



EU-CHINA  
EU-China Biodiversity Programme  
中国—欧盟生物多样性项目

# NEWSLETTER

项目通讯

02

EU-CHINA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue  
September 2007

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## Editorial

Welcome to this the second newsletter of the EU-China Biodiversity Programme and first newsletter to be developed by the Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC) or third leg of the programme. VAC is still at an early stage and the current newsletter is still far from our dreams of a widely read, informative document that helps cement the disparate news of our many programme stakeholders, promote greater awareness about biodiversity issues in general and highlight the successes and lessons learned from our own ECBP activities in particular.

The newsletter will remain but one tool in a growing arsenal of approaches that will include a website for knowledge exchange and a range of campaign elements and products (books, guidelines, training courses and events). We hope to build up a wide network of biodiversity advocates that can echo the messages farther and wider than we can ever reach alone. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to join us in this awareness campaign.

The results of our Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey clearly indicate that biodiversity remains a poorly understood concept in China and a lot must be done before biodiversity issues can be routinely given due attention in the development planning processes of this very dynamic country.



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# ECBP Introduction

The €51 million EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) is EU's largest overseas Biodiversity conservation programme. It is a joint initiative between the European Union (EU), the Chinese Ministry of the Commerce (MOFCOM), the United Nations Development Programme and the Chinese State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA). The programme was launched in November 2005 and will run for five years. It aims to conserve specific ecosystems in China by strengthening biodiversity management. This includes strengthening the effectiveness of the China Steering Committee in implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and especially of SEPA as its secretariat. The programme combines policy dialogue, development, institutional strengthening and raising awareness with a set of demonstration field projects focusing on site-specific activities.

€21 million of the EU's programme contribution of €30 million, is earmarked for 19 field projects, selected from a call for proposals process completed during 2006 and with matching funds put up by project executants. Innovative and replicable mechanisms will be developed to integrate and strengthen institutional mechanisms for implementing policy from provincial to local level in a variety ecological settings throughout west, central and southern China. Through these field projects, the programme will support the development of multiple partnerships between international, national and local governmental and non-governmental agencies. The Field Projects are designed to become agents of change; supporting and initiating appropriate changes to laws, policies and plans, emphasize environmental awareness and establish a common platform for environmental communication and visibility.

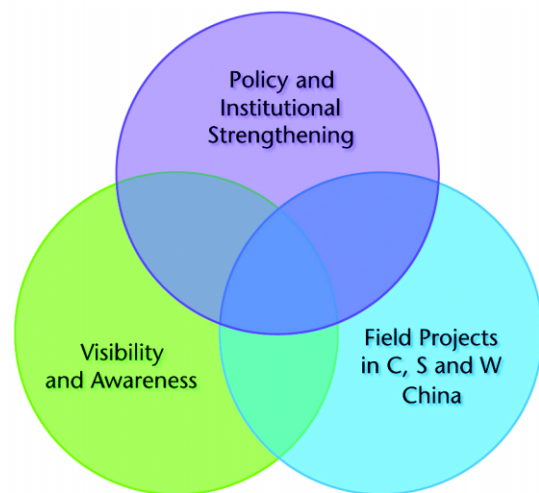
The Programme will be implemented through three inter-related components:

1. Programme Management Office (PMO), which determines the strategy and overall direction of the programme, assists responsible units in all relevant sectors to embed positive consideration of biodiversity in their plans and activities and enhances and enlarges the scope of the policy-review think-

tank within SEPA to deal with biodiversity issues in policy, legislation and their implementation at all levels.

2. Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC), which has the prime task of ensuring widespread visibility and awareness of the programme and biodiversity issues at all levels within Chinese government and society;

3. Country Office Support Unit of UNDP China (COSU), which is responsible for the contractual, financial, technical management and monitoring of the 19 field projects to be funded under a grant programme financed by the EC and managed through the UNDP. The COSU is also responsible for implementing a monitoring framework for the field projects.



