Khoday (on behalf of Mr Khalid Malik, Resident Representative of UNDP) - Assistant Resident Representative, Team Leader of Energy and Environment Cluster, UNDP China, Mr. Yin Zonghua - Deputy Director General of Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs from MOFCOM, and Mr. Ju Kuilin - Deputy Director General of International Department from Ministry of Finance. The launch ceremony also saw the presence of representatives from other related agencies, ministries, units and organizations both national and international, including: 54 representatives from member units of China's CBD Steering Committee, Ministry of Land Resources, and Ministry of Water Resources, 11 from relevant provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions),





10 from multi-lateral organizations such as World Bank, FAO, and UNDP, 18 from national and international partners and NGOs, 26 from scientific research institutes. During the conference, the future direction of China's biodiversity protection was discussed, and the awareness of the programme was expanded.

2. Establishment of PSC and Joint PMO

The Programme Steering Committee (PSC), Programme Management Office (PMO) and UNDP Country Office Support Unit (COSU) have been established in accordance with programme agreement, and office space, staff recruiting, equipment procurement have all been finalized. A Programme Framework and Annual Work Plan were drafted with the basic idea of building the capacity of SEPA and other Convention implementing units to promote integrated management and coordination of biodiversity activities.

3. Training Conference of ECBP Management System

On July 4th, 2006, the ECBP Programme Management System Training Workshop was held in Xi Yuan Hotel, Beijing. 24 representatives from MOFCOM, SEPA, EU and UNDP attended. Ms. Song Xiaozhi, Deputy Director General from Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of SEPA, made the opening remark. She pointed out that the



aim of the workshop is for ECBP staff to study the programme's management procedures, to improve the management capability and to carry out activities based upon real situations and requirements according to the programme document.

4. Discussion about potential cooperation between ECBP and China-GEF OP12 Programme

In order to deepen understanding and discuss the cooperation and communication between the two programmes, on August 10th, 2006, ECBP held a meeting with China-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems (OP12). With the introduction of each programme, both parties agreed that there are many similarities and close relations between the two programmes, and that ECBP and OP12 should set up a process to improve information sharing, special training courses, expert information, and website communication. Through such a mechanism both programmes' influence can be expanded. Some specific agreements were reached as follows:

Cooperation 1:	To invite each other to participate in programme activities to deepen understandings.
Cooperation 2:	To actively promote information and material sharing
Cooperation 3:	If possible, to co-hold special discussions, training courses and seminars
Cooperation 4:	To share expertise, by way of inviting each other's experts, to strengthen communication and integration of the two programmes
Cooperation 5:	Links of each other's website to raise visibility
Cooperation 6:	To identify common field demonstration areas and to seek common integrated efforts.

5. Support to and participation in CCICED's International Conference on Eco-compensation Mechanism and Policy

On August 24th and 25th, 2006, CCICED's International Conference on Eco-compensation Mechanism and Policy was held at Kempinski Hotel. Mr. Spike Millington, Chief Technical Adviser of ECBP, gave a keynote speech about ECBP in which he made a comprehensive introduction to the programme, illustrating the relations between ECBP and ecocompensation mechanism and CCICED, and gave an outlook concerning the fields for future cooperation for mutual development. This forum provided an important opportunity and platform for ECBP to raise its visibility and to collect considerable amount of



information and experience on some key aspects such as expertise and policy assessment.

6. First Meeting with SEPA Policy Research Center (PRC)

On August 30th, 2006, ECBP PMO held a meeting with SEPA (Policy Research Center) PRC in Sino-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Center. The main aims and topics were to deepen understanding, exchange ideas, and give a prospect on possible future cooperation fields and opportunities. Mr. Ren Yong, Deputy Director General from PRC, presented a detailed introduction on PRC's advantages concerning its research mechanisms, management systems, human resources and strategies, among which the advantages on policy research lie in PRC's working team, external academic resources and advantageous position in SEPA and in the field of environment economics and policy research, which prepare a sound basis and strong precondition for future cooperation and communication. Both parties agreed that a strengthening of cooperation is needed for future work at the end of the meeting.

