

China Celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity in Beijing through Organizing China Forum for Nature

In conjunction with the International Day for Biodiversity, co-organized by Beijing Forestry University, China Wildlife Conservation Association, and Future Generations China, the First Annual China Forum for Nature opens on May 22, and focuses the theme on “Biodiversity and Forests”.



Opening Ceremony was taking place at Beijing Forestry University on May 22, 2011.

Attendees at the Forum on May 22 and 23 include leaders from the State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, representatives from the Provincial Forestry Department, delegates from several research institutions, nature reserve management officials from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), experts from the United States, Germany, the United Nations UNDP, the World Wildlife Fund, the International Crane Foundation, the East Asia – Australasia Migratory Committee, BirdLife International, and Wetlands International. State Forestry Administration bureau chief, Yin Hong, and China Wildlife Conservation Association president, Zhao Xuemin, President of Future Generations, Dr. Daniel Taylor and a representative from the UNDP will make opening remarks at the Forum.

The first China Forum for Nature focuses on the development of Chinese nature reserves and the protection of biodiversity while balancing ecological preservation and socio-economic development. During the forum, both Chinese and international experts will formulate strategies to

address nature preserve construction, preserve management, wildlife research, analysis and many critical issues facing Chinese nature reserves today. The resulting policy recommendations will officially be recognized as the “Beijing Declaration”.



Mr. Roger Jaensch, executive secretary of the EAAFlyway Partnership hands over the certificate to Mr. Chen Jianwei, the representative of the State Forestry Administration. Ms. Yin Hong, the administrator of Chinese State Forestry Administration, and Mr. Daniel Taylor, President of the Future Generations are present at the hand over ceremony.

During the forum, a group of senior nature reserve managers and experts will discuss how to form a national partnership for the conservation of migratory water birds, an initiative under the “Partnership for East Asia – Australasian Flyway” (EAA Flyway) agreed upon in 2006. The EAA Flyway is one of nine major migratory waterbird flyways around the globe. It extends from within the Arctic Circle in Russia and Alaska, southwards through East and South-east Asia, to Australia and New Zealand in the south, encompassing 22 countries. Over 50 million migratory waterbirds share this flyway with 45% of the world’s human population. In March of 2008, the Chinese government officially joined the partnership initiative. As of 2010, China has designated 20 wetland preserves as the flyway sites. All sites will receive their certificate at the forum from the secretariat of the EAA Flyway Partnership.

Experts agree that biodiversity is a key global environmental asset. Balanced ecologies provide human beings with many benefits including optimal agricultural conditions and natural resource reserves. Today, protecting natural ecosystems and biodiversity has become a concerted international movement.

After 50 years of rapid development experience, China has learned to attach great importance to

biodiversity conservation in the its economic development. A major achievement has been the establishment of China's many nature reserves. At the end of 2010, China had created 2,541 nature reserves covering a total area of roughly 150 million hectares, or 15% of China's total land area, higher than the world average 12%. The current preserve system is protecting 90% of terrestrial ecosystems, 49% of natural wetlands, 85% of wild animal species, 65% of rare plant species, 20% of pristine forest, 30% of desert areas, 300 state protected animals and 130 rare plant species and their habitats.

Chinese and foreign experts recognize that while significant conservation progress has been made, the situation in China still needs a lot work: habitat loss and degradation, resource over-use, spread of invasive species, diseases, natural disasters, gene erosion. Moving forward, protection of wildlife habitats, wetland conservation and restoration, preserve construction and management, and biodiversity conservation are all issues that China must urgently address.

Chinese and foreign experts will recommend:

- Forest biodiversity conservation objectives established for 2020 that are in-line with international commitments.
- Conservation management systems must be strengthened; scientific methods standardized and targeted at the protection of key species protection and management objectives.
- Innovation and public participation should be encouraged and systems of compensation for ecosystem services must be developed.
- Significant national level research projects and a system for oversight need to be implemented.
- Latest technologies and management methods to promote animal breeding and natural resource allocation should be explored.
- Improvement of the quality of nature conservation training, promotion of nature conservation, and increase of conservation capacity should be initiated.
- Broad international cooperative agreements for biodiversity conservation should be pursued.

The forum will have many sections including leadership training, keynote presentations, interactive forums, sub-forum discussions and seminars. Chinese and international experts will share their views openly, differing viewpoints will be considered from all angles, and the resulting directives will serve as common inspiration for all.

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