The Field Projects will be located in Central, Western and Southern provinces of the country. This represents areas of high biodiversity importance, with a strong dependence of local population on natural resources and biodiversity. The western development strategy of the Government of China also prioritizes this area for sustainable development in the near future, offering a significant opportunity for ECBP to support and help shape both local and national conservation activities.



## ECBP In Action

### 1. Biodiversity and Ecological EIA Guideline Workshop

ECBP supported a workshop to review and revise ecological guidelines for EIA in Beijing on December 11 -12, 2006. The original Ecological Guidelines on EIA were developed in 1997 and contain little recent advances in ecological studies and has no specific biodiversity content. In 2006, ECBP supported the EIA Department of SEPA in revising these and incorporating biodiversity. A draft revision of the Guidelines was discussed at the workshop and a series of clear suggestions were put forward, including supplementing eco-system functions, biodiversity indicators and specific measures to integrate the indicators into EIA procedures. ECBP highlighted experience from the EU. ECBP CTA Spike Millington presented biodiversity guidelines from UK, and Marie Bystrom of Swedish Biodiversity Institute described experiences from Sweden.

### 2. Biodiversity Monitoring Study Tour

A biodiversity monitoring study tour was sponsored by ECBP for Chinese officials to learn more about biodiversity monitoring

and information management mechanisms in Europe, and develop cooperation with EU biodiversity monitoring and information management agencies. Representatives from General Office of State Council, MOFCOM, SEPA and relevant departments participated in the study tour to UK and Denmark. The study focused on biodiversity assessment, information mechanism in protected areas, indicators and national information networks. An initial cooperation and communication mechanism was set up with these institutions.

### 3. Capacity CBD Implementation Institutions

An independent assessment team was recruited by ECBP to assess the implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China, aimed to help China fulfill its international obligations under CBD.

The assessment team worked closely with SEPA's CBD Implementation Office and the 22 member CBD Steering Committee. It also undertook a field visit to Sichuan to review CBD implementation at provincial

and local levels and visited Dujiangyan, where a county-level Biodiversity Action Plan is being implemented. The team made a series of specific recommendations on institutional restructuring and improved mechanisms for coordination, as well as recommendations for developing a revised a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, based on lessons learned from China and internationally.

### 4. Workshop of CBD 2010 Targets and CBD Implementation Experience

A workshop on "CBD 2010 Targets and CBD Implementation Experience" was held on February 12, 2007. As part of its obligations under CBD, China has committed to reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The workshop presented international experience in developing targets and indicators for 2010. The workshop raised the awareness of participants of CBD targets and the needs to develop indicators adapted to the Chinese situation.

### 5. First ECBP Steering Committee Meeting

The first Programme Steering Committee Meeting (PSC) was held in Beijing on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. ECBP staff presented the overall programme strategy, 2006 Annual Report, and 2007 Annual Work Plan and recommendations of field projects. Representatives discussed issues on agenda, fully acknowledged the achievements made during 2006 and made constructive suggestions on the 2007 Work Plan. The PSC approved the first nine field projects.

The ECBP PSC includes representatives from EU, MOFCOM, UNDP and SEPA. Observer representatives included the State Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agricultural, State Administration for Traditional Chinese Medicine, State Intellectual Property Office and the Chinese Academy of Sciences,

## 6. Independent EU Assessment Mission

An independent evaluation was carried out in March 2007 on the status of ECBP implementation. The evaluation was focused on ECBP progress in 2006, management structure and mechanisms, logical framework, institutional coordination status, as well as constraints and opportunities for improved performance. Separate meetings were held with EU, MOFCOM, UNDP, SEPA and ECBP staff.

The evaluation acknowledged the progress of ECBP and the challenges to be faced in the future. Recommendations were made on the Programme objectives, strategies, logical framework revision, internal management structure and the reporting systems.

## 7. ECBP Strategic Review Workshop

ECBP Strategic Review Workshop was held from April 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Beijing. The workshop was aimed at refining a strategy and overall work plan.

Participants were first trained on logical frame working, and then ECBP strategic objectives, outputs were redefined. The draft strategy (logframe) was shared with SEPA, key Departments and line agencies for additional input and submitted to the PSC meeting for approval.