7. Report programme progress to SEPA's Leading Group of Biodiversity Programme

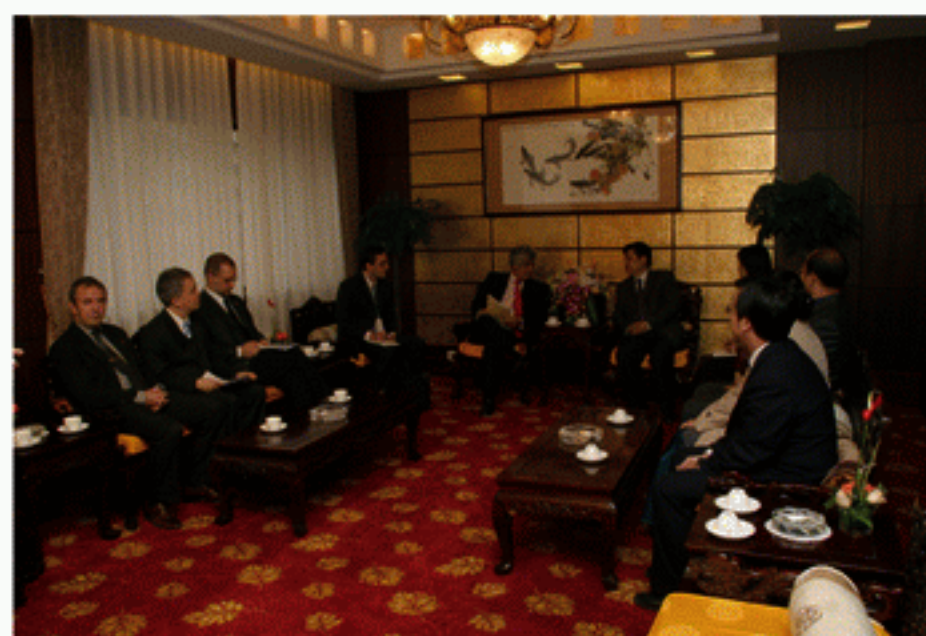
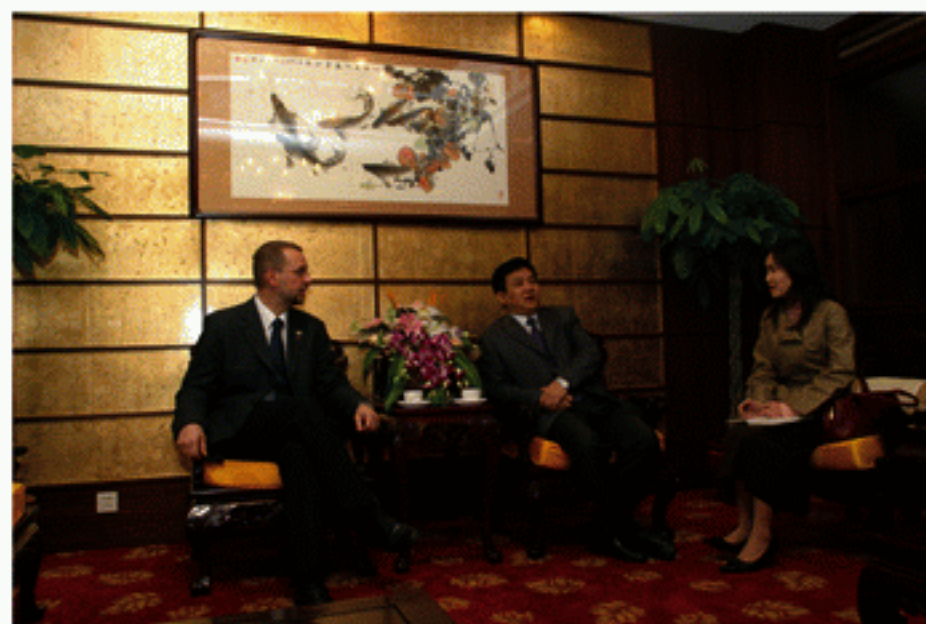
On September 7th, 2006, ECBP progress report meeting was held in Room 207 SEPA. Mr. Wan Bentai, Director General of Natural Conservation Department, SEPA, facilitated the meeting. Leaders and representatives from other departments including EIA, Plans and Finance, International Cooperation, and Foreign Economic Cooperation Office also participated in the meeting. Dr. Sun Xuefeng gave the report about the progress of ECBP and some issues requiring coordination of SEPA. The present progress of ECBP was fully affirmed in the meeting and future work was discussed and directed.

8. *EU officials visit Shennongjia Nature Reserve*

On October 23-25, 2006, before the EU-China Biodiversity Strategy Workshop was held, the ECBP PMO organized officials from EC Directorate General Environment to take an on-site visit to the Shennongjia National Nature Reserve in Hubei Province. Through understanding of local biodiversity situation and its protection measures, the officials considered that the natural resources in Shennongjia is uniquely abundant, but an effective biodiversity conservation measure is urgently needed. They gave a few suggestions to local authorities to achieve efficient and sustainable ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, including infrastructure construction, environmental education, eco-compensation and introduction of international experts.

9. *EU-China Biodiversity Strategy Workshop*

To strengthen biodiversity strategic cooperation between the European Union and China, State Environment Protection Administration of China and European Commission Environment Directorate-General jointly held EU-China Biodiversity Workshop on October 26 and 27, 2006. About 120 representatives from Members of China CBD Steering Committee, EC Delegation to China, Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Italy, UNDP, national and international NGOs, related scientific research institutes and some universities attended the workshop supported by ECBP. Representatives from both EU and China discussed some key issues on future work of biodiversity conservation including policies and management systems of biodiversity conservation, biodiversity monitoring and assessment system, biodiversity impact assessment, management and construction of protected areas, and mainstreaming of biodiversity in social-economic activities. The workshop provides a platform for sharing of national and international information, as well as brings new thoughts and directions for EU-China biodiversity conservation cooperation.



10. Call for Proposals

The total amount available under the ECBP for field projects in central, western and southern parts of China is EUR 21 millions. Upon communication and agreement within MOFCOM, SEPA, EU and UNDP, it's decided that the area for field projects under ECBP will be in 19 provinces (municipalities, autonomous regions) in central, western and southern parts of China (left side of the red ring in China's Map as below), and the field projects shall promote conservation and sustainable use in ecosystems, such as: desert, alpine and plateau, tropical, sub-tropical or temperate ecosystems, and agro-ecosystems or medicinal herb production areas. Areas with different institutional systems and ecosystem conditions will be chosen for field projects. These innovative field projects will contribute to strengthening the institutional systems at both provincial and local levels, and will support the development of relevant policies and regulations at national level. The Call for Proposals under ECBP was launched on July 29th, 2006.



11. Information Meetings for Call for Proposals

Three Information Meetings for Call for Proposals under EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP), co-hosted by UNDP and SEPA, were held on 29th August, 5th and 7th September in Beijing, Xining and Guiyang, respectively. Representatives from

MOFCOM, EU, UNDP China and SEPA attended the meetings and gave speeches. About 150 people from other government agencies, different national and international non-governmental organizations, universities and academic institutes participated in the meetings.

The main objective of the Information meetings is to answer and clarify questions raised by the participants regarding the Call for Proposals. The representative from UNDP China overviewed the ECBP programme. The Director of UNDP-COSU gave a detailed presentation on the Call for Proposals under ECBP, explaining some key issues regarding ECBP application and addressing some important points which potential applicants and partners should be aware of.

Afterwards, participants were invited to ask questions regarding the Call for Proposals. Representatives from EU, UNDP and UNDP-COSU answered their questions. A list of frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) was put on UNDP-China website: www.undp.org.cn after the meetings.

12. Opening Session for Field Project Applications

An Opening Session on September 29, 2006, all applications were opened and registered formally at the supervision of representatives from the ECBP's key stakeholders (EU, UNDP, MOFCOM, SEPA). A total number of 99 applications were received under the ECBP Call for Proposals. The applicants represent a wide range of national and international government agencies, research institutions, NGOs and so on.

COSU's staff then conducted a comprehensive and thorough Administrative Compliance Check of all the applications according to pre-set and agreed criteria and standards. As a result of the check, 14 applications were excluded from further evaluation due to serious deficiencies. A total number of 85 applications thus passed the Compliance Check and moved to the first IGRC Evaluation by an Independent Grant Review Commission (IGRC)

comprising 5 technical experts nominated by the key stakeholders.

13. First IGRC Evaluation Session

The IGRC evaluation session was held from 16th to 19th October and was co-chaired by SEPA and UNDP (represented by COSU's Director). The IGRC members signed an Impartiality Declaration before conducting the evaluation. Scores were allocated by the IGRC members for each application and a ranking list of all projects was established.

Afterwards, key stakeholder meetings were held to review the ranking list of applications and to ensure a balance in terms of geographical distribution, topics addressed and institutions involved. A total of 29 successful applications were short-listed for further improvement and evaluation.

V. Following-up Workplan

The launching and implementation of ECBP coincided with the launching year of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. As EU's biggest biodiversity programme in China during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, ECBP will promote CBDSC's implementation capacity as a starting point. It intends to support China's biodiversity protection through working closely with relevant ministries and SEPA departments (bureaus and offices).

Recent tasks include:

1. Assessment on the capacity of CBDSC and its secretariat. Independent experts will assess the capacity of CBDSC, especially SEPA as its secretariat, on legislation, policy making, coordination and implementation, and will make their suggestions upon how to improve these abilities.
2. Establishment of an Information Evaluation System and Data Base. The programme will carry out a baseline survey based upon the current data base, and will file a report afterwards and establish corresponding data base. The programme also plans to build an ECBP Information

Management Data Base.

3. Chosing priority focal points to draft biodiversity strategy and workplans. The programme will clarify its responsibilities and its supportive role. Upon necessary survey and analysis, ECBP will help those pilot focal points file development strategies and workplans, and try to achieve breakthroughs and reach consensus on some focal issues.
4. Updating Ecology Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment. This aims to integrate biodiversity protection into EIA and SEA systems.
5. Review and evaluation of biodiversity related regulations and policies.
6. Elaboration of 2007 Programme Workplan.
7. Holding PSC first meeting to discuss 2007 Workplan, ECBP Field Projects approval and so on.
8. Conducting second IGRC Evaluation Session. Based on advice from COSU, the short-listed projects will have opportunity to revise and improve their applications within 25 days of announcement. A second IGRC Evaluation Session will be held at the beginning of December, where the recommended projects would be selected. The first projects are expected to be approved at end of the year/early next year.



Speech at the Celebration Ceremony of
International Day for Biodiversity & the Joint
Inception of EU-China Biodiversity Programme
and the PDF-B Project for China Biodiversity
Partnership Framework on May 22nd

Wu Xiaoqing Vice Minister of State Environmental
Protection Administration



Distinguished representatives, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

First of all, I would like, on behalf of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), to extend my warm welcome to EU officials and representatives from the EU member states' missions in China, representatives from the UN organizations, representatives from embassies to China of other countries concerned and representatives of NGOs and experts attending today's celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity as well as the launching of relevant programs. My heartfelt thanks also go to all of you for your long-lasting care and support for the environmental protection undertakings of China.

Today marks the 13th International Day for Biodiversity with the theme of "protecting the biodiversity in arid areas" for this year. Taking up 47% of the land surface of the earth, arid areas are home to abundant as well as unique biodiversity, whereas their ecosystem are rather fragile due to

changeable precipitation. The arid and semi-arid areas in China account for 52.5% of the total area, thus attributing special features and implications of biodiversity to such vast lands. Biodiversity conservation in these areas is facing grave challenges posed by the harsh natural conditions coupled with the impact of irrational economic development activities of human being, thus giving rise to the endangerment of quite a number of species.

China is one of the top nations in terms of richness of biodiversity, which is not only a huge natural life resource for China, but also a treasure for the whole world. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to biodiversity conservation by setting up a Coordination Group for the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in China headed by SEPA and participated by 22 ministries and departments under the State Council and carrying out a series of work on the implementation of the Convention and on biodiversity conservation ever since China's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1993. In the year of 2003, the State Council approved the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Joint Meeting on Biological Resources again led by SEPA consisting of 17 departments as part of its efforts in strengthening the coordination of activities regarding biological resources conservation and management. SEPA also took the lead in developing a "Planning on the Conservation and Utilization of Biological Resources of China (2006~2030)" joined by experts from 8 relevant departments at the beginning of 2005, which mainly focuses on the improvement of biological resource protection as well as conservation-based sustainable utilization of biological resources. Other member departments of the Coordination Group have unveiled their works in this regard as well. For example, one crucial component of the "Planning on the Construction of Seven Major Agricultural Systems" developed in 2003 by the Ministry of Agriculture is the system on the protection of agricultural resources and ecological environment, which has explicitly set the ecological environment, which has explicitly set the goal on the protection of

grassland. The “Six Major Projects” implemented by the State Forestry Administration (SFA) are large-scale projects directly for the conservation of biodiversity. In 2005, SFA together with other 9 ministries and departments developed the “Plan on the Implementation of National Wetlands Conservation Project (2005~2010)”, which will make 50% of the natural wetlands under effective protection. All these efforts have substantively enhanced the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in China, thus making its due contribution to the global biodiversity conservation.

Apart from the domestic actions on biodiversity conservation, China has also embarked on close cooperation with related organizations within the UN system. In return, these organizations, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, to name just a few, have remarkably contributed to enhancing China’s capacity of biodiversity conservation and management.

As we all know, like many other countries and regions around the world, China has encountered a range of problems regarding biodiversity including the acceleration of species endangerment and extinction, ever-growing threat of alien invasive species and the heavy loss of biological genetic resources. One of the effective ways to address these problems is to draw on the successful international experiences, introduce cutting-edge technologies from foreign countries as well as broaden the participation of all social sectors through international cooperation projects.

As the first of its kind, the Program for China Biodiversity Partnership Framework is a planning project in the field of biodiversity financially supported by the funds from GEP and participated by relevant departments under the leadership of SEPA. This program aims to coordinate the activities conducted in China by relevant domestic and foreign partners and guide international cooperation of biodiversity conservation projects in China in the next decade and beyond by building a comprehensive, integrated and systematic biodiversity conservation cooperation mechanism and framework.

The EU-China Biodiversity Program, as the largest ever cooperative program among the three parties of the EU, UNDP and the Chinese Government in the biodiversity field, is a joint effort led by SEPA and extensively participated by relevant ministries and departments, local governments at all levels as well as various institutions and organizations, both home and abroad. The objective of this program is to strengthen the capacity building in China’s implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, set up the monitoring system on biodiversity conservation information, raising public awareness and further promote the development of biodiversity-related policy and legal system in China.

Presently, the environmental protection undertaking of China comes to a historical turning point. In this context, the State Council made a “Decision on Materializing the Scientific Concept of Development and Strengthening Environmental Protection”. By putting the attainment of harmony between man and nature as a major target for the modernization drive, this document outlines the goal, guideline and tasks for environmental protection of China in the next five-year and fifteen-year period based on the clear understanding of the rule between environment and development gained through making a scrutiny of and summary of both successful and failure stories from foreign and domestic environmental circles. At another grand event, namely the Sixth National Environmental Protection Conference, Premier Wen Jiabao articulated the call for “materializing the scientific concept of development in full scale and expediting the construction of environment-friendly society”. Signifying the strategic, directional and historical transformation for China’s environmental protection undertaking, this statement makes full expression of the requirement of our time as well as the will of the Chinese people, indicating the turning of a brand new page of the environmental protection cause in China.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Chinese Government, in light of taking a highly responsible attitude towards the long-standing interests for man and future generations, ratified the UN Convention of



