



SUMMARY REPORT

Fourth Biodiversity Workshop

EU-China dialogue
on the road to COP15

14-15 July 2020 – Online

Organized by the EU-China Environment Project



**EU-China Cooperation on Environment
and Green Economy Project**



Funded by the
European Union

Table of contents

1. Introduction	4
2. 2050 Vision & Goals, 2030 Milestones	4
3. Marine protected areas	5
4. ABS / DSI (Acces and benefit sharing / Digital sequence information)	6
5. Resource mobilization	6
6. Monitoring and implementation mechanisms of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	7

Fourth Biodiversity Workshop

Summary report

EU-China dialogue on the road to COP15: 2050 Vision & Goals, 2030 Milestones; Marine protected areas & OECMs; ABS & DSI; Resource mobilization; Monitoring and implementation mechanisms

14-15 July 2020, Online

Organized by the EU-China Environment Project

Report prepared by:

Aleksandar Rankovic, Senior Research Fellow & Coordinator on Post-2020 International Biodiversity Governance, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), aleksandar.rankovic@iddri.org

Zou Yueyu, Division of Convention on Biological Diversity, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Office, Ministry Ecology and Environment, zou.yueyu@fecomee.org.cn



1. Introduction

¶ After three previous workshops in 2018-2019¹, the EU-China Environment Project organized a fourth workshop, online due to the COVID-19 crisis, on 14-15 July 2020. On the road to COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it aimed at exchanging perspectives on the state of the international process and on several issues

concerning the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The meeting was held under Chatham House rules. It gathered representatives from China, France, Germany, the European Commission, Norway, Switzerland, Expertise France, and IDDRI, as well as one post-2020 OEWG co-chair.

2. 2050 Vision & Goals, 2030 Milestones

¶ An important question to tackle in the next rounds of discussion will be whether to have quantified, SMART 2050 Goals, which would be reflecting and unpacking the 2050 Vision, or whether to keep the quantified elements for the 2030 Targets and Milestones and have 2050 Goals that remain qualitative. Views on this were contrasted during the workshop and this point will require further discussions.

¶ The relationship between the 2030 Milestones and the 2030 Targets have to be clarified, in order to facilitate the monitoring of implementation.

¶ The question of whether 2040 Milestones should be addressed in the current phase, or addressed in 2030, was raised.

¶ These will be important points to address at SBST-TA-24 and OEWG3, and during their preparation.

¹ See previous reports: Rankovic, A., Shen, X. (2019). First Biodiversity Workshop - Summary Report: Sharing perspectives on CBD implementation and options for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, 9-10 October 2018, Beijing. EU-China Environment Project.
Rankovic, A., Shen, X. (2019). Second Biodiversity Workshop - Summary Report: Perspectives on biodiversity commitments, the 2030 Mission, the other elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the Belt and Road Initiative, 13-14 May 2019, Beijing. EU-China Environment Project.
Rankovic, A., Zou, Y. (2019). Third Biodiversity Workshop - Summary report: EU-China dialogue on the road to COP15: 2030 Mission; SMART targets; Implementation, assessment, reporting, and review; ABCMs and ecological redlines 31 October - 1 November 2019, Beijing. EU-China Environment Project.

3. Marine protected areas

- ¶ In the post-2020 targets, future discussions will need to clarify whether the percentage of protected areas and OECMs applies to the high seas or is restricted to territorial waters.
- ¶ The connection and mutual reinforcement between the CBD and other international agreements and institutions (UNCLOS, FAO, regional seas conventions, etc.) will be key for implementation.
- ¶ The target proposal as it stands in the post-2020 GBF zero draft covers all the planet. Questions were raised on whether it would be necessary to distinguish between land and marine targets.
- ¶ The level or status of protection associated with the post-2020 targets was discussed: in forthcoming discussions, the existing international standards should be recalled and examined.
- ¶ SBSTTA-24 will have the important task of examining the possible options for the percentage of protected areas and OECMs in the post-2020 GBF.
- ¶ Knowledge on where to locate the marine protected areas, especially if the high seas are included, should be assessed. This notably includes taking stock of the work done on EBSAs at the CBD².