Participants included representatives from EU, MOFCOM, UNDP, SEPA as well as ECBP staff.

## 8. Second ECBP Steering Committee Meeting

The second ECBP Steering Committee Meeting was held in Beijing on May 15, 2007. The meeting approved the ECBP 2006 Annual Report and 2007 Annual Work Plan. Ten new field projects were

approved, taking the total number of field projects to 19. It was agreed that the third Steering Committee Meeting will be held around January 2008.

## 9. International Biodiversity Day celebration

International Biodiversity



Day celebration was held in Beijing on May 22, 2007. The theme of this year is Biodiversity and Climate Change. The first Five ECBP field projects were signed at the ceremony, with a total grant of about \$6 million USD, which marked official launching of local activities. The field projects are expected to provide reference, cases and support to central level work. There will be another 14 field projects to be signed under this framework.

Over 120 representatives from member organizations of China CBDSC, relevant ministries, foreign embassies in China, international organizations, NGOs, scientific and educational institutions participated in the ceremony.

## 10. Communication Meeting between SEPA NCD and EC Beijing Delegation

A communication meeting was held between EC Beijing Delegation and Department of Ecology and Nature Conservation (NCD)/SEPA and on June 22, 2007. SEPA's Ecology, Protected Areas, Rural Environment Protection, Bio-Safety and CBD Implementation Office introduced their division's responsibilities. The First Counsellor of EU Nicholas Costello expressed his appreciation of the work done by NCD/SEPA and expressed his support for further cooperation. Deputy Director General Cheng Lifeng from NCD/SEPA facilitated the meeting.





## China Biodiversity KAP Survey



The Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC) has carried out a biodiversity Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey in July and August, 2007. The aim of the KAP survey is to give key stakeholders of ECBP a more nuanced understanding of public opinion concerning biodiversity issues in China. In addition, the results of this survey will be used as a benchmark for evaluating the impacts of awareness raising activities. The survey was conducted by an international expert and national experts from the Center for Integrated Agricultural Development of China Agricultural University. The survey covers Beijing and those provinces where the field projects are located.

## Media Training



The Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC), has successfully organized media training for ECBP staff

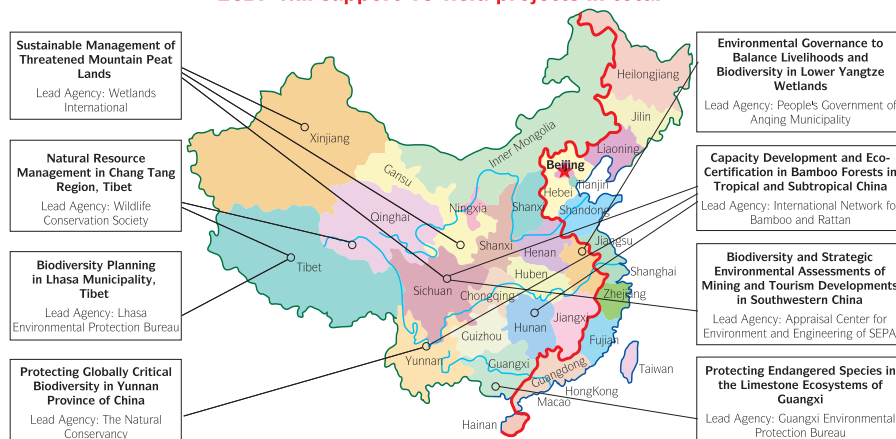
from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>. The training was aimed at enhancing and strengthening the communication skills of ECBP staff, representatives of key stakeholders and field project communication officers. The training has enabled trainees to understand the techniques of communication and become more confident in dealing with the media.