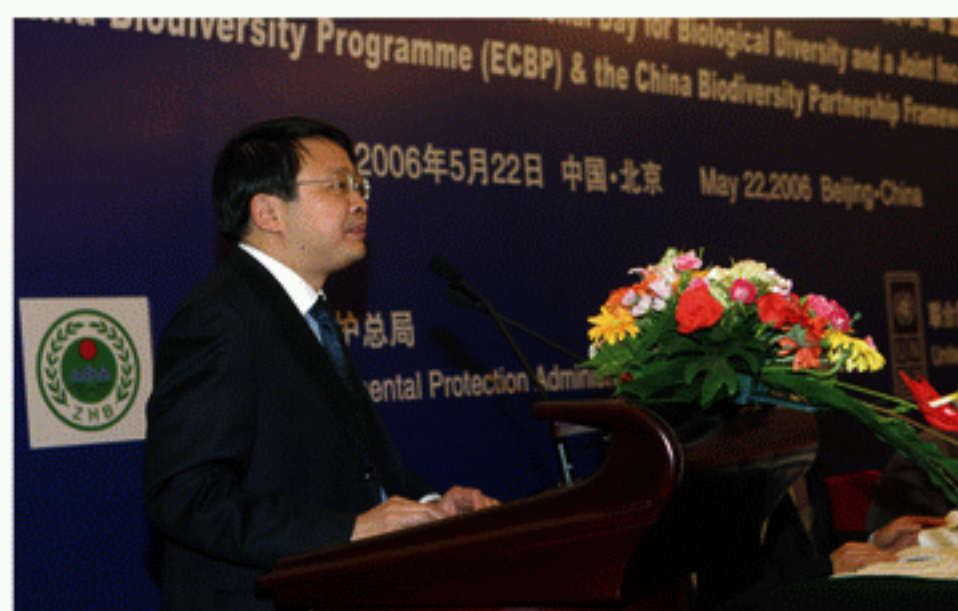
Biological Diversity 13 years ago. On April 27th of 2005, the Cartagena Protocol was also approved by China, representing our solemn commitment to the world to conserve biodiversity and safeguard biosafety. Being responsible to both its people and the international community, the Chinese Government has spent unremitting efforts in fulfilling its international obligations and has done a great deal of work including, among others, development of laws, establishment of supervision system on management and coordination, scientific research and investigations, raising public awareness and popularizing science. As a result, the work of biodiversity conservation and biological safety has been increasingly materialized and deepened with a sound social atmosphere taking its shape. We will further implement relevant international conventions, actively introduce international good practice, try our best in addressing existing problems in this field and make our due contribution to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the entire human race.

Last but not the least, I wish the every success of this meeting.

Thanks.

Speech on the Celebration Ceremony of International Day for Biological Diversity and Inception of EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) & UNDP/GEF China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF) PDF-B Project on May 22nd

Yin Zonghua, Deputy Director General, Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)



Distinguished Vice Minister Wu Xiaoqing, Deputy Head of Delegation Franz Jessen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

Today, I am very delighted to celebrate the 13th International Biodiversity Day and officially launch the 'EU-China Biodiversity Programme' with friends from foreign institutional delegations, international organizations and relevant Chinese government departments and divisions. This event fully demonstrates that all of us attach great importance to biodiversity cause. I wish today a complete success.

Environment, as the key of the sustainable development of the humanity, is closely linked with everyone's daily life. The Chinese government has paid enormous attention to environmental protection. According to the 11th five-year plan, to 'establish a resources-economical and environment-friendly society' and 'effectively protect biodiversity and promote restoration of nature's ecosystem' are objectives for the next five-year development. In the 6th National Environmental Protection Conference completed recently, Premier Wen Jiabao pinpointed the direction of the development of the environment protection cause by stating the requirement of 'implement the ideology of scientific development in all aspects, and accelerate the steps to establish an environment-friendly society'.

Environment issues are an important part of China's foreign exchange and cooperation, and are the priority area of EU's aid to China's development. In the past years, we have cooperated with EU to implement several programmes in environmental protection, including 'EU-Liaoning Integrated Environmental Programme', 'EU-China Automotive Industry Cooperation in Yangtze River Region', etc. These cooperative efforts have provided financial and technical supports to China; more importantly, they have brought in advanced management conceptions, enhanced China's management level and quickened China's environment protection progress. Please allow me to take this opportunity to express

my sincere gratitude to the European Commission for all your supports and help!

Since its opening-up to the outside world more than 20 years ago, China has realized some achievements in social economical development. However, China is still a developing country with lower medium income level. In our development cause, we have encountered many new problems and challenges. Environmental problems that occurred in different phases of the hundred-year industrialization of the developed countries have emerged in China in the recent 20 years. A significant issue China is facing and needs to deal with is how to strengthen its sustainable development capacity and establish a harmonious society in an all-around way. The European Union has successful experiences and advanced technology in this respect, all of which are valuable for us to learn from and draw upon. The Chinese government is willing to continue to cooperate with international communities, including EU in areas like regional coordination, legal system construction, social insurance, environment and sustainable development and so on.

I hope we can work together to find a series of biodiversity management mechanisms that are suitable to China's current situations and easy to popularize, and finally achieve the objectives of this programme.

Let us come together and work together to make our sky bluer, land greener, water clearer, air cleaner, and a more harmonious relation between human and nature.

Thank you all.



Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity Inception of EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) & China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF)

Opening Remarks by Kishan Khoday, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP China, People's Congress Hall, Beijing, May 22, 2006



His Excellency Wu Xiaoqing, Vice Minister of Environment, Mr. Franz Jessen, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in China, Distinguished colleagues and friends:

It is my pleasure and great honor to participate in this year's Celebration of International Biodiversity Day and the Inception of two new and important programmes for biodiversity conservation that UNDP is proud to be a part of. The United Nations established May 22 as International Biodiversity Day to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues and to celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the text of the UN Biodiversity Convention, which took place on May 22, 1992.

