



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

Newsletter

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Expert Views at “Nature-based Solutions: ASEAN-China Mangrove Conservation Practice Workshop”

On July 22, 2021, “Nature-based Solutions: ASEAN-China Mangrove Conservation Practice Workshop” was held both online and offline in Beijing as one of the series activities of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Week 2021. The workshop was hosted by the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center/Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE). Participants include representatives from MEE and its affiliated units, local departments of ecology and environment, ministries of ecological environment in ASEAN Member States, international organizations, research institutions, and private sectors. The workshop aims to facilitate the implementation of relevant cooperation initiatives agreed upon at the ASEAN-China Summit and reach consensus on cooperation in the fields of climate change response, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and biodiversity conservation based on the *Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)*. The following is an excerpt from the presentations made by the experts at the workshop.

LI Haiyan
Secretary General of the Global Climate Change and Green
Development Foundation of Tsinghua University

NbS will play a greater role in reaching carbon emissions peak and carbon neutrality. The commitment made by President Xi Jinping to carbon emissions peak and carbon neutrality at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly will have a huge impact on the economic and social transformation as well as technological development in China and beyond. At the same time, application of NbS and integration of these solutions with current emission reduction technologies and policies will serve to renew and increase our nationally determined contributions and realize the goals set forth on carbon emissions peak and carbon neutrality.



WANG Qian
Director of UNEP China Office

NbS can lend strength to the realization of UN's Sustainable Development Goals as both an important part of global action against climate change and a long-term approach to climate change adaptation. In this process, strengthening the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems represented by mangroves can effectively foster the storage of carbon dioxide, conserve marine life and protect coastal communities, which would be the key to mitigation and adaptation.



Carlo M. Carlos
Programme Specialist of ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

Climate change has exerted a significant impact on species and natural ecosystems. Nature-based Solutions aim to conserve and enhance the ecological integrity of natural ecosystems, working in synergy with other measures to cope with climate change and protect biodiversity with the help of relevant means and methods.

WANG Yujuan
**Senior Specialist of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center/
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE**

It is hoped that China and ASEAN Member States will strengthen cooperation, actively engage themselves in fostering and deepening partnerships on mangrove conservation, enable dialogues on cooperation and exchanges in related fields, and implement relevant measures concerning mangrove protection in the *Framework of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025)*, making joint contributions to the protection and sustainable use of mangrove in the region.



LI Hongjun
**Deputy Director of Division of Marine Ecosystem,
National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center**

In recent years, China has become one of the few countries with a net increase in mangrove area. It has adopted a series of measures for mangrove protection and restoration, including the formulation and implementation of policies, regulations and special action plans, the building of mangrove nature reserve system, scientific research support for mangrove protection and restoration, and health monitoring of mangrove ecosystem.

Thanapon Piman
Senior Research Fellow of Stockholm Environment Institute Asia

The conservation and restoration of mangrove wetland cannot be successful without contribution from local residents and local communities. For local residents, mangrove is not only a natural barrier for coastal defense, but also a guarantee for food security and fishery production, allowing vulnerable groups including women and the youth to make a living. Meanwhile, the incompleteness and inconsistencies of local management policies, laws and regulations have become the main obstacles in protecting and restoring mangrove wetlands.



Jocel Pangilinan
Director of Climate Resilience Program,
Conservation International Philippines

Nature is “one of the most effective ways” of combating climate change. Currently, NbS to climate change are greatly underestimated in global climate actions, accounting for only 2% of global climate investment. In the future, these solutions can be combined with innovations in clean energy, contributing to the de-carbonizing of the world economy. Conservation International Philippines has launched cooperation with local governments and communities to protect and restore local mangrove ecosystem by providing related trainings on mangrove species identification, nursery management, explanation and patrol in nature reserves.



ZHANG Jing
Marine Program Manager of Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental
Protection Foundation (SEE)

Based on the practices with the restoration projects in Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province and the mangrove of Jiulong River Estuary in Fujian Province, especially the afforestation project in Zhanjiang Mangrove Reserve—the world’s first mangrove carbon sink project that meets both Verified Carbon Standard and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation (SEE) has explored an effective path to utilize the organization’s own social and platform-based resources and fully mobilize enterprises, the public and market entities so that they can jointly participate and complement each other.



XU Wansu

Project Director of Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation

During its implementation, Shenzhen Bay Mangrove Wetland Restoration Project adopts a three-layered approach featuring “ecosystem-based, sustainable project management and multi-party regional cooperation” The project carried out systematic engineering construction for river treatment, pond habitat restoration, control of pest and invasive alien species, mangrove planting and beach construction. At the same time, Shenzhen and Hong Kong collaborated and worked in synergy during the construction and implementation of the project, which facilitated smooth implementation of the project.



LI Nan

Program Director of World Wide Fund for Nature Beijing Office

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework formulated at COP15 emphasizes quantitative and feasible targets. In this context, relevant estimates show that there will be a funding gap of more than \$700 billion in global biodiversity protection in the future. Therefore, in addition to the investment from the non-profit sector, we should attract and leverage more capital investment from the financial departments and the private sector. Currently, financial departments are typically willing to invest, while enterprises increasingly face pressures from ESG disclosures. Meanwhile, these efforts are hindered by a lack of clear concepts and methods for participation and implementation, long investment cycles, as well as uncertainties in monetization mode and investment return. In the future, it is necessary to continue relevant researches and practical explorations under the framework of regional cooperation.

HUO Li

Climate Change and Energy Director
the Nature Conservancy

If we consider the time scale of our responses to climate change, adaptation would be an urgent task while mitigation entails long-term efforts. On the one hand, although NbS can play a role in ecological protection while mitigating climate change, it is not a silver bullet. For example, the concept of “integrating gray and green infrastructure” also has a reference value. On the other hand, how to enable enterprises to actively participate in NbS and obtain relevant investment return while promoting and realizing their “CSR + ESG” is still worthy of future exploration. Meanwhile, regional scientific monitoring and assessment of biodiversity needs to be strengthened, especially in the construction of relevant platforms and systems in ASEAN.



KANG Aili
**China Strategic Engagement Director of
the Wildlife Conservation Society**



At present, relevant cases mostly focus on mangrove protection and restoration. In future, more attention should be paid to pollution in mangrove ecosystems as that involves industrial development and thus more need for participation from enterprises. In addition, in terms of mangrove protection, we see more demand for cooperation in observation platforms, which entails joint efforts from various social sectors. We could also make more explorations in the cooperation on observation and research between China and ASEAN, in an effort to promote cross-regional exchanges and research in related areas.

WANG Shaoqiang
**Research Fellow of Institute of Geographic Science and
Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Science**



According to studies on the identification of remote sensing information based on multi-source remote sensing data, the following conclusions are made. Firstly, though extreme climate events seriously impact the ecosystem structure and function of mangroves, mangroves can well adapt to climate change in the long run. Secondly, cooperative researches on the structure, function and evolution of mangrove ecosystem should be strengthened; meanwhile, although mangroves have a strong capacity in carbon sequestration, methane emission in mangrove areas still merit close examination. Thirdly, an observation and research network of mangrove ecosystem should be established with priorities given to scientists and field stations. Fourthly, mangrove protection should be integrated with ecotourism, ecological development, as well as publicity and education on ecology.

XIA Jianxin
Professor of Minzu University of China

Currently, China and ASEAN Member States have made considerable achievements in mangrove conservation. It is a good start. For example, the blue carbon sink project in Zhanjiang offers valuable experience. At the same time, mangroves can well mitigate the impact of typhoons and improve coastal water quality. Therefore, future studies should be carried out in related areas. In the future, in addition to the active involvement of non-profit organizations, it is also necessary for local governments to continue to increase investment in mangrove protection and restoration.



OUYANG Wei
Professor of Beijing Normal University



We look forward to more cooperation among scientific research institutions in China and ASEAN Member States in mangrove conservation and restoration practices. By applying existing scientific research results to restoration practices, we can adopt a variety of restoration methods, create a regional alliance on observation and restoration in mangrove conservation, and build a big data platform for mangrove conservation and climate change responses, so as to provide more accurate and substantial data for the next stage of research on the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems.



FAN Min
Program Manager of Global Environmental Institute

Community support is indispensable for mangrove protection. It is hoped that in the future we can mobilize more non-governmental organizations in China and ASEAN countries, fuel cooperation and exchanges among the frontline guardians, and establish a non-governmental regional network so that we can work in synergy by integrating resources to enable the implementation of more mangrove conservation practices and demonstration projects.

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