## Field Projects

### — Fighting Decline of Biodiversity in Western China

#### The First 8 Field Projects

ECBP will support 19 field projects in total



Over the summer, UNDP and lead Chinese and international partners have signed the first 8 Grant Agreements on biodiversity

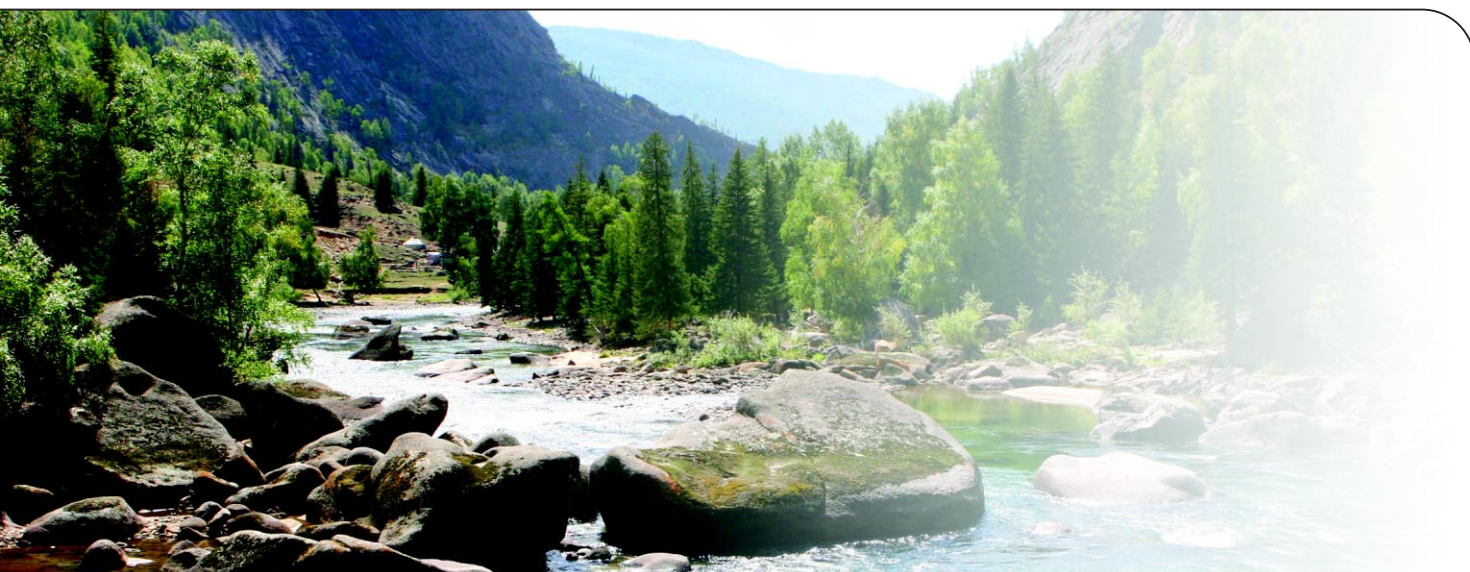
field projects under ECBP. The projects take place in provinces, prefectures, cities and counties in Western China.

A total of 19 field projects are planned to start before the end of 2007. The ECBP grant for the field projects is the largest financial component of the ECBP programme.

The field projects are based on three principles: Partnership, Innovation and Cost Sharing.

The projects focus on issues such as ecosystem management (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, limestone and bamboo forests) and on biodiversity planning and integration into development plans (EIA, SEA, eco-compensation, agro-biodiversity, community participation, biodiversity monitoring and action plans etc).

ECBP provides 50% of the financial contribution to the projects while the partners provide the other 50%. About 100 Chinese ministries, government departments, research institutions and NGOs as well as many international expert organizations and institutions have formed consortia to undertake the projects.



# The First 8 Field Projects

## **Protecting Unique Landscapes and Biodiversity in Yunnan Province of China**

The project will work with local government and communities to develop a new legal and administrative framework that will satisfy local development needs and safeguard the area's rich biodiversity resources. Local management bodies with legal status and well defined tasks will be set up and trained through on-the-job activities in data collection, monitoring, and business methods for conservation concessions and eco-tourism.

## **Protecting Endangered Species in the Limestone Ecosystems of Guangxi**

The project will help to improve the conservation of biodiversity in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region through a combination of policy, institutional and administrative changes in provincial and local governments. Activities will focus on the limestone ecosystems of southwestern Guangxi, where the project will implement measures to halt destruction of habitats for endangered species such as Cao Vit Gibbon, White-headed Leaf Monkey and Tokay Gecko. The project will undertake science-based conservation and facilitate information sharing to guide decision-making.

