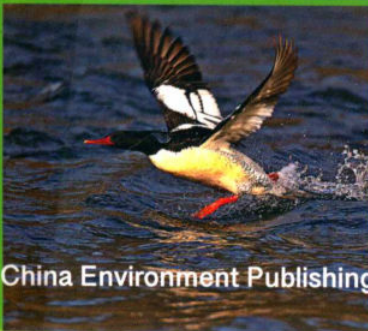




China's Sixth National Report

on the Implementation of
the Convention on Biological Diversity

Ministry of Ecology and Environment of
the People's Republic of China



China Environment Publishing Group

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Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China

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List of Acronyms or Abbreviations

ABS	Access to and Benefit Sharing
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
BSAP	<i>Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</i>
CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
COP	Conference of Parties
CPC	Communist Party of China
EU	European Union
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LPI	Living Planet Index
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection
MHURD	Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development
MLR	Ministry of Land and Resources
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources

MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MWR	Ministry of Water Resources
NBSAP	<i>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</i>
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NFGA	National Forestry and Grassland Administration
NPC	National People's Congress (of China)
NPP	Net Primary Productivity
PA	Protected Areas
PBSAPs	<i>Provincial Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans</i>
RLI	<i>Red List Index</i>
SCA	State Customs Administration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFA	State Forestry Administration
SGAQSIQ	State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine
SICA	State Industry and Commerce Administration
SIPA	State Intellectual Property Administration
SOA	State Oceanic Administration
SSB	State Statistics Bureau
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UN FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USA	United States of America
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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Executive Summary

In accordance with Article 26 of *the Convention on Biological Diversity* (hereafter abbreviated as “*the Convention*”) and Decision VIII /27 of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), in collaboration with members of the National Committee on Biodiversity Conservation, has developed *China's Sixth National Report on the Implementation of the Convention*. This report elaborates actions taken by China for biodiversity conservation and results achieved, progress made by China in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contributions of China's biodiversity actions to 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report also summarizes China's main experiences and practices from implementation and identifies future priorities for implementation.

1. Importance of China's Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variability among living organisms of all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. Biodiversity provides conditions for human survival, strategic resources for socio-economic development and important guarantees for ecological and food security. China is one of the mega-biodiverse countries in the world, with various terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, bushlands, meadows, grasslands, alpine tundra, deserts, wetlands and farmlands, and four major marine ecosystems such as the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea and Kuroshio waters, as well as unique coastal and island ecosystems. China has rich plant and animal resources. The number of known species and sub-species has reached 92,301, with higher plant species ranking the third in the world, and mammals topping the world. The level of endemism or uniqueness is high, with 56.05% of vascular plants, 22.29% of mammals, 30.80% of reptiles, 66.67% of amphibians and 66.32% of inland fishes being endemic to China. China's genetic resources are rich, as place of origin of important agricultural crops such as rice and soybean, as well as one of main centers of origin of wild and cultivated fruit trees. The rich and unique biodiversity in China

has provided various and adequate production and life necessities, healthy and safe ecological environment and unique landscapes. The interaction and mutual influence of biodiversity and traditional cultural diversity have increased human resilience to unexpected disasters and changing environment. However various pressures, such as loss and damage of natural habitats, overexploitation of natural resources, environmental pollution, invasive alien species and global climate change, have combined to cause unfavorable impacts on biodiversity in China. So it is very imperative and necessary to protect China's biodiversity.

2. Implementation of China's National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Goals and Tasks

The Government of China attaches high importance to biodiversity conservation. China has established a National Committee on Biodiversity Conservation, which was chaired by Premier Li Keqiang and subsequently by Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli. In 2010, the State Council approved and launched *China's National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2010—2030)* (hereafter “NBSAP”), which proposed mid-term and long-term goals, namely by 2020, efforts will be made to basically control loss and erosion of biodiversity, and by 2030, practical measures will have been implemented to protect biodiversity. To this end, NBSAP has identified 35 priority regions, 10 priority areas and 30 priority actions for biodiversity conservation (see Table 1).

