



NEWSLETTER

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CHINA FOR A GLOBAL SHIFT INITIATIVE



© ZHAN YIJIE / WWF

2012 is an important year for moving towards green economies and for the role China will play in making this happen.

A key event will be the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro in June. The UN General Assembly has mandated the conference to work on “Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development” and “Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and poverty eradication”, and decisions are expected to shape the global environment and development agenda for at least the next decade. WWF emphasizes the need to take-up a set of policy and market-based commitments to ensure “food, water and energy for all”, considering their interconnection, sustainability, access and equity.

Shortly after this event, China and African countries will have the opportunity to make commitments for sustainable development, as the Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in July in Beijing. WWF recommends that green economy principles underpin the development opportunities brought by China-Africa cooperation.

Recent trends show that China is keen to take its share of global responsibility and move in this direction. A *Task force on Trade, Investment and Environment* set up by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), of which I was honoured to be a member, has recently published a report making recommendations to the State Council in this area. The same principles have been included in the green credit guidelines issued in February by the China Banking Regulatory Commission. This is an essential regulatory framework for Chinese investments, and we hope to see more guidelines in the future targeting specific sectors in environmentally sensitive areas.

WWF will continue generating proposals and this year will publish the third edition of the *China Ecological Footprint Report*, with the state of the art of China demand on the planet's natural resources. We trust this will contribute to a greener path for China's and for the global economy, conserving the natural capital that the world needs for long lasting prosperity. Thanks to all who are with us on this journey!

Dr. Li Lin
Leader, China for a Global Shift Initiative

CHINA & AFRICA

WWF Director General roadshow on overseas investment

Mr. Jim Leape, Director General of WWF International, was in Beijing in March to discuss how to achieve social and environmental sustainability in China-Africa cooperation.

Mr. Leape met with Mr. Li Ganjie, Vice Minister for Environmental Protection and Secretary General of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), in preparation for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Ministerial Conference of July 2012.

He also met with Mr. Wan Jifei, Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) to discuss ways to sensitize Chinese companies to green investment. Last but not least, he met Mr. Ma Weihua, President and CEO of China Merchants Bank, to develop financial solutions that can support business sustainability and low carbon development.

WWF proposes China-Africa cooperation for green economy

Africa and China can work together towards the common goal of sustainable development, said WWF at a symposium gathering representatives from African Embassies and the Chinese government on 9 March in Beijing.

Ahead of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Ministerial Conference of July 2012, WWF puts forward proposals to interject environmental and social considerations in the ever growing and expanding China-Africa relationship. Proposals target three major sectors: financial cooperation, extraction of natural resources and clean energy.

“It is in both China’s and Africa’s interest that high environmental standards are part of the aid, trade and investment portfolio of China in Africa,” said Dr. Li Lin, Leader of WWF’s China for a Global Shift Initiative.

A commitment to fully implement the green lending guidelines recently issued by the China Banking Regulatory Commission would significantly reduce the risk of investment in infrastructure and extractive projects. WWF also encourages development of specific guidelines for companies in environmentally sensitive sectors such as mining. With regard to energy, China has the potential to share its experience of providing renewables to rural communities, and help Africa gain access to energy from clean sources.

“While capitalising on growth opportunities, it is necessary to build economies that manage natural capital wisely to ensure security and stability, and to protect unique ecosystems upon which millions of people depend for their livelihood,” said at the event Mr. Laurent Somé, Director of External Relations and Partnerships of WWF Africa Programme.

WWF Briefing Note: http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_briefing_note_africa_china_cooperation_for_sustainability_en_1.pdf



African and Chinese delegates at the symposium organised in Beijing on 9 March 2012. © ZHAN YIJIE / WWF

CHINA & AFRICA

Towards sustainable investment in Gabon and Cameroon

Two workshops marked the beginning of WWF's engagement on the ground with Chinese companies operating in African countries.

In November, WWF and the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forests, in cooperation with China's State Forest Administration, organised an event to discuss sustainable forest management with Chinese companies in Gabon. A few days later, a similar event was held with the Government of Cameroon in Yaoundé, with Chinese companies in the extractive and infrastructure sector.

With nearly 60% of Gabon's timber exports headed to China, Chinese forestry companies are critical in ensuring good management of forests, as these are an essential source of income for local communities. The workshop built on the goal of "Green Gabon", one of the three pillars for development promoted by the Gabonese government. "There is no better time for this kind of effort and exchange, and there is keen interest on all sides," said Suparna Biswas, Country Director of WWF Gabon.

At the same time, Chinese investment in infrastructure and extractive industries are increasing rapidly in Cameroon. This is another area where long term development can be achieved only if high environmental standards are applied. WWF has cooperated with the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Nature to present Cameroon's environmental legal framework, as well as best practices for sustainable investments.

Gabon and Cameroon are two countries of the Congo Basin, whose forests account for about one sixth of the world's remaining tropical forest cover and are among the most biodiverse places on earth. The Congo Basin is essential for the world's climate, and 40 million people depend on its natural resources for living.



Forestry road in the west of Minkébé Forest, Gabon. © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON

CHINA & AFRICA

Elephant slaughter in Cameroon: WWF urges end to open borders for poachers

WWF deplores the mass slaughter of elephants in northern Cameroon and the loss of a soldier's life, and calls on governments to address the issue of cross border raids by heavily armed poaching gangs. In January approximately 120 fresh elephant carcasses with tusks removed have been found in just the northern section of Bouba Ndjida National Park. Estimates of the number of elephants killed exceed 200 – at least half the population of the park.

“WWF strongly condemns the brutal slaughter of elephants in Cameroon,” said Jim Leape, Director General of WWF International. “This is one of the most horrific cases of wildlife slaughter that has emerged in a long while, that only goes to highlight the urgent need for local and global action to protect these vulnerable animals.”

The poachers are reportedly crossing the border from Chad and believed to be supplying Sudan ivory markets that service trafficking to Asia, including China. This incident constitutes an invasion of Cameroon's sovereign territory and willful slaughter of its wildlife.

The park is poorly resourced to deal with the scale of the assault, with 220,000 hectares and only six game rangers who are very poorly equipped, whereas the poachers used Kalashnikovs. The Cameroon government authorized a military intervention on site. However, WWF is disturbed by reports that the poaching continues unabated and that a soldier's life has been lost.

“WWF urges Cameroon to engage the governments of Chad and Sudan in a coordinated response to the criminal acts. WWF has offered its assistance and is awaiting meaningful action from all parties involved,” said Natasha Kofoworola Quist, Regional Representative of WWF's Central Africa Region Programme Office.

Rhino poaching hits record in South Africa

Statistics from South Africa National Parks showed that 448 rhinos were lost to poaching in 2011, compared to a record total of 333 in 2010.

The increase in poaching is caused largely by demand for unproved cancer medicinal from horn products in Asia, mostly in Vietnam, even though rhino horn has been removed from Chinese pharmacopeia.

Despite recognizing the threats facing rhinos, action taken by main consumer states - Vietnam, China and Thailand - has proven insufficient to curb illegal rhino horn trade and reduce demand. A working group was set up by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to take these issues forward and WWF hopes that more resolute action will be taken promptly.



One of the elephants killed in Northern Cameroon.
© WWF/BOUBA NDJIDA SAFARI LODGE

CHINA & AFRICA

KAZA: world's largest transboundary conservation area

Five countries in southern Africa host the world's largest transboundary conservation area, the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA). KAZA was officially launched on March 15 and comprises 109 million acres across Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This area corresponds almost to the size of Heilongjiang Province in China.

KAZA's objectives are to protect biodiversity, maintain the cultural heritage and improve the welfare of the diverse peoples living in the area.

KAZA allows wildlife species to have the "Freedom to Roam" across multiple borders by maintaining and expanding the traditional wildlife routes, and by linking national parks, game management and safari areas together with communal farming areas.

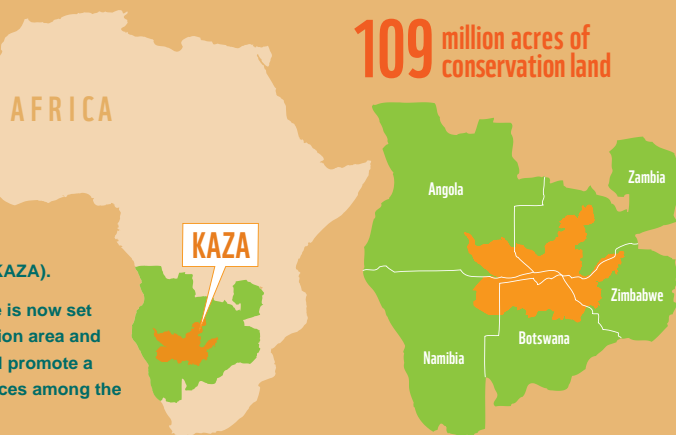
KAZA is supported by the German government through the German Development Bank, with technical support from WWF and the Peace Parks Foundation.



KAZA The World's Largest Transboundary Conservation Area

In August 2011, the presidents of five African nations—Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe—joined together in an unprecedented alliance to sign a treaty that established the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA).

This extensive protected landscape is now set to become a world-class conservation area and wildlife tourism destination that will promote a culture of peace and shared resources among the participating countries.



Species

Thousands of animal, bird and plant species including elephants, rhinos, wild dogs, lions, buffalos, cheetahs, hippos and leopards

Natural Resources

Diverse and biologically important wetlands and forests

Restored Migrations

Encompasses 20 national parks and wildlife areas

325,000

Shelters over 325,000 elephants, almost half of Africa's total elephant population



Natural Wonders

Victoria Falls, largest waterfall in the world, is located within KAZA's borders

1.5 Million

Home to an estimated 1.5 million people who rely on the resources found here

Scale

Total conservation area almost 3/4 the size of Texas.

More information, including a downloadable version of this fact sheet, can be found at worldwildlife.org/KAZA

THE OPPORTUNITY

The extensive size and potential of KAZA will present a variety of opportunities.



Wildlife tourism



Freedom to roam for wildlife



Forest and wetland protection



Sustainable community development



Community-managed resources



Antipoaching patrols

These opportunities will provide local people with access to improved jobs and new income while reducing threats to animals and nature, increasing wildlife populations, expanding species' ranges, lessening human-animal conflict, and preserving resources.

BANKING & FINANCE

WWF welcomes China's green credit guidelines

The green credit guidelines issued on 24 February by the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) provide a leading regulatory framework in green lending.

“This is a transformative development for China. The guidelines, which apply to both national and overseas credit by Chinese financial institutions, acknowledge the essential role of the banking sector in promoting a green and sustainable economy, as well as the risks presented by activities that are detrimental to the environment and local communities,” said Jim Gradoville, CEO of WWF China.

WWF welcomes the new requirements for effective environmental and social risk management, where “banks shall effectively identify, assess, monitor, control and mitigate environmental and social risks” and “disclose information as required by laws and regulations and subject themselves to market and stakeholder supervision.”

This provides a clear direction for green lending policies and represents a milestone in transforming China's economic development and growing overseas investments. Based on the guidelines, banks will “publicly commit to adopt international best practices or standards for overseas projects.”

“China has become the second largest economy in the world and its growing influence needs to be matched by the responsibility of its investments,” said Dr. Li Lin, Leader of WWF's China for a Global Shift Initiative. “This means not only reducing lending to high polluting industries, but also paying more attention to sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity protection. From this perspective, it will be important in the future to quantify the impacts of credit policies in terms of reduced pollutants and increased resource efficiency.”



Loading site in the Tianjin harbour on the Yellow Sea. © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON

BANKING & FINANCE

Insurance sector key to China renewable energy targets

A report published on 14 December by WWF and the UK-based insurance company RSA states that China may not be able to tap fully into its renewable energy potential due to the lack of an insurance system for the sector.

The report “*Wind Energy Insurance in China: Opportunities & Challenges*” found that more than 80% of domestic insurers and wind energy companies are not developing insurance products to meet the demand of nearly 40,000 turbines and a predicted increase of 10,000 per annum.