## **Environmental Governance to Balance Livelihoods and Biodiversity in Lower Yangtze Wetlands**

The project will create conditions for wetland users to take joint actions that reduce negative impacts on wetland biodiversity while supporting local income generation. At the municipal level, biodiversity measures will be included in annual government

work plans for various economic sectors. Wetland biodiversity indicators will be included as a basis for criteria used to assess the annual performance of local government agencies. At the county level, various approaches to community based integrated conservation and development will be demonstrated.

## **Capacity Development and Eco-Certification in Bamboo Forests in Tropical and Subtropical China**

The project will demonstrate the economic and conservation benefits of maintaining mixed species stands, restricting harvest levels, and implementing certification schemes for bamboo from sustainably managed forests.

The project will improve the current bamboo harvesting methods by increasing productivity and reducing impact of the harvesting of endangered species. This will help rural people in western China, and protect the habitats of species like red panda and giant panda. The project will combine work with bamboo harvesters at township level at pilot sites in Hunan, Sichuan and Yunnan with policy and monitoring work at national level.

## **Biodiversity and Strategic Environmental Assessments of Mining and Tourism Developments in Western China**

The project will support activities to improve the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process of future mining and tourism plans in Sichuan Province. National technical guidelines will be developed to incorporate biodiversity conservation into the SEA process and capacities will be built to improve enforcement of environmental requirements. This includes





institution capacities and partnerships between government, NGOs and business. Lessons learned will be catalogued and results will be shared with national and local authorities.

### Natural Resource Management in Chang Tang Region, Tibet

The project will develop coordinated planning and improved enforcement of plans and policies through cooperation with and between government departments. In particular the project will facilitate the development of a comprehensive landscape-level Conservation Management Plan for the region which will be integrated in the key economic sectors' current policies and development plans. In doing so, the project will support the collection of information required for the plan and help set up the necessary monitoring mechanisms to track conservation performance. The project will also work with livestock herders to increase their access to conservation information and to help them develop more sustainable practices.

### Sustainable Management of Threatened Mountain Peat Lands

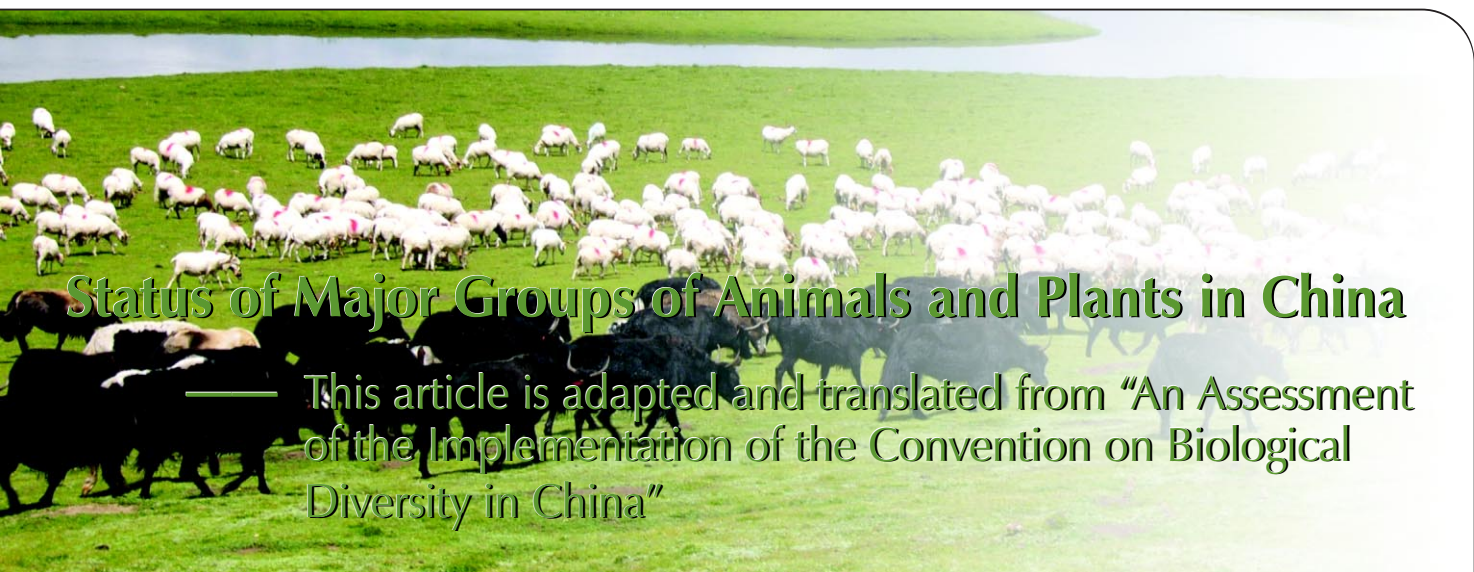
The project focuses on integrated management of mountain peat lands, in the two main regions where these occur in China. The project work in Ruorgai Marshes on the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau and the Altai Mountains in NW China and it will demonstrate practical ways in which biodiversity conservation and provision of ecosystem services can be supported by different economic sectors and local communities. After collation of available biodiversity and socio-economic information, conservation strategies will be prepared, approved and implemented by local governments. Part of the solution to the problems will involve changes in infrastructure planning and grazing management. Techniques for restoring peat lands damaged by old drainage schemes will also be demonstrated and implemented.