The eighteenth meeting of the National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in November 2012 proposed a grand vision of “Building Beautiful China” and incorporated ecological civilization development into the overall strategy for building socialism with the Chinese characteristics, with ecological civilization being established as the governing concept and will of the Party and the Nation. The nineteenth meeting of the National Congress of the Communist Party of China held in October 2017, based on summarizing historical achievements made over the past five years, has proposed further priorities for ecological civilization development. The 19th CPC National Congress required that the concept of “green mountains and clear waters are gold and silver mountains” be adopted and implemented, and the national policy of natural resources conservation and environmental protection continue to be implemented, the environment to be treated in the same way as life is, including through the integrated management of mountain, water, forest, agricultural and grassland ecosystems. It also required that the most stringent system of environmental protection would be implemented, and green development and consumption patterns be established.

In recent years, the Government of China has been taking active policy measures to implement its NBSAP. These measures include gradual improvement of systems or mechanisms for biodiversity conservation, strengthening *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, restoring

degraded ecosystems, reinforcing law enforcement and implementation of accountability rules, strengthening science, research and talent development, promoting public participation and

Table 1 Assessment of Progress in Implementing China's NBSAP

Priority Actions	Progress	Priority Actions	Progress
1. To develop policies promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	●	16. To strengthen establishment of seed farms and protected areas for livestock genetic resources	●
2. To improve legal system for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	●	17. To develop a system of <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of species based on science	●
3. To establish and improve institutions of biodiversity conservation and management, and to improve cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms	●	18. To establish and improve a system of storage of genetic resources	●
4. To integrate biodiversity conservation into sectoral and regional planning and programmes	●	19. To strengthen reintroduction of cultivated/bred species and restoring wild populations	●
5. To ensure sustainable use of biodiversity	●	20. To strengthen development, use, innovation and research of genetic resources	●
6. To reduce impacts of environmental pollution on biodiversity	●	21. To establish systems and mechanisms for access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	●
7. To undertake baseline surveys of biological resources and ecosystems	●	22. To establish systems of detection and monitoring of import and export of genetic resources	●
8. To undertake surveys and inventorying of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	●	23. To enhance capacities for early warning, emergency response and monitoring of invasive alien species	●
9. To undertake monitoring and early warning of biodiversity	●	24. To establish and improve technical systems and platforms for risk assessment, detection and monitoring of GMOs	●
10. To enhance and coordinate the establishment of information systems for genetic resources	●	25. To develop an action plan for biodiversity conservation in response to climate change	●
11. To undertake comprehensive biodiversity assessments	●	26. To assess impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity	●
12. To implement in a coordinated manner and improve national planning for protected areas	●	27. To strengthen science and research in the field of biodiversity conservation	●
13. To strengthen protection of priority areas for biodiversity conservation	●	28. To strengthen education and training in the field of biodiversity conservation	●
14. To standardize the establishment of protected areas and to upgrade the quality of protected areas management	●	29. To establish mechanisms for broad public participation	●
15. To strengthen biodiversity conservation outside protected areas	●	30. To promote and establish partnerships for biodiversity conservation	●

Note: ● fully implemented; ● major progress made; ● some progress; ● slow progress

deepening international cooperation. These measures have significantly helped achieve goals and tasks identified in China's NBSAP. Out of 30 priority actions, major progress has been made in implementing 20 actions, some progress in 9 actions and slow progress in one action (see Table 1).

The results of these priority actions are four-fold:

(a) The system of biodiversity conservation and management with the Chinese characteristics has been basically established;

(b) The conditions of ecological environment have been obviously improved;

(c) The populations of some national key protected species have been stabilized and increasing, with their range of distribution gradually expanding and their habitat quality constantly improving;

(d) Local economy and society are being fully developed, with the poverty-stricken population significantly reduced, while biodiversity is being conserved.