4. ABS / DSI (Access and benefit sharing / Digital sequence information)

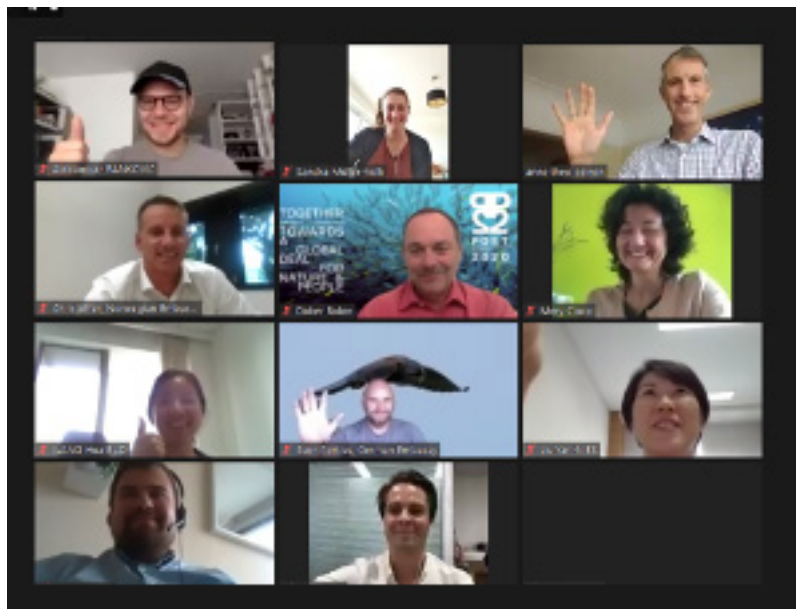
- ¶ The need to better clarify the links between the three objectives of the CBD throughout the GBF was stressed.
- ¶ There was consensus on the importance of addressing the DSI issue within negotiations.
- ¶ It was noted that the current and potential share of ABS overall in available financial resources should be clarified.
- ¶ There was broad agreement that a continuous dialogue was necessary on these issues on the road to COP15.

5. Resource mobilization

- ¶ The availability or perspective of public and private funding (international and domestic resources) will be an important prerequisite for an ambitious deal at COP15.
- ¶ The question of subsidies reform was pointed as key.
- ¶ The importance of mobilizing private funding was stressed. However, States must take the lead in reforming regulation and incentives.
- ¶ BIOFIN³ was mentioned several times, and in particular for its potential to help precisely identify the domestic sources and needs for funding, and the needs for international cooperation.
- ¶ The potential of a Global Biodiversity Fund was briefly mentioned. The importance of inclusivity in the governance of such an institution, and the need to assess its connection and added value to existing instruments, were stressed.
- ¶ There is potential in looking at increasing synergies between climate and biodiversity funding.
- ¶ There is now a wealth of reports released on the issue of resource mobilization.

6. Monitoring and implementation mechanisms of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- ¶ This is a central topic for the post-2020 GBF and its implementation.
- ¶ It was also noted that the monitoring framework was a key place to increase the collaboration with other conventions, through tools like DaRT⁴.
- ¶ A maximum set of features should be adopted at COP15. But it is also possible to think of certain elements that would require to be further developed after. The idea of an implementation manual was mentioned.
- ¶ Interest was expressed for headline indicators, on which more frequent reporting could be possible. It was noted, however, that a more frequent reporting could be done more frequently to monitor the actions being taken. For their outcomes, for example on the recovery of a given species, or on aspects pertaining to livelihoods, the timeframe could be different.



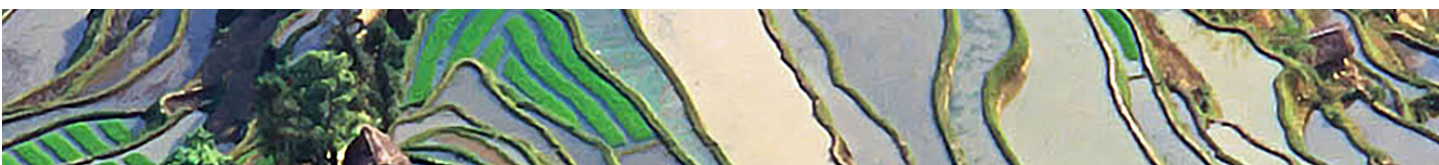
Fourth Biodiversity Workshop

EU-China dialogue on the road to COP15

14-15 July 2020 – Online



<http://www.euchinaenvironment.com>
This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the responsibility of the project implementing consortium and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Implementing partners



PRCEE

ClientEarth⁺