### Biodiversity Planning in Lhasa Municipality, Tibet

The project will facilitate establishment of a cross-sectoral conservation body to ensure that biodiversity is considered in sectoral plans, decisions and actions. It will support establishment of Lhasa Ecological Conservation Center within the Lhasa Environmental Protection Bureau, which will provide information and technical expertise. Further, with Lahu Lake and other municipality wetlands as examples, a new financial mechanism for payment for ecosystem services will be established and demonstrate new and sustainable financial support for conservation. The project will provide biodiversity expertise and support the integration of natural resource management and biodiversity conservation into the municipal governance through inter-agency coordination, information management and new financing mechanisms.







# Status of Major Groups of Animals and Plants in China

— This article is adapted and translated from “An Assessment of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in China”

The first comprehensive evaluation of more than 10,000 species in China based on the internationally-recognized IUCN Red List Criteria has just been completed (Xie Yan & Wang Sun 2007 Integrative Biology 1:26-35). More than 100 experts were involved in this evaluation, which covers a wide range of species, including invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants. The number of threatened species in China was found to be much higher than previously expected. In the past, the estimated percentages of species in each phylum that were endangered were between 2% and 30%. In this comprehensive evaluation, the percentages of threatened species were found to range between 7.4% and 100%. Compared with the status of threatened species worldwide (IUCN Red List 2006), groups such as fish, mammals and gymnosperms face much higher levels of threat in China than they do globally. Other groups, such as crustaceans, reptiles and birds, face lower levels of threat. Given the dire conclusions of this study, the authors recommend that more research be done on the threats faced by those groups of organisms that are most threatened.

The percentage of endangered plant species exceeds estimates from earlier evaluations. For some groups where most known species have been evaluated, prospects for future survival are not promising due to increased overexploitation. The status of some of the major groups where all species have been evaluated is presented in the table below.

Status of major groups of animals and plants in China

Species	Threatened percentage <sup>1</sup>	Near threatened percentage <sup>2</sup>	Threat Status (est. 1998)
Hermatypic corals	All species are threatened	0%	-
Butterflies	12.8% threatened	20.1%	-
Frogs and Toads	39.9% threatened	19.63%	2.5%
Snakes, Lizards and turtles	27.5% threatened	15.3%	4.5%
Birds	7.4% threatened	7.36%	14.6%
Mammals	39.8% threatened	10.7%	22.1%
Conifers	69.9% threatened	21.2%	28.0%
Flowering plants	86.6% threatened	7.2%	13.0%
Rhododendrons	55.4% threatened	0.04%	-
Orchids	78.3% threatened	21.2%	-

One the most threatened habitats is freshwater ecosystems. Many big lakes are shrinking and small lakes are disappearing. Water quality is declining, water levels are dropping and pollution and eutrophication are widespread. Wetland and aquatic biodiversity is under severe threat as wetlands disappear and wetland goods and services decline. Major and minor rivers and streams suffer excessive pollution, and in some cases, such as the Yangtze, pollution is thought to be irreversible in the short-medium term <sup>3</sup>. It is estimated that 30% of fish species of the Yellow River have become extinct <sup>4</sup> and flagship species such as the Yangtze freshwater dolphin have also recently disappeared. Some estuary and coastal areas have been declared “dead zones” <sup>5</sup>

1, Includes the highest degree of threat, including endangered and vulnerable; 2, The second highest degree of threat; 3, Yangtze River Conservation and Development Report (2007); 4, China Daily, 16 January 2007; 5, China Daily, 20 October 2006

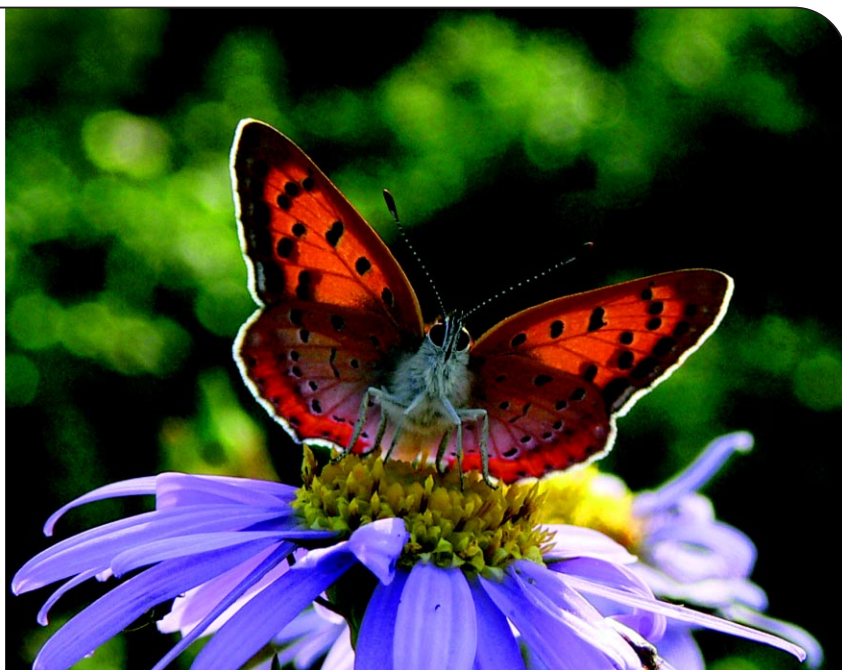


## Upcoming Events of ECBP

- \* Conduct team building and capacity development training
- \* Complete the ECBP monitoring plan
- \* Discuss revision to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- \* Organize an EU-China study on impacts and adaptation of biodiversity to climate change in China
- \* Organize a Project Management Training for Field Projects
- \* Hold Field Projects Inception Meetings (by field projects)
- \* Organize field visits to projects
- \* Organize an environmental policy study tour to EU for SEPA and line ministerial officials
- \* Undertake review of the types and availability of biodiversity information
- \* Organize an EU-China policy dialogue workshop on biodiversity- following up on 2006 EU policy dialogue workshops
- \* Organize ECBP input into Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) workshop in Kunming
- \* Develop biodiversity recommendations for China Environment Macro-Strategy, in cooperation with the Policy Study Centre of SEPA.
- \* Support organization of 2nd International EIA Conference, and incorporate biodiversity into one thematic session
- \* Sign most of the remaining field project grant agreements by the end of 2007











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**中国—欧盟生物多样性项目**

**保护自然 发展之本**

**Preserving Natural Environment is  
the Foundation to Secure Development**

National Library ■  
Zi Zhuyuan Park ■  
The Capital Stadium ■  
Fangyuan Plaza ■  
Tengda Plaza ■



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