



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

生态环境部对外合作与交流中心
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center

Newsletter

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Expert Views at Asian-African Youth Dialogue: From COP 15 to COP 26 – Collaboration Between Biodiversity and Climate Change

On 26 October, 2021, Asian-African Youth Dialogue: From COP 15 to COP 26 – Collaboration Between Biodiversity and Climate Change, a sub-forum of ASEAN-China High-level Forum on Green and Sustainable Development & ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2021, was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The sub-forum was supervised by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Mission of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN; organized by the Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; and jointly held by UNICEF China Office and WWF Beijing Office. Over 100 youth representatives from China and Africa, student representatives from Tongji University, Jinan University and Nanning Normal University, as well as representatives from related international organizations and institutions, attended the sub-forum on-site and online. Here is a summary of remarks.

WU Peng
Director General
Department of African Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The People's Republic of China



China and Africa have common interest and shared future. Enhancing China-Africa environmental cooperation to share experience in environmental governance and improve environmental capacity building is of great significance to building a China-Africa community of shared future with the harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

“Collaboration between biodiversity and climate change” is a shared challenge for mankind. Biodiversity conservation and climate change are interconnected and could only be dealt with by adopting integrated solutions. The insights and contributions from youth are extremely important in this process.

The future of individual countries and the world in general is in the hands of young people, who are pushing forward global dialogues and multilateral cooperation and contributing solutions to addressing global issues. Guiding young people to pay attention to environmental issues, improving their environmental awareness, enhancing youth exchange and cooperation, and encouraging youth engagement in addressing environment and sustainable development challenges is of vital importance to realizing green development and promoting the engagement of youth in global environmental governance.



Turhan Saleh Resident Representative of UNDP Ethiopia

Asia and Africa are both under the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss. It would be of great significance for improving climate change mitigation and adaptation and reversing biodiversity loss if Asia and Africa could work together and take joint actions.

Addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation is a global task that could determine the fate of human beings in the decades and even centuries to come. Therefore, different generations need to work together. As the major force to address climate change and promote biodiversity conservation in the future, youth should take the opportunity to propose constructive recommendations and decisively promote the implementation of this global action.

Silvia Danailov UNICEF Representative to Senegal



Children are more vulnerable to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation than adults are, although they are the least responsible for causing these problems. For children, climate change could not only deny their access to some basic social services, but also make them less resilient and adaptive to external changes. In this way, children are becoming increasingly fragile, gradually sliding into poverty.

Climate change can not be effectively addressed without the engagement of the whole society. Governments need to ensure the implementation of children-related environmental policies; the business sector needs to adopt environmental-friendly practices; schools need to promote education on green development; and the society needs to provide more opportunities for children and youth to engage in and lead climate actions.



LI Nan Program Director World Wide Fund for Nature Beijing Office

Currently, many developing countries are faced with the challenge of balancing economic growth and environmental protection. Environmental change and global warming are inter-related, which means that we need to adopt an integrated solution. We need to address climate change and biodiversity loss through an integrated and comprehensive approach in alignment to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) could effectively address multiple challenges and generate considerable biodiversity benefits at the same time. The international community has discussed the technical aspects of NbS. It is hoped that young people could actively engage in such discussions, learn about the latest development in the area and provide their own insights and solutions.



Samuel Godfrey
**Regional Advisor of UNICEF Eastern and Southern
Africa Regional Office**

Climate change is putting the vision of a sound, resilient and sustainable future for Africa at risk. To promote the application of climate solutions, UNICEF has established strategic partnership with multiple stakeholders to provide effective, coordinated, sustainable and climate-adaptive services to local communities, and explore win-win solutions to improve resilience with the help of UNICEF programs (on resilience and adaptation), including climate-intelligent schools, health centers and circular economy.

Chen Yaxiang
Associate Research Fellow
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center /
China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center
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In recent years, China and African countries have carried out a variety of cooperation projects in the area of environment, including high-level policy dialogue, environmental governance capacity building, renewable energy development and demonstration cooperation on low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure construction. In the future, China and Africa will continue to enhance environmental cooperation with climate change, carbon finance, marine plastics reduction, biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution control, chemical substance management and other global and regional hotspot issues as priority areas.



May Kawing
Program and Research Manager
Oxfam Hong Kong Beijing

Climate change and biodiversity loss are causing negative impact on communities, especially on indigenous people, farmers and women. Through interrupting agricultural production, climate change and biodiversity loss could drag more people into poverty. Therefore, it is very important to cooperate with communities in addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation.

KANG Aili
China Strategic Engagement Director the
Wildlife Conservation Society



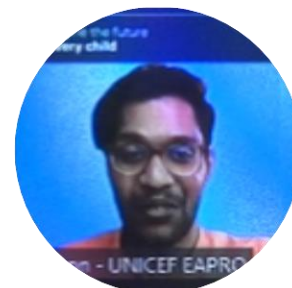
It must be noted that the impact of climate change is multifaceted, which needs to be addressed with the engagement of multiple stakeholders, especially in cases where community capacity building, biodiversity conservation and the harmonious coexistence of community and nature are priority areas of our actions. Only through bringing all stakeholders and resources together, can we effectively address and adapt to climate change.



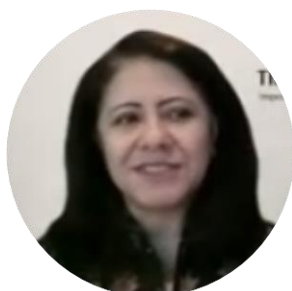
MENG Han
UNEP-WCMC China Officer
United Nations Environment Program

Biodiversity loss is another systematic environmental risk that world faces other than climate change. Biodiversity is vital to human existence and economic sustainability. Nature serves and benefits human beings through providing water, food, medicine and other resources. Therefore, investment in nature capital should also recognize the intrinsic value of wetland, soil, forest and other eco-systems. We should take actions to protect water resources, biodiversity, soil and oceans.

Sujay Natson
Regional Climate Change and Environment Consultant
UNICEF EAPRO



Children are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Currently, climate change and environmental degradation are causing higher environmental risks to children. The dual impact of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change is making the problem of poverty and food shortage more severe for children. In the future, countries need to take protecting the right of children to get access to a sound environment into consideration in their decision-making process.



Hana Satriyo
Deputy Country Representative
The Asia Foundation

Women are vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and therefore, have strong intention to protect forests and land. It is important to promote the empowerment of women from the perspective of society, economy, politics and legislation to create more education and employment opportunities for women and build up their leadership in climate actions. We should promote gender equality in all aspects of the society through strategic planning and good practices, to create a fairer and more inclusive environment for women.

GAO Ying Head of Regional Coordination and Partnership C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group



A rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is one of the major causes for environmental risks. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) could effectively improve climate change adaptation and resilience to climate risks. Therefore, the application of NbS in urban development is of great significance to improve the climate resilience of cities and promote the harmonious coexistence between human and nature.



Luke Long China Country Manager of Stantec China

In the past year, under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, national governments and investment institutions began to rethink and review traditional economic growth patterns. With countries around the world giving high priority to sustainable development, green finance and responsible investment are likely to enter a stage of rapid development. In recent years, under the leadership of the Chinese government, a special work group has been established to study feasible green finance standards system and information disclosure standards related to ESG rating, posing higher requirements for environmental information disclosure from the private sector.

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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.