According to the UN Global Biodiversity Outlook Report launched at the recent Biodiversity Convention Conference of the Parties (COP), we have now entered the sixth mass extinction in our planet's history, owing to humanity's pressures on the critical ecosystems that support life on earth. Some fear that half of all species could disappear by the end of the century. According to the most recent IUCN Red List, published earlier this month, out of the 40,177 species assessed, 16,119 are under threat of extinction. This includes one third of amphibians, one quarter of coniferous trees and mammals, and one eighth of birds.

The extinction of species has implications for larger ecosystem services that sustain our economy-climate regulation, soil fertility, and water and nutrient cycles to name but a few. It is increasingly clear that the rapid loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services poses serious risks to achieving our common poverty reduction goals. UNDP works closely with our partners to achieve the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Action to reverse by the year 2010 this trend of biodiversity loss, while also achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing extreme poverty in half by 2015.

This year's theme for International Biodiversity Day is "Protect Biodiversity in Drylands". About 47% of the land surface of the Earth is dryland ecosystems, containing about 44% of the world's cultivated systems. Dryland biodiversity is therefore central to the livelihoods of almost 2 billion people, but is under severe threats from land use pressure and over exploitation. This has resulted in increased rates of desertification and serious water and food security challenges in many countries. The challenge is particularly intense in areas outside of protected areas, where more than 2,300 known dryland species are now threatened or endangered.

As expressed in China's recently endorsed 11th Five-Year Programme, China also gives high priority to this issue and seeks to mainstream biodiversity into development policy. China is one of only 10 'mega-diverse' countries on the planet, hosting a diversity of ecosystems from an abundance of forest and freshwater species in the South to the unique mountain and dryland ecosystems in the North and the West of the country.

Dryland ecosystems have been of particular concern in recent times. Approximately 40% of China's land mass is classified as dryland ecosystems, and approximately half of this area has been affected by land degradation and desertification. Dryland biodiversity plays a significant role in preventing land degradation and desertification, in supporting local livelihoods and in reducing the vulnerabilities

of local communities to droughts and floods. These ecosystems have played a key role in China's development achievements over the past decades, providing the basis for a strong agriculture sector that has lifted millions out of poverty. However, with China's ecosystems under immense pressure, the sustainability of these development achievements now stands at risk.

Actions to both slow the rate of desertification and sustain biodiversity in dryland ecosystems should focus on: slowing conversion of grassland and savannah systems to agriculture and urban settlement, building local institutions that will alleviate poverty and allow the poor to realize sustainable livelihoods, and mobilizing sufficient financial and technical resources to achieve the goal of reserving the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Future approaches should be characterized not by a choice between 'biodiversity or development' but by an increasing recognition of the value of 'biodiversity for development'.

The launch of the two new and important biodiversity initiatives today can mark the start of a new phase of strategic partnerships for biodiversity conservation in China, and with their strong focus in Western China, can bring solutions to the challenge of biodiversity and sustainable development in drylands. These programmes represent an unprecedented attempt to bring together, for the first time at this scale, all relevant parties from international, national and sub-national communities to agree on a common strategic framework to guide national development policies and decision-making to address biodiversity conservation challenges.

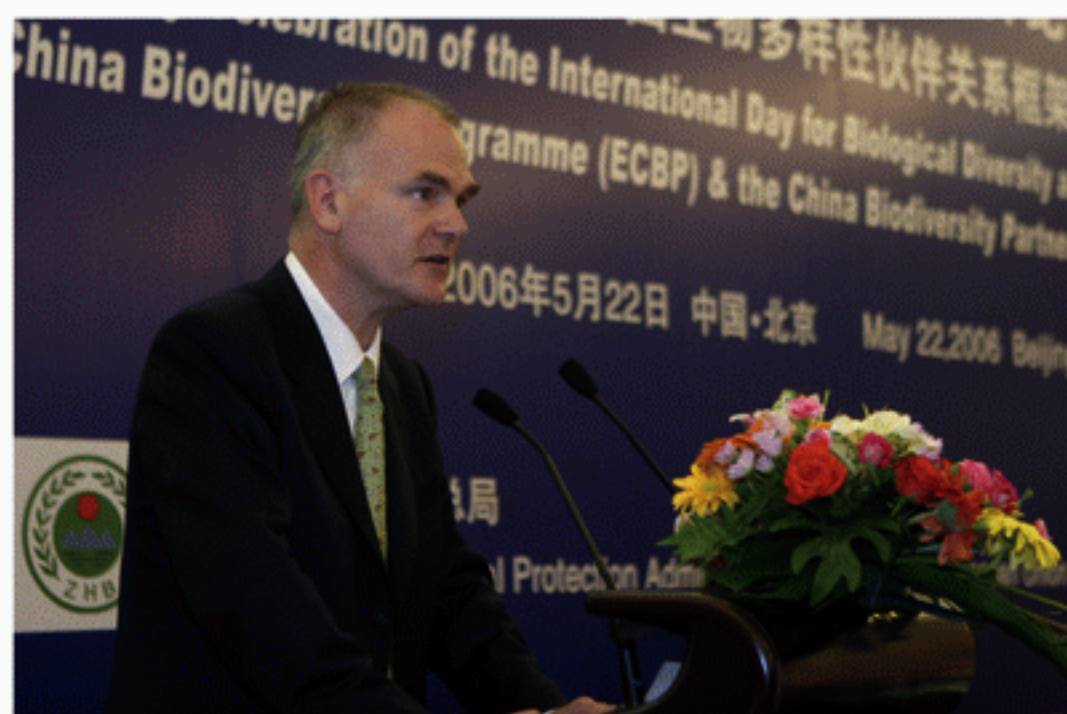
As we celebrate International Biodiversity Day and launch these landmark programmes, UNDP is glad to see so many advocates for biodiversity conservation gathered in this hall today. Our message is: join us in this new and exciting partnership. Engage and use these programmes as valuable platforms for achieving biodiversity goals in China. Bring your expertise, your creativity, and your participation to achieving our common goals.