By establishing an effective insurance system and involving international insurers, China’s wind energy industry could increase capacity and benefit from the exchange.

“WWF envisions a future in which 100% of energy will be from renewable sources by 2050. To support this goal, it is important that we use all financial tools that can boost renewable energy. Insurers play a significant role in mitigating risk, reducing financial costs and increasing investments in this crucial sector,” said Dr. Li Lin, Leader of WWF’s China for a Global Shift Initiative.

Summary of the report: http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wind_energy_insurance_in_china_opportunities___challenges_english_executive_summary.pdf

Finance solutions to power the future

On the occasion of the climate summit in December 2011 in South Africa, WWF organized the high-level debate “Power the Future: Finance solutions for Renewable Energy at Scale”, with experts from renewable energy and finance companies.

Against the backdrop of the launch of South Africa’s Renewable Energy Initiative (SARi), the discussion explored how finance solutions can bring down the capital costs of investments in renewable energy in emerging economies and leverage private and non-private sources of funds, while at the same time creating economic benefits for energy consumers.

All panelists agreed that to get investments off the ground, it is crucial to have a policy framework in place. Investors need long term signals and a stable regulatory environment is essential. A technology development strategy utilising measures like seed funding will also be crucial.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

High-level call for green revolution should be heeded

The UN High-Level Panel for Global Sustainability is calling for a radical redesign of the global economy for a healthy environment and social well-being. This deserves the full attention of governments before the Rio+20 Earth Summit, WWF said.

Published in January, *Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future worth Choosing* is a useful successor to *Our Common Future*, the 1987 Brundtland Report that became the reference text on sustainable development and the basis of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

“This report makes the alarming point that while we are already exceeding the Earth’s capacity to support us, by 2030 we will need 50 per cent more food, 45 per cent more energy and 30 per cent more water than we do today,” said Jim Leape, Director General of WWF International.

“For real change, we need to take into account social issues such as poverty eradication, gender equality, fair distribution of resources, advancing of education and employment creation, thus making the link between social welfare and environmental health,” he added.

Global cleantech innovation index

Cleantech Group and WWF published *Coming Clean: The Global Cleantech Innovation Index 2012*. The report evaluates 38 countries on 15 indicators, showing where entrepreneurial cleantech companies are growing today.

Top countries in the ranking were Denmark, Israel, Sweden and Finland. North America and northern Europe emerged as the primary contributors to the development of innovative cleantech companies.

Whilst currently seeing fewer emerging cleantech start-ups and placing 13th, China leads in cleantech manufacturing, is strong in early-stage growth, and shows potential to produce more innovation in the future.

China is rapidly gaining access to funding for cleantech-focused funds. Additionally, China has been home to the majority of cleantech IPOs since 2009.

Full report: http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/global_cleantech_innovation_index_2012.pdf

EARTH HOUR 2012



There's an environmentalist in each of us

Earth Hour 2012 will take place on Saturday 31st March from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

As the largest environmental event in history, Earth Hour 2012 in China will be inspired by the theme "There's an Environmentalist in Each of Us" reminding people of their innate love of nature, and that nature should be an important factor in decision-making.

Households and businesses are invited to turn off their lights for one hour to show their support for environmental action. Apart from turning off lights, Earth Hour 2012 also calls on individuals, businesses, communities and governments to go beyond the hour and make energy saving a daily habit.

Earth Hour began as a one city initiative in 2007, and has since grown to be a 5,251 city strong global movement, reaching 1.8 billion people in 135 countries across all continents. Last year, 86 cities in China participated in Earth Hour and this year, by 30 March, 123 Chinese cities had already made their environmental commitments.

www.earthhour.org/



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China for a Global Shift

2015

Our goal: by 2015 China's trade, aid investment policies integrate solid environmental principles.

1980

WWF has been working in China since 1980. WWF China is headquartered in Beijing and has 9 field offices across the country.

1961

WWF was founded in 1961.

+100

WWF is in over 100 countries, on 5 continents. 16 offices are in Africa.



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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