3. China's Progress in Implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The 2020 global biodiversity targets (i.e. Aichi Targets) are composed of five strategic goals and 20 specific targets. To assess progress in achieving the Aichi Targets, China has developed a national indicator system composed of pressure, state, benefits and response indicators, including 20 first-level indicators and 66 second-level indicators. Data collected over long periods of time based on these indicators and evidence available are used to assess China's progress in implementing the Aichi Targets. Main conclusions from these assessments are as follows:

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

In today's China, biodiversity has been attracting increasing public attention and public awareness of biodiversity conservation has been remarkably increased (Target 1). The concept of "green mountains and clean waters are gold and silver mountains" has been incorporated into relevant national and local development plans and poverty reduction strategies. A huge number of policy measures favorable to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use have been developed and implemented (Target 2). The system of compensating environmental damage and restoring damaged ecology/environment has been gradually established, and fiscal transfers and ecological compensation to key ecological function zones have been constantly increased (Target 3). The pollutant discharging amount and energy consumption per GDP unit have been significantly reduced, through industrial restructuring, pollution prevention and control

campaigns and increasing resource use efficiency, so as to gradually form green development and consumption patterns (Target 4).

- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

China has basically controlled the loss of natural habitats (except grasslands) through the implementation of a series of major ecological conservation and restoration projects, such as natural forests conservation, reclaiming farmlands for forests, construction of forest belts, wetland conservation and restoration, desertification control, rocky land control, protection of wild animals and plants and establishment of protected areas. China has become the country in the world with the fastest growth in forest resources, while grassland areas in China are declining (Target 5). Despite the implementation of fishing recess and bans, project construction, overfishing and other irrational activities have brought major impacts on aquatic ecosystems and fish diversity (Target 6). Through rigorous promotion of sustainable agriculture and forest management concepts as well as good practices in agriculture, forestry and aquaculture operations, the level of sustainable agriculture and forest management has been obviously increased (Target 7). The discharging amount of main pollutants has been constantly decreasing and the air and water quality has obviously improved, because of rigorous efforts in controlling pollution and implementing policy measures for comprehensive resource utilization (Target 8). Despite a series of measures taken to prevent and control invasive alien species, the situation of biological invasion is serious, and challenges faced in this regard are still daunting. The number of invasive alien species known across the country and the batches and number of invasive alien species detected or intercepted at different ports are on the rise (Target 9). China has made positive progress in addressing climate change, by reversing the rapid growth in CO₂ emissions, and there is an initial trend of decoupling economic growth from carbon emission. However, the pressures on vulnerable ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves and Karst mountain ecosystems in southwest China are still high (Target 10).

- Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

China has established a system of protected areas of all types, reasonable distribution and relatively effective functions. The area and number of protected areas of various types have been rising. Among them, the area covered by terrestrial protected areas has reached 18% of the country's total land area. Over 90% of terrestrial ecosystem types and 89% of national key protected wild animals and plants have been protected within these protected areas. However, China has yet to reach the global target of 10% of the marine protected areas. The ecosystem

representativeness and management effectiveness of protected areas are yet to be upgraded (Target 11). Though the Government of China has taken a huge number of measures to protect species and restore natural habitats, the declining trend of species diversity has not been effectively controlled yet and many rare species are still facing the risk of extinction (Target 12). The conservation of genetic diversity such as those of cultivated plants, livestock, domesticated animals and other important species has improved, however the genetic erosion and loss remains to be a serious issue (Target 13).

- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services











Local poor populations benefit from biodiversity conservation and their well-being has improved constantly while great efforts have been made to protect and restore ecosystems. As a result, the poverty-stricken population has been going down significantly (Target 14). The implementation of a series of major ecological conservation and restoration projects has enhanced vegetation cover of degraded ecosystems and their carbon sequestration functions, leading to an obvious improvement in the environmental/ecological quality (Target 15). China has ratified *the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity*. China is improving its system related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing from their utilization (Target 16).











- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

The Government of China has actively promoted the implementation of its NBSAP. Meanwhile China has translated goals and tasks identified in NBSAP into actions at the provincial level and has been progressing well in implementing various goals and tasks identified in the NBSAP (Target 17). China respects and maintains traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In particular remarkable achievements have been made in protecting the traditional medicine, non-tangible cultural heritages and local germplasm resources (Target 18). China has increased investments in research and development to promote research in the field of biodiversity as well as the dissemination of research findings. As a result, knowledge and science base for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been expanding (Target 19). Financial support mobilized from multiple channels and increased significantly for the NBSAP implementation has comprehensively enhanced capacities of governments of different levels for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (Target 20).

In conclusion, China has made positive progress towards achieving the Aichi Targets. Among them, China is exceeding Targets 14 (important ecosystem services restored and safeguarded), 15 (ecosystem resilience and carbon sequestration increased) and 17 (implementation of NBSAPs). China is on track to achieve Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19 and 20. China has achieved some progress towards Targets 6 (sustainable fishery), 9 (invasive alien species prevented and controlled), 10 (pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems reduced) and 12 (endangered species protected), however rate of progress is slow (Table 2).

Table 2 Assessment of China's Progress Towards 2020 Global Biodiversity Targets

Targets	Assessment	Targets	Assessment
<i>Target 1:</i> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.		<i>Target 2:</i> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	
<i>Target 3:</i> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.		<i>Target 4:</i> By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	
<i>Target 5:</i> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.		<i>Target 6:</i> By 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	
<i>Target 7:</i> By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.		<i>Target 8:</i> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	
<i>Target 9:</i> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.		<i>Target 10:</i> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	

Targets	Assessment	Targets	Assessment
<p><i>Target 11:</i> By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>		<p><i>Target 12:</i> By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	
<p><i>Target 13:</i> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		<p><i>Target 14:</i> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	
<p><i>Target 15:</i> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>		<p><i>Target 16:</i> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	
<p><i>Target 17:</i> By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>		<p><i>Target 18:</i> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	
<p><i>Target 19:</i> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>		<p><i>Target 20:</i> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	

Note:  exceeding target;  on track to achieve target;  progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

4. Contributions to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Overall China has made positive progress in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to biodiversity. Among them, China is making good progress in implementing Goals 1 (poverty reduction), 2 (hunger eliminated), 3 (healthy lifestyles), 4 (equal education), 6 (water and sanitation), 8 (economic growth), 10 (reducing regional inequalities), 12 (sustainable production and consumption), 13 (response to climate change) and 15 (protecting terrestrial ecosystems). However, as the biggest developing country in the world, China is still facing huge challenges in the implementation of SDGs, such as poverty reduction, improving livelihoods, addressing social problems, achieving common prosperity, improving national governance structure, enhancing governance capacities and coordinating developments at different regions, levels and sectors.

5. China's Main Experiences in Biodiversity Conservation and Future Priorities

China's main experiences and practices in biodiversity conservation include: (a) adopting a strategy of conservation first and green development, (b) improving mechanisms and systems for biodiversity conservation, (c) strengthening ecosystem conservation and restoration, (d) reinforcing law enforcement and implementation of accountability rules, (e) governments' leading roles and public participation, and (f) promoting international cooperation and exchanges. However, China has yet to further improve its legal and regulatory system, to increase public awareness of and capacities for biodiversity conservation, to reconcile between economic development and biodiversity conservation, to strengthen conservation infrastructure and enhance science and technology support for conservation, as the overall trend of biodiversity decline has not been effectively controlled and challenges for biodiversity conservation are still huge.

Future priorities should focus on:

- (a) Improving laws and regulations for biodiversity conservation, and reinforcing law enforcement and supervision;
- (b) Promoting mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy and decision making of various levels of governments, and incorporating biodiversity conservation into ecological compensation policies;
- (c) Accelerating the implementation of major biodiversity conservation projects, collecting baseline data and monitoring dynamic changes in biodiversity, and comprehensively enhancing capacities of various levels of governments for biodiversity conservation and management;
- (d) Enhancing the quality and stability of ecosystems, by focusing on restoration of