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the organizers and supporters of this event within SEPA, and to all those who led the design of these important initiatives. We wish this event a great success.

Thank you.

Speech on the Ceremony of international Day for Biodiversity and Inception for the EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) and China Biodiversity Partnership Framework (CBPF)

Dr. Franz Jessen, Deputy Head of Delegation European Commission Delegation to China and Mongolia



Your Excellency Vice Minister Wu Xiaoqing, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On March 5, 2006, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao delivered his Report on the Work of the Government at the National People's Congress. Mr Wen Jiabao emphasised that "we need to carry out an extensive and long-term resource conservation campaign throughout the country to heighten public awareness of the need to conserve resources". Biodiversity is a vital national and global resource and truly is something which impacts on all of us – the benefits of biodiversity to our well-being are countless.

Today is a very exciting moment for those of us committed to biodiversity protection, and for those of us who know about the vital role of biodiversity in human development. Today is the International Day

for Biological Diversity – we could not have chosen a better time to launch the implementation of our EU-China Biodiversity Programme.

Allow me to tell you what is happening on this International Biodiversity Day in the EU. Today, the European Commission will adopt a new policy paper on "Halting the loss of biodiversity to 2010 – and beyond". This lays out how the EU will meet its 2010 commitment within the EU, and how it will contribute to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss worldwide by 2010. Regarding the latter, it specifies measures in international governance, trade and development cooperation. We hope that China may be inspired by this new policy development in its own efforts towards 2010.

Biodiversity in China has both global significance and considerable local economic and cultural value. China is one of the ten 'mega-diverse' countries, with approximately 10% of all species. The Government of China is committed to reversing biodiversity losses across the country. The EU-China Biodiversity Programme will provide support to China in designing biodiversity policies and strategies, and in implementing those on the ground.

In order to achieve these results, the EU-China Biodiversity Programme shall promote integration, innovation and partnership, which are the three key words characterizing the Programme approach. Integration means vertical coordination between the central policy level and local level field projects. Biodiversity considerations must be more firmly integrated into the full range of social and economic development policies and programmes. They should be moved to the forefront of thinking at all levels of society. In this respect, it is of paramount importance to increase both public and political awareness of the value of biodiversity and the negative consequences of its loss.

Innovation refers to developing new ways to promote biodiversity protection and partnership refers to an open implementation approach. We will invite Chinese and international partners to link up to the Programme. For that purpose, the EU-China



Programmes will offer co-financing of 50% of so called 'field projects', which will be implemented in China's provinces. There are quite some international, regional and national organisations working in the field of biodiversity conservation in China. We do hope that it will be possible to bring a number of key organisations into the EU-China Biodiversity Programme in order to fully exploit synergies. The success and the impact of the Programme will to a large extent depend on how well the various partners and stakeholders work together, and share knowledge, experience and ideas.

We are keen to ensure that biodiversity becomes a natural consideration of policy and decision-making at national, regional and local levels. We need to keep enforcing this message so that biodiversity becomes something that people really value and care about. The EU-China Biodiversity Programme is a positive step along the road to mainstream biodiversity into other policies and human development in general, and I am confident that this new programme will make a real difference to biodiversity in China.

Our cooperation on biodiversity and on environment in general represents an important part of the EU-China strategic partnership. It is an essential complement to the economic, technological and social cooperation between the EU and China. Let me recall that the EU supports China's development with three main instruments: a) trade-the EU offers China a huge market; b) investment by EU companies in China, which comprises transfer of financial resources, technology and know-how; and c) cooperation on research and technology-representing transfer of know-how for future development. The technical exchanges and cooperation on environment add a fourth dimension to this partnership.

Coming back to the EU-China Biodiversity Programme, I would like to thank and congratulate all those involved in the EU-China Biodiversity Programme, in particular our key partners that are here today: the State Environmental Protection Administration, the Ministry of Commerce, and UNDP.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is one thing to make a commitment. It is quite another think to deliver. But we must deliver on biodiversity protection. As an old Chinese saying goes:

"Qian(1) Li(3) Zhi(1) Xing(2), Shi(3) Yu(2) Zu(2) Xia(4) 千里之行 始于足下 (the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step)" – I sincerely believe that our joint initiative will bring us a step forward to acting towards these goals. I am therefore delighted to announce the official inception of the EU-China Biodiversity Programme.

Speech on the EU-China Biodiversity Strategy Workshop

Wu Xiaoqing, Vice Minister of SEPA October 26, 2006



Respected Ambassador, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

EU-China Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy is opened in Beijing today. Centering on the theme biodiversity, experts and management staff from China and EU will discuss and exchange their experience. This is of great significance for us to improve understanding, strengthen cooperation, jointly explore scientific management mode and development strategy on the conservation of biodiversity as well as promote the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity in China and even the world. First of all, on behalf of State Environmental Protection Administration and in my own name, I extend my warm welcome to the guests

attending the meeting and best wish to each expert and friend.

China and EU have carried out close and wide cooperation in the field of environmental protection, especially in the field of biodiversity over the past few years. At the second EU-China Ministerial Environmental Policy Dialogue in June 2005, biodiversity was identified as one of the four priority areas of EU-China environmental cooperation. Under the joint efforts of the two sides, the agreement on "China-EU Biodiversity Programme" was signed in November of 2005. This programme was officially launched in May this year. Demonstration projects are underway with some staged outcomes. The Workshop today is an important component of EU-China biodiversity cooperation and a specific action for the implementation of EU-China Biodiversity Programme.

Conservation of biodiversity is an important component of environmental protection and resource conservation and major measure for securing ecological safety as well as an important aspect for sustainable economic and social development. As one of the countries with richest biodiversity in the world, China is next to only Brazil and Columbia, ranking the third. China has done a lot in conserving biodiversity and implementing the international convention since it signed the Convention on Biodiversity in 1992. With such measures as developing laws, regulations and planning, implementing on-the-site or removal conservation, scientific research, publicity and education, the biodiversity in China has been under effective control and the degradation trend of ecological environment has been effectively curbed.

China has successively issued a series of laws and regulations such as the Environmental Protection Law, Wildlife Protection Law, Forest Law, Regulations on Natural Reserves and Regulations on the Protection of Wild Plant Species, which constitute relatively complete legal system. It has established the coordination mechanism for implementing the Convention on Biodiversity and inter-ministry meeting system for the conservation of biological species

resources. In addition, the Chinese Government has developed and implemented the China Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Outline of the Planning for National Ecological Environment Protection. Moreover, it has launched some key national programmes such as the development of 7 major agricultural systems, 6 big forestry projects and the conservation plan for species resources. Up to the end of 2005, there were 2,349 various nature reserves at different levels across mainland China with total area of 1.5 million km², accounting for about 15% of total land area of China. As a result, it has primarily established a national network of protected areas characterized by various type, appropriate distribution and relatively full functions.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Chinese Government establishes the principle of adhering to the outlook on scientific development, developing socialist harmonious society and realizing the harmony between man and nature. It has established the basic policy of building a resource saving and environment-friendly society. The Sixth National Conference on Environmental Protection held this year clearly states that, in the new period, environmental protection work of China should realize the "Three transformations" of historic significance. All these point out the direction for furthering environmental protection work and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. China has clearly mainstreamed the conservation of biodiversity into the 11th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. In addition, the State Council issued the Decision on Strengthening Environmental Protection Work that presents clear requirements for effective conservation of biodiversity. In a word, the conservation of biodiversity in China is facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges.

At present, environmental protection work in China is at critical period. To realize the historic transformation of environmental protection work in the new era and meet national objectives of environmental protection, it is of great importance to identify development strategy and improve capacity building. As a big developing country, the implementation of



As a big developing country, the implementation of large-scale environmental strategy and action requires strengthening of international cooperation and learning advanced ideas, experience and technologies of developed countries.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the cooperation with EU. The inception of EU-China Biodiversity Programme is an important milestone for deepening the bilateral cooperation and jointly conserving biodiversity. The important thing for bilateral cooperation is the establishment of a sound cooperation platform and development of a flexible cooperation mechanism. In the spirit of equality, mutual trust and benefits, the two sides should, using the cooperation mechanism as a bridge and cooperation programme as a platform, aim at accumulating experience, overcoming existing difficulties, realizing big breakthrough in biodiversity conservation work in China and promoting the development of biodiversity activities of the two parties through experience exchange, training and aid. At present, we hope that China and EU enhance their cooperation and exchanges on biodiversity in the following three priority areas: 1) biodiversity conservation monitoring system, that is, the development of legal and management systems on biodiversity conservation and relevant policies; 2) biodiversity monitoring and evaluation system, that is, the development of biodiversity monitoring network, biodiversity evaluation method and biodiversity information exchange mechanism; 3) financing for biodiversity conservation, i.e. international financing channels and domestic financial mechanism for the conservation of biodiversity, etc. With the cooperation activities in the above three areas, it is expected that China and EU will expand and deepen their cooperation in such fields as the development of nature reserves, conservation of species resources and zoning of ecological function areas. In doing so, it is expected that a sound biodiversity conservation guarantee system will be set up in China with biodiversity under effective conservation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Conserving biodiversity is a great cause benefiting

both present and future generations. The beauty of the world lies in its rich color. The greatness of human civilization lies in its diversified culture. The long-term happiness of mankind lies in every life in the world where we live. So, let us hand in hand protect biodiversity on which human beings depend.

Finally, on behalf of SEPA, I extend my heartfelt thanks to EU for its kind support to the cause of environmental protection in China in recent years. I wish a complete success of both the meeting and the implementation of EU-China Biodiversity Programme!

Thank you!





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