

EU-China Biodiversity Programme

The Challenge

China is extraordinarily rich in biodiversity due to its large size, extremely varied topography and diversity of ecosystems and long history of domestication and breeding of plants and animals. Yet China is losing its globally and locally significant biodiversity in the face of policy, legal and institutional weaknesses. China lacks a coherent strategic approach to conserving and sustainably using biodiversity at national and local levels. Most often policies and laws reflect administrative responsibilities rather than responding to the complex management challenges facing biodiversity conservation on the ground. National policy often fails to be implemented locally, or there is a lack of site-specific solutions and measures adapted to the local situation. At all levels and among most groups, there is a very low understanding of what biodiversity is, why it is important and how it contributes, both directly and indirectly to economic and social development in China.

The Response

The goal of EU-China Biodiversity Programme is to enable China to manage its ecosystems sustainably. This will be achieved through interventions under four inter-linked and coherent themes:

- Strengthened national policy and institutional framework for biodiversity conservation
- Biodiversity mainstreamed into relevant policies and legislation, including SEA and EIA
- Increased awareness of decision-makers and general public of biodiversity and its importance
- Increased capacity for biodiversity conservation at provincial and local level through partnership field projects in central, southern and western China.

ECBP is funded by European Union and implemented by UNDP China in partnership with Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), local governments and civil society organizations.

Achievements

To date, the programme has made the following achievements:

- China's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is being drafted with wide stakeholder participation;
- 2010 biodiversity targets and indicators are drafted;
- Revised ecological guidelines for EIA approved;
- Grant agreements of 17 field projects signed and implemented. Inter-agency coordinating bodies for biodiversity have been set up under several field projects, and initial activities have been undertaken to incorporate biodiversity considerations into governmental work plans and performance appraisal systems for government agencies.
- Local awareness about local biodiversity importance has increased through awareness activities at national and through field project activities.

At A Glance

Start Date: November 7, 2005

End Date: March 31, 2010

Implementing Partner(s): Ministry of Environmental Protection, local governments and CSOs

Project ID: 00042107

UNDAF Goal: more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behaviour in order to ensure environmental sustainability (Outcome 3)

MDG: ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7)

CPAP output: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is more effective (Outcome 7)

Website: <http://www.ecbp.cn>

Total Budget:	€	49,140,000
EU:	€	27,500,000
UNDP:	€	405,000
Government:	€	235,000
others:	€	21,000,000

Project location(s): 16 provinces in central & west China

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