



1st Meeting of International Experts/Advisors

CCICED Nature-Based Solutions Work

09:00-10:00 PM

October 9, 2020 (BJT)

CCICED International Chief Advisor, Scott Vaughan, opened the meeting by noting that the 2020-2021 Work Plan established a new sub-working group to examine and forward research findings and recommendations on Nature Based Solutions in early 2021. Rather than establishing a new Special Policy Study, the sub-group will coordinate its work with existing SPS teams (including, but not limited to, Climate, Biodiversity, and Oceans); the new group will be co-chaired by the Chinese and International Chief Advisors.

By way of context, 2021 offers an opportunity to integrate biodiversity and climate policies: at the recent UNGA and Pledge for Nature Summit, the United Kingdom reiterated its commitment to have Nature as a central theme of the UNFCCC COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, while President XI Jinping's commitment to reach carbon neutrality on or before 2060, coupled with China's hosting of the UN CBD COP 15 meeting, has generated renewed emphasis on NBS.

Proposed Terms of Reference

Harvey Locke, Chair, Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force, IUCN WCPA

- With the overall goal of achieving ecological civilization domestically and globally, the challenge of NbS should be framed holistically. As global leaders have stated the importance of establishing “an equitable, carbon-neutral, nature-positive future”, it is more prudent than ever to reintegrate the multilateral environmental agreements with a focus to achieving these integrated goals.
- China is extremely well-positioned to tackle these challenges as it has set out ambitious targets to peak emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, thus what are the recommendations this sub-working group can

provide to help shape China's pathway towards achieving eco-civilization.

Peter White, Ambassador for Biodiversity and CBD COP15 at WBCSD

- NbS is a “means”, not “an end”; it is a tool to help us achieve an equitable nature-positive, carbon-neutral future.
- Fundamental questions to consider: 1) what is NbS and what can NbS do; 2) how may we use them to mutually achieve benefits for climate, nature and humanity¹; 3) how can NbS support the nature-positive, carbon-neutral equitable future.
- With the NbS mechanisms already in existence in China (i.e. ecological red-line), how can these be best implemented and used in China?

Guillermo Castilleja, Chief Program Officer, Environmental Conservation at Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

- California governor calls for protecting 30% of state land to move towards NbS; important to note as this is the first state in the US to undertake this ambitious pledge². Governor Newsom looks beyond the traditional economic growth and focuses on the other main four capital that are currently at stake (nature capital, produced capital, human capital, and social capital). Yet with these goals established, how are we to implement and achieve the desired outcomes (without becoming too theoretical)?

Justin Adams, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Alliance, World Economic Forum

- WEF currently working with WBCSD to differentiate between nature-climate solutions (focused on carbon mitigation potential of various nature opportunities) and nature-based solutions (broader set of societal outcomes). Though identifying specific characteristics may vary by stakeholder, could be helpful for the TOR to determine the link of how NbS may help with the delivery of a vision for an ecological civilization.

Manish Bapna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute

- With reference to China, what is the research by the sub-working group hoping to achieve? Seeking synthesis of work from the international community that is relevant to China? Or are there specific and timely

¹ NbS has been mostly focused on climate in the past and these mechanisms may not necessarily be beneficial for biodiversity. How to ensure mutual benefits are established for climate, nature and humanity?

² Executive Department State of California, Executive Order N-82-20 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/10.07.2020-EO-N-82-20-signed.pdf>

questions that the outcomes of this research is hoping to answer?

- To echo and expand upon Guillermo Castilleja's note on broadening the NbS scope to include various perspectives and growth indicators, it would be helpful to also examine NbS in the context of China's role in the green recovery efforts.

Jan-Gunner Winther, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

- Suggest to reword TOR bullet point 4: "How can carbon stored in sediment in China's ocean floor and near-shore ecosystems – mangroves, sea-grass, tidal flats, and other - be considered in the context of carbon storage and biodiversity conservation?" to be more proactive with "How can we use these storage actively?"

Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund

- GCF is currently sponsoring 40+ projects on nature-based climate change mitigation adaptation, thus looking forward to collaborate with China on relevant topics.
- By identifying and utilizing existing financial tools, establishing concrete investment proposals for NbS could shift the discussion from theoretical to more practical functions.

Proposed Work Focus and Updates on Recent Work

Bob Tansey, Senior Advisor, The Nature Conservancy

- The Pauslon Institute, Cornell University and TNC recently published report on financing opportunities for biodiversity³ which identified major reforms happening within the agriculture industry that are nature-positive and also with natural climate solutions (from traditional agriculture model to regenerative agriculture with markets for urban stormwater management).
- NbS projects are taking place all across China, thus the main question is how we may use policy-related work to help China advance real tangible change? Example: providing inputs to the Yangtze River Protection Law to put limits on nonpoint source pollution.
- Important to apply the proven-worthy NbS tools to the green BRI.

LI Kai, Director of External Affairs, The Nature Conservancy

- The process for China to transition from industrial civilization to ecological civilization has been difficult

³ Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap. September 2020. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/financing-nature/>

and complicated, however it has been recognized by the State Council that NbS is a vital step to achieve this goal. At the national level, China has already utilized major spatial planning mechanisms to help protect natural resources.

Peter White, Ambassador for Biodiversity and CBD COP15 at WBCSD

- What are the roles that private sector can play in NbS? The private sector are increasingly looking for NbS, particularly to achieve their own climate commitments and goals as they aim to decarbonize; currently more interest in demand for investment than supply, yet investment is still limited as criteria for nature-based solutions and natural climate solutions (NCS) are still unclear. Important to get to an agreed position from all stakeholders.
- Does the private sector approach for NbS require a sectoral approach as well? (i.e. agriculture, mining, nature resources)

Justin Adams, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Alliance, World Economic Forum

- Abundant opportunities for opening NbS to private investments; with focus on green job opportunities, China is well positioned to be innovative in their “build back greener” economic recovery strategy.

Harvey Locke, Chair, Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force, IUCN WCPA

- With reference to the Financing Nature report, one of the key findings is that businesses can only achieve 3% of the “solution” unless governments get involved to sets a clear direction in which businesses can direct their green strategy.

Catherine Gamper, Policy Analyst, OECD

- Mainstreaming NbS requires us to examine how each of the solutions can help create synergies between mitigation and adaptation engagements. It is also important to identify the tradeoffs when implementing the NbS; which environmental objectives are being neglected in pursue of another?

Liesbeth Casier, Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development

- Based on recent IISD work on natural infrastructure, it has been helpful to develop methodology that brings together not only the environmental benefits of NbS, but also the financial-economic benefits, as well as social benefits (i.e. creation of green jobs); by increasing the certainty and predictability of the financial

value of NbS, there will be more stakeholders from different sectors that will be interested in investment opportunities to scale-up NbS work.

Comments from Oceans, Biodiversity, Climate Special Policy Study co-Chairs

Jan-Gunner Winther, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

- Rather than focusing on specific ecosystems (land, peatlands, ocean), planetary approach is needed for this sub-working group research.
- Through the lenses of NbS, how are the 16 Blue-Paper connected to the ocean and integrated ocean management⁴.

Arthur Hanson, Senior Advisor, CCICED

- Echoing previous comments on investing in green job opportunities, creating more opportunities for the private sector to be involved in NbS will further push along the mainstreaming of NbS overall. Governments should also set up funding avenues for NbS to allow for more private investment (.i.e Green Development Fund).

LEI Hongpeng, Director of Climate Change, Children's Investment Fund Foundation

- What are the implications of existing NbS in relation to climate? There currently exists a communication gap between China and the international community regarding climate targets and challenges.

⁴ Blue Paper, High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. <